



LA ESPERA

(THE WAIT)

A FILM BY
F. JAVIER GUTIÉRREZ



NOSTROMO



“Spanish director F. Javier Gutiérrez takes us on the disturbing journey of a man who loses everything to evil. Beautifully shot and featuring a fantastic performance by Víctor Clavijo as the gamekeeper Eladio, **THE WAIT** is a strong rural thriller where the arid climate, the characters’ isolation, and the archaic social ties to the big landowners saturate every scene. No doubt you’ll walk out of the theatre feeling the taste of dust in your mouth and needing a long shower.”

(ANNICK MAHNERT, Director of Programming, Fantastic Fest)



INTRODUCTION

Before the Fall director, F. Javier Gutiérrez, returns to Spain to deliver LA ESPERA (THE WAIT), a sinister folk horror tragedy that takes place in the dark, magic and forgotten Andalusian countryside, a place marked by ancestral traditions.

The director of Rings delivers his most intimate and brutal film, portraying the macabre descent into hell of a haunted man.

A powerful film about good and evil, punishment, pain and guilt, produced by Nostromo (The Invisible Guest), Spal Films (Before the Fall) and Unfiled Films, and starring Víctor Clavijo (Before the Fall) and Ruth Díaz (The Fury of a Patient Man), LA ESPERA (THE WAIT) is bound to be one of the most disturbing Spanish films of 2023.

LOGLINE

Eladio, a hunting estate keeper, takes a bribe. What looked like the opportunity of a lifetime turns into a macabre descent to hell.

SYNOPSIS

Eladio (Victor Clavijo), a hunting estate keeper, takes a bribe from a veteran hunter. Weeks later, his whole life falls apart. What looked like the opportunity of a lifetime turns into a macabre descent to hell, where Eladio will test his boundaries.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

After "Rings" (2017) I felt the need to return to Europe, to Spain, to Andalucía, and shoot something personal.

As a good friend told me once, "one for them, one for me, for my soul".

"The Wait" belongs to the latter.

No doubt, this film brings me back to my roots, my land (Andalucía), my memories, my most personal storytelling, along with my childhood nightmares.

As I did in "Before the Fall" (2008), beneath the story, I push the boundaries, to go deeper, through layers, symbols, exploring once again, this time in a unsettling way, the complexity, darkness, beauty and weakness of our human nature.

Death. Grief. Guilt...

All disguised as a disturbing folk horror, brutal, uncompromised, with the soul of a western.

That's "The Wait". A suffocating step towards the edge, into our inner fears.

No answers. No mercy.

Too harsh? Maybe. But you know, to see a candle's light, one must take it into a dark place.

CAST

VICTOR CLAVIJO (ELADIO)

Born in Algeciras, Cádiz, in 1973. During his adolescence, Víctor studied piano for 5 years and worked as an actor in independent theatre companies. He dropped Law to focus completely on his acting career. At the age of 20, he enters the Royal High College of Performing Arts of Madrid (RESAD). Before finishing the degree, theatre and TV directors notice his talent and hire him for productions in the off-Madrid theatre tour. At the age of 24, he becomes a familiar face on the small screen thanks to the successful series "Al salir de clase" (1997-2000), followed by many other titles such as "Mujeres" (2006) (produced by Almodóvar), "La República" (2011-2018), "Carlos, Rey Emperador" (2015-2016), "Gran Hotel" (2012-2013), "Los tres cerditos" (2013) (Best Spanish Fiction Award in the Luchon Film Festival), "Hernán" (Amazon) (2019), the popular "El Ministerio del tiempo" (2015-2017), or the recent "30 Coins" (2020) (by Álex de la Iglesia for HBO), "Ana Tramel. El Juego" (2021), "Desaparecidos" (2022)...

His cinema career is just as prolific, with around 30 titles, including "El regalo de Silvia" (2003) (Best New Actor Goya nominee in 2004), "Before the Fall" (2008) (Best Actor in Screamfest Los Ángeles, USA, 2009), "Holmes & Watson, Madrid days" (2012), "Sicarius" (2015), "Gernika" (2016), "La Isla del Viento" (2015), or the recent "Alguien que cuide de mí" (2023).

An actor with a marked background and vocation/calling for theatre, he has worked for many productions of the National Drama Centre (Centro Dramático Nacional (CDN)) under the direction of internationally prestigious figures like Tomaz Pandur or Francesco Saponaro. He moves with ease at the off-theatre tour, the public and private theatre. Some notable titles are "Trainspotting", "El Jurado", "Lorca Sonoro" (currently on tour, with the famous singer Pasión Vega), and the "Lehman Trilogy", one of the most successful theatre productions in the last years (in Spain) which got him the Best Supporting Performance, Male in 2020 in the Spanish Actors Union. Víctor was nominated for these prestigious awards 14 times, receiving the award on 7 occasions.

RUTH DÍAZ (MARCIA)

Born in Santander, Spain in 1975. Graduated in the Royal Higher College of Performing Arts (RESAD) in Madrid and formed as a screenwriter in Factoría del Guión with Pedro Loeb. Known for her roles in films such as "The Fury of a Patient Man" (2016), the debut of Raúl Arévalo, for which she got a Goya nomination and received many other remarkable awards: Best Actress Venice Horizons Award of the Venice Film Festival, Feroz Award, CEC Award, Newcomer Award, Female by the Spanish Actors Union, ... She has also starred in films such as "Adiós" (2019), "El Calentito" (2005), "Aparecidos" (2007), "Para entrar a vivir" (2006), etc.

By the age of 18, she debuted in the play "Fortunata and Jacinta: Two Stories of Married Women" at the Teatro Español de Madrid. Since then, she has participated in many other productions. "Aquiles el hombre" at the classic theatre Festival of Mérida was one of her latest performances. As a theatre actress, she has won many awards including best young actress in the Molière European Theatre Festival in Versailles for "Tartuffe".

She is also known for her roles in successful series such as "VIS a VIS" (2018), "El Pueblo" (2019-2021), and "MIR" (2007-2009)

PEDRO CASABLANC

(DON FRANCISCO)

He has worked as an actor in theatre, cinema and TV productions in Spain, France and the United Kingdom. Licensed in Fine Arts by the University of Sevilla, where he started acting in the Centro Andaluz de Teatro (Andalusian centre of theatre), with directors such as Miguel Narros and George Tabori. In 1993, in Madrid, he joins the cast of the Teatro de la Abadía, where he played, "El señor Puntilla y su criado Matti" by Bertolt Brecht, for which in 1998 he first won the Best Actor Award of the Spanish Actors Union. In 2013 he was invited to act in the Théâtre de L'Odeon of Paris under the direction of Peter Stein. In theatre, some noteworthy titles are King Lear by William Shakespeare directed by Gerardo Vera or Ruz/Bárceñas (Best Theatre Actor Silver Fotogramas) directed by Alberto San Juan, and his latest performance, currently on tour, RAMÓN MARÍA DEL VALLE-INCLÁN by Gómez de la Serna, directed by Xavier Albertí.

Lately, apart from taking part in series such as "Cannabis" (2016) for Arte France Channel or "Gunpowder" (2017) for BBC and HBO, he owes his succes/popularity to TV characters such as arzobispo Carrillo from "Isabel" (2011-2013) and Juan Rueda from "Mar de plástico" (2015-2016), for which he received the Spanish Actors Union and the Ondas Best Television Actor respectively.

In cinema, "B, la película" (2015) by David Ilundain for which he earned a Goya nomination and a Sant Jordi Award and more recently, "PAIN AND GLORY" (2019) by Pedro Almodóvar, "IT SNOWS IN BENIDORM" (2020) by Isabel Coixet or series such as "30 COINS" (2020) by Alex de la Iglesia and "LOS FARAD" (2023) by Mariano Barroso.



**DIRECTOR
WRITER**

F. JAVIER GUTIÉRREZ

Javier is a Spanish award-winning filmmaker whose work has earned over a hundred film prizes and nominations worldwide (Berlin, Karlovy Vary, Sitges, AFI Fest, etc.) Two times Golden Melies Nominee (Best European Fantastic Film), Javier's filmography crosses genres such as drama, horror and sci-fi.

With his first short film, "Brasil" (2001), Javier won one of the world's foremost international festivals specializing in fantasy: Sitges Film Festival. That same year, Javier was presented with the Melies d'Argent (Best European Fantastic Short Film), the Golden India Catalina (Best Ibero-American Short Film), and the Universal Studios Film Master Award (Best European Director), establishing himself as one of the most promising up-and-coming filmmakers in the festival circuit.

"Before the fall" (2008), Javier's first feature, premiered in the Official Section "Panorama Special" at the Berlin Film Festival. In Spain, the film received top honors at Malaga Spanish Film Festival (Best Film and Best Screenplay), and the TVE Miradas Awards (Best Motion Picture of the Year). After its North American premiere at AFI Fest, the film came to the attention of the US industry, landing #3 in the Hollywood International Watchlist. That same year, "Before the fall" got an offer for a remake from legendary filmmaker Wes Craven.

Javier's latest work, "Rings" (2017), the third installment of "The Ring" franchise, was produced by Walter Parkes and Laurie MacDonald for Paramount Pictures. Praised by Koji Suzuki, author of "The Ring" novels, "Rings" opened #2 in the US box office and grossed \$83M worldwide.

Javier is a member of the Directors Guild of America and the European Film Academy.



KEY CREW

MIGUEL ÁNGEL MORA

(DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

Degree in Communication by the Complutense University (Madrid) and Cinematography by ECAM (Madrid).

He accompanied F. Javier Gutiérrez since the beginning of his career, first with his shorts, "El cuerpo" (1999), "Brasil" (2001), Norman's Room (2002), and then with his first film, "Before the Fall" (2008). He has also worked on television series such as "Cuéntame cómo pasó" (2008-2021).

Nominated for the Cinema Writers Circle Awards (Spain) and for the Iris Awards by the Spanish Academy of Television and Audiovisual Arts and Sciences.

ZELTIA MONTES

(COMPOSER)

Zeltia Montes is a Spanish Academy Award "Goya" winner for Best Original Score for the 2022 Oscar shortlisted movie The Good Boss, starring Javier Bardem, and a Goya nominated composer for Best Original Song for the 2016 Goya Best Documentary Delicate Balance. Zeltia composes music for film and TV with a passion for blending sampled sounds used in unique combinations with orchestral and electronic sounds.

Her music been recognized by the Platino Awards for Iberoamerican Cinema, the Feroz Awards of the Spanish Press Association, the Spanish Cinema Writers Circle Awards, the Jerry Goldsmith Awards, the International Film Music Critics Association and the Hollywood Music in Media Awards among many others.

Her recent credits include the musical movie "Voy a Pasármelo Bien" (2022), starring Karla Souza, where she worked with the legendary rock band Hombres G, the thriller series "The Gypsy Bride" (2022), directed by Paco Cabezas, whom she also collaborated with in the thriller "Adiós" (2019), starring Mario Casas, the Netflix psychological thriller "The Silence of the Marsh" (2019), starring Pedro Alonso, or the documentary "Sad Hill Unearthed" (2017), starring Clint Eastwood and Ennio Morricone. She has recently completed "Que Nadie Duerma" from Antonio Mendez Esparza (Life and Nothing More, Here and There) to be premiered in 2023 and the Netflix spinoff Bird Box Barcelona.

MAY EFFECTS

(SPECIAL MAKEUP EFFECTS)

May Effects is a special makeup effects company located in Barcelona. Owned by Pablo Perona and Lucia Solana, winners of two Goya Awards from the Spanish Film Academy. Some of their work can be seen in "Endless Night" (2015) by Isabel Coixet, "The Man Who Killed Don Quixote" (2018) by Terry Gilliam or the upcoming "Marlowe" (2023) by Neil Jordan.

The background is a soft, abstract watercolor wash. It features a palette of warm colors, including light peach, pale yellow, and muted orange, with some darker, more saturated red and brown tones scattered throughout. The texture is fluid and organic, with soft edges and subtle gradients. The word "PRODUCERS" is centered horizontally and vertically in a dark brown, serif font.

PRODUCERS

ANTONIO PÉREZ PÉREZ

SPAL FILMS

CEO and Film producer of MAESTRANZA FILMS, SUROESTE FILMS AND SPAL FILMS, some of the most active Spanish independent production companies. Based in Seville, Andalusia, ANTONIO have produced more than 30 features films and documentaries participating in the most important films Festivals (Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Toronto, San Sebastian...) and winning numerous prizes, more than 20 Goya (and more than 50 nominations) included. Also have produced and directed about 2.000 hours of TV programs and advertising film commercials.

Antonio Perez is veteran expert in European co-productions. Named in 1999 in the ten independent producers of the year list by VARIETY, Perez has been 15 years a board member of EFA (European Film Academy), EGEDA (Spanish Producers rights board) and Fine Arts Academy of Seville. Former board member (in charge of international co-productions) of FAPAE (Spanish Producers Association) and the Spanish Film Academy.

"La Espera" (The Wait) (2023), by F. Javier Gutiérrez, "La piedad" (2022), by Eduardo Casanova, "Héroes de Barrio" (2022), by Ángeles Reiné, "La Lista de los Deseos" (2020), by Álvaro Díaz Lorenzo, "Domino" by Brian de Palma (2019), "Jaulas" (2018), by Nicolás Pacheco, "Señor, dame paciencia" (2017), by Álvaro Díaz Lorenzo, "Far from the sea" (2015), by Imanol Uribe, "Toro" (2016), by Kike Maíllo, "El niño" (2014), by Daniel Monzón, "The Sleeping Voice" (2011), by Benito Zambrano, "Before the Fall" (2008), by F. Javier Gutiérrez, "Habana Blues" (2005), by Benito Zambrano, "Atún y chocolate" (2004), by Pablo Carbonell, "Polígono Sur" (2003), by Dominique Abel, "Fugitivas" (2000), by Miguel Hermoso, "Nadie conoce a nadie" (1999), by Mateo Gil and "Solas" (1999), by Benito Zambrano .

ADRIÁN GUERRA

NOSTROMO PICTURES

After starting his production career with *GUEST*, the latest film by acclaimed director José Luis Guerín, selected at the Venice, San Sebastian and Toronto film festivals, Adrián Guerra produced in 2010 the film *BURIED*.

BURIED, by Rodrigo Cortés, starring Ryan Reynolds, has its world premiere at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and receiving numerous awards, including 3 Goya Awards after 10 nominations, the Gaudi, Sant Jordi and José María Forqué Awards, among others.

After its success, Adrián Guerra and Núria Valls founded the production company Nostromo Pictures, with which they produce *RED LIGHTS*, starring Cilian Murphy, Sigourney Weaver and Robert De Niro, and directed by Rodrigo Cortés. It became one of the most talked about films at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and is commercially released worldwide. Nostromo then produced the supernatural horror film *EMERGO*, also destined for the international market, which becomes a box-office hit in several countries.

In 2013 Nostromo embarked on the production of *GRAND PIANO*, directed by Eugenio Mira and written by Oscar Damien Chazelle. This production was nominated for six Gaudí Awards including Best Non-Catalan language film and Best Original Score, was also nominated at the Goya and Feroz (winning Best Original Score), Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films, Film Writers Circle Medals, IFMCA and Fright Meter Awards.

In 2015, the successful *PALM TREES IN THE SNOW*, a romantic drama directed by Fernando González Molina, was released. An emotional film that won two Goya Awards (Best Art Direction and Best Original Song); two Fotogramas de Plata (Best Film Actor to Mario Casas and Best Spanish Film according to readers) and managed to become one of the highest grossing films reaching 17 million euros and achieved 7 nominations for the Goya Awards that culminated with two statuettes.

Then, Nostromo went on to produce the action thriller starring Sean Penn GUNMAN as well as CONTRATIEMPO, Oriol Paulo's second film, which had a great box office, especially in China, where it is the highest grossing Spanish film to date. The film was released at the Tribeca Film Festival and was distributed in the US by A24 ("Everything everywhere all at once").

After that, they produce the feature debut of Alice Waddington, PARADISE HILLS which premiered at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival to critical acclaim. Additionally, Nostromo carry out the successful Baztan trilogy directed by Fernando González Molina (The Invisible Guardian, The Legacy of the Bones and Offering to the Storm).

Nostromo went on in 2019 on the co-production WASP NETWORK, a film by Oliver Assayas that had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival and attended prestigious festivals such as the Toronto and San Sebastian festivals.

In 2021, Rodrigo Cortés team up again with Nostromo in LOVE GETS A ROOM, an intimate proposal about survival in the heart of a Warsaw ghetto. "Love gets a room" swept the Film Writers Circle Awards that year winning 6 of the awards (Best Film, Director, Original Screenplay, Cinematography, Editing and Soundtrack), and a nomination for Best Actress. It also won Feroz Awards, and nominations at the Gaudí and Goya Awards and won the prestigious Sant Jordi Award that year.

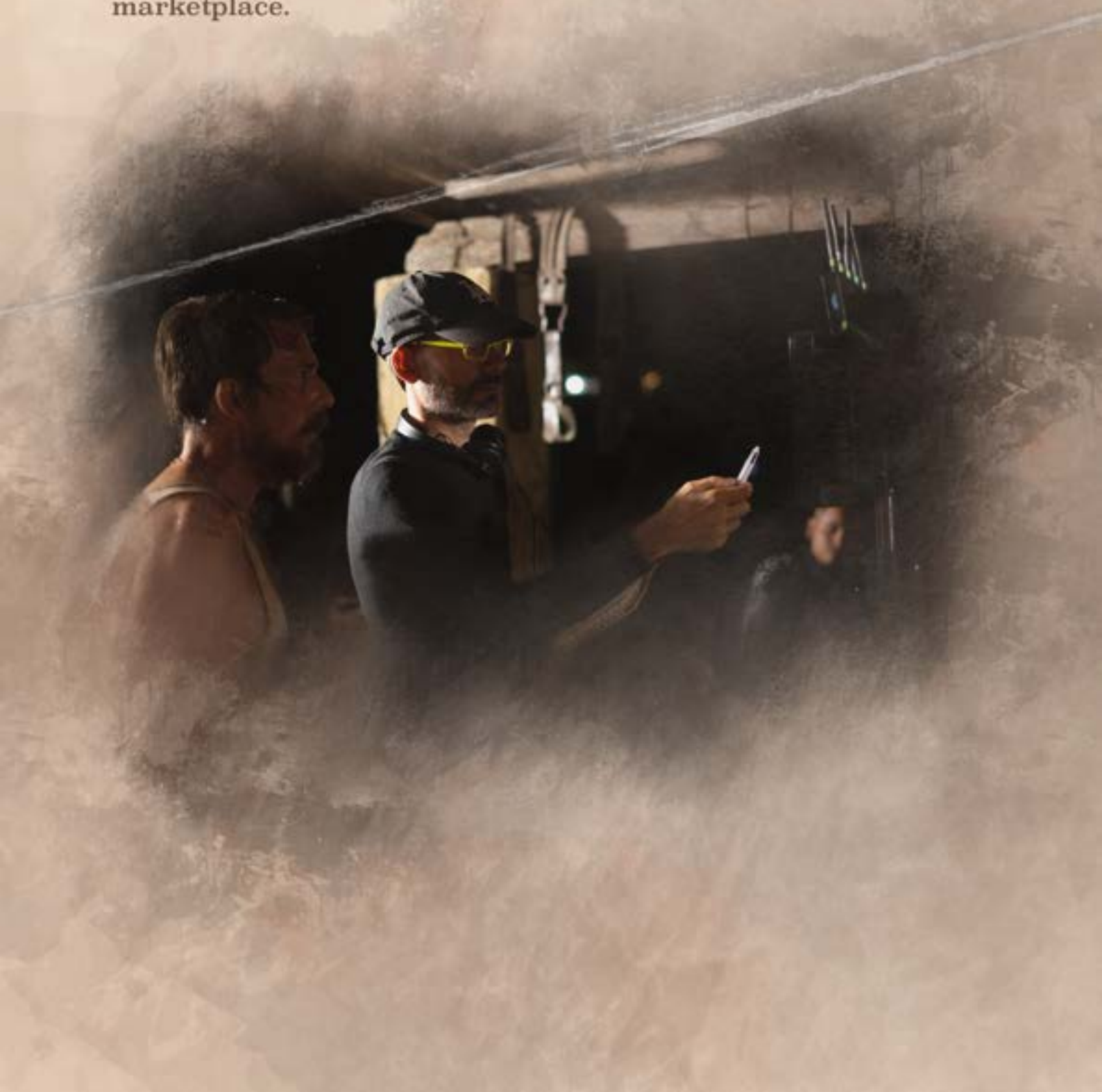
Nostromo has also produced for Netflix the hit THROUGH MY WINDOW and the TV Shows SANTO and THE MINIONS OF MIDAS by Mateo Gil. In 2022, it released Oriol Paulo's highly anticipated GOD'S CROOKED LINES, a film based on the play of the same name by Torcuato Lua de Tena that had its world premiere at the San Sebastian Film Festival and garnered 6 Goya Award nominations.

Nostromo is currently working on the post-production of the feature films BIRD BOX and THROUGH THE SEA, as well as Mario Casas' debut feature, MY LONELINESS HAS WINGS. It has also just finished shooting RICH FLU, the new feature film by Galter Gaztelu - Urrutia after the great success of "The platform", starring Mary Elisabeth Winstead and is preparing ESCAPE, the new and unclassifiable Spanish-language film by Rodrigo Cortés starring Mario Casas, Anna Castillo, José Sacristán and Blanca Portillo.

F. JAVIER GUTIÉRREZ

UNFILED FILMS

Founded by Spanish filmmaker F. Javier Gutiérrez, Unfiled Films is a Los Angeles based production and financing company focused on developing and producing distinctive genre blending films for the United States and international marketplace.



MAIN CREDITS

CAST

Víctor Clavijo
Ruth Díaz
Moisés Ruiz
Manuel Morón
Antonio Estrada
Pedro Casablanc
Luis Callejo

Eladio
Marcia
Floren
Don Carlos
Saulo
Don Francisco
Sargento

CREW

Writer / Director
F. Javier Gutiérrez

Producers
Antonio Pérez
Adrián Guerra
F. Javier Gutiérrez

Line Producer
Marisa Muñoz

Director of Photography
Miguel A. Mora

Composer
Zeltia Montes

Editor
F. Javier Gutiérrez

Costume Designer
Consuelo Bahamonde

Production Designer
F. Javier Gutiérrez

Art Director
Sergio Mauriño

Sound Designer
James Muñoz

Makeup and Hair Stylist
Amparo Sanchez
Fina Espert

Special Makeup Effects
Pablo Perona (May Effects)
Lucía Solana (May Effects)

Special Visual Effects
Roberto Girón (El Exilio)

Sound Mixer
Candela Palencia

Production Companies
Spal Films
Nostromo Pictures
Unfiled Films

With the participation of
Canal Sur
Junta de Andalucía



TECHNICAL INFO

Runtime: 100 minutes

Aspect Ratio: 1:1.85

Language: Spanish (English Subtitles)

Sound: 5.1



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