

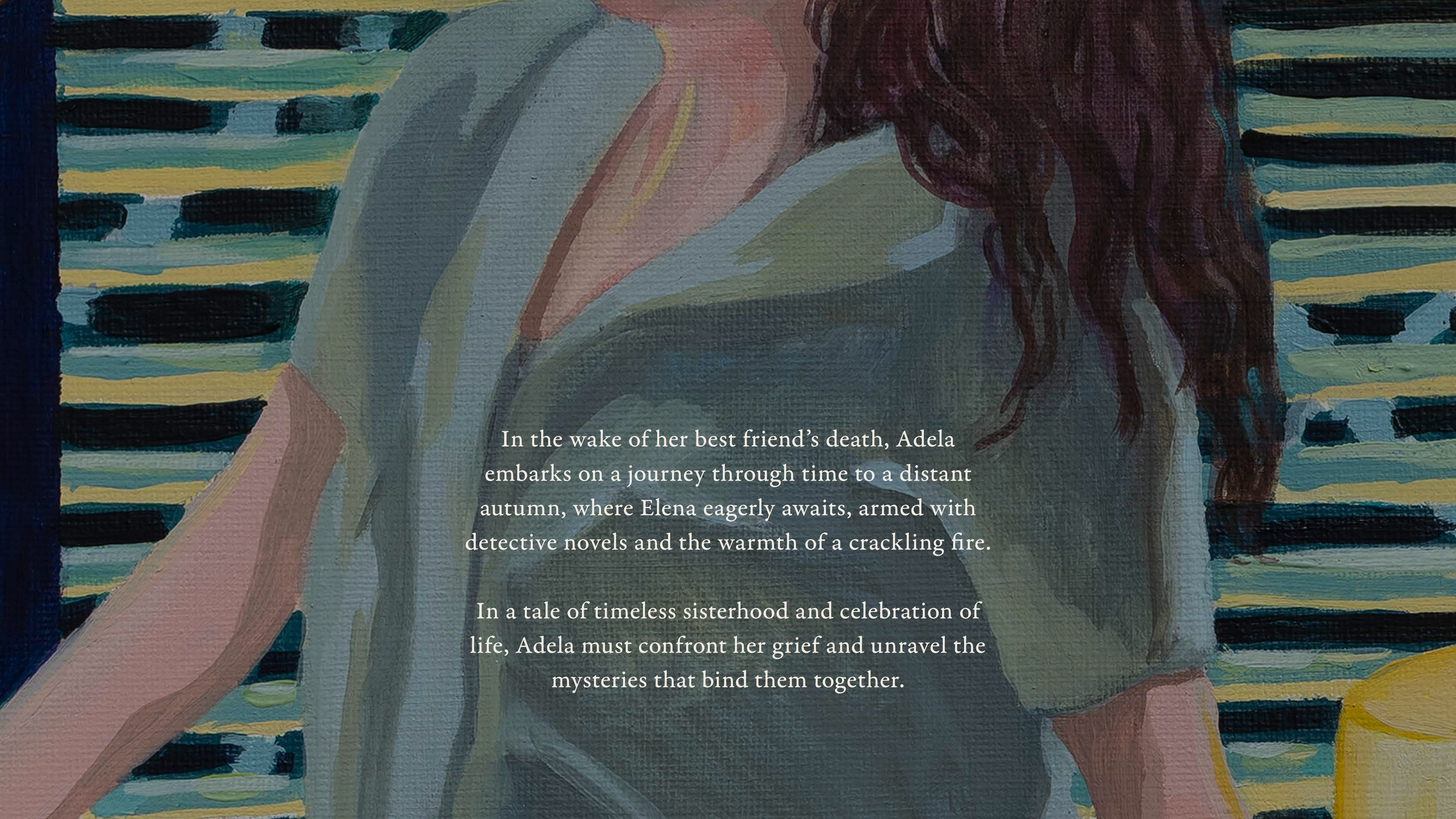


TRIBECA
FESTIVAL
2024
OFFICIAL SELECTION

DON'T YOU LET ME GO

Written and directed by
Ana Guevara & Leticia Jorge

 **bocacha**
FILMS



In the wake of her best friend's death, Adela embarks on a journey through time to a distant autumn, where Elena eagerly awaits, armed with detective novels and the warmth of a crackling fire.

In a tale of timeless sisterhood and celebration of life, Adela must confront her grief and unravel the mysteries that bind them together.

TECH SHEET

Title	Don't You Let Me Go	Cast	Chiara Hourcade Victoria Jorge Eva Dans	Wardrobe	Dominique Souberbielle, Victoria Figueredo
Original title	Agarrame Fuerte			Hair & Make-up	Ivana Leyton, Agustina Pérez
Writer/Directors	Ana Guevara & Leticia Jorge			Sound	Rafael Álvarez, Juan Ignacio Giobio
Producer	Agustina Chiarino			Gaffer	Quique Álvarez, Alejandro Mazza
Production house	Bocacha Films (Uruguay)	Line Producer	Hernán Olivera	Editor	Lucía Casal, Stephanie Tabárez
Genre	Drama	Production manager	Agostina Malnatti	Color	Inés Duacastella
Length	74 minutes	Assistant Director	Andrea Pollio	Sound post	Catriel Vildosola, Rafael Álvarez
Format	DCP / 2K	Cinematographer	Yarará Rodríguez	Music	Luciano Supervielle
Language	Spanish w/English subtitles	Art Director	Cecilia Guerriero	Graphic design	Guillermina Oten



SY NOP SIS

At 39, Adela finds herself grappling with the premature loss of her best friend, Elena. Standing amidst the mourners at Elena's funeral, Adela feels disconnected from the solemn rituals, sensing the absurdity of bidding farewell to someone so dear. Consumed by shock and the looming void in her future, Adela becomes an unexpected time traveler.

Transported to a decade earlier, Adela reunites with a vibrant Elena at a beach house, joined by their friend Luci and her baby boy Paco. Amidst the backdrop of laughter, music, and shared memories, the trio embarks on a weekend filled with joy and nostalgia. But as the inevitable goodbye approaches, Adela clings to the

fleeting moments and the newfound sense of companionship.

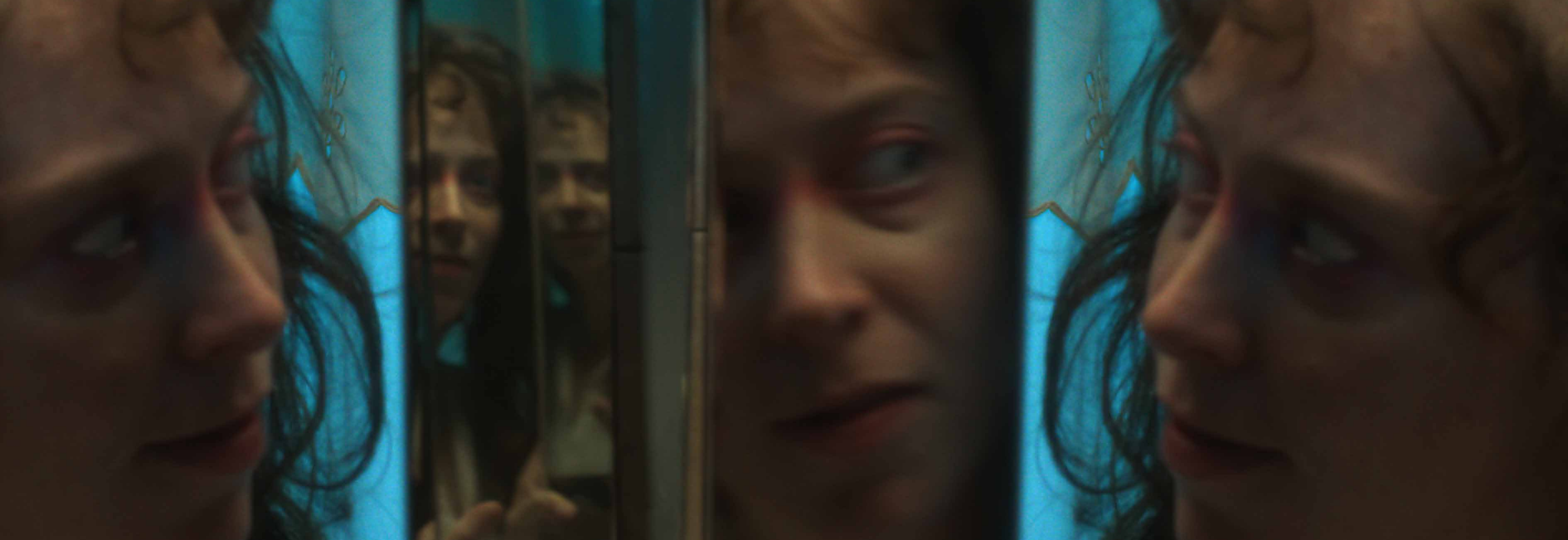
When baby Paco stumbles upon a gateway to prolong their time together, Adela, Elena, and Luci are drawn into an extraordinary journey of escape and indulgence. In this timeless interlude, Adela discovers solace and a renewed connection to her cherished friend.

As the adventure comes to a close, Adela grapples with the permanence of Elena's absence but finds comfort in the enduring bond they share. She learns that even in loss, love transcends the boundaries of time and space.





PARE



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Don't You Let Me Go delves into grief and how to navigate profound pain. While the film doesn't necessarily offer a universal solution to coping with such anguish, for us, creating this movie became our answer to that question. It was our way of reclaiming something lost when a beloved friend passed away. With her, a part of ourselves faded, and in the movie, we endeavor to keep that essence alive.

We've always viewed film as a means to understand the connections, circumstances, and people in our lives. This marks our first attempt to grapple with an event as tragic and irreversible as this. Although we can't claim to have fully grasped anything, the film captures, with surreal yet lucid tones, the journey through mourning and the yearning for catharsis.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Don't You Let Me Go unfolds as a temporal odyssey, allowing Adela to traverse time and reunite with Elena once more, in a past that, while imperfect, feels more authentic than the bewildering present. Structured in two distinct parts and divided into three acts, the narrative begins with stark, heartrending naturalism and gradually transforms into a dream-like voyage, mirroring Adela's desires.

Our initial concept revolved around three friends spending a weekend together at their holiday home, hence the working title, *Three Girls and a Baby*. However, as the story evolved, it became enriched with various other elements we wished to convey in the film. We aimed to illustrate what that weekend symbolized for Adela, mirroring our own quest for connection and happiness.

Hence, we chose to commence with the funeral. The notion of time travel was inspired by the 'Catbus' in *My Neighbor Totoro*, reflecting the idea that in moments of necessity, the intensity of desire can mani-

fest a solution—a magical force to aid you. We wanted to grant Adela the opportunity to fulfill her childhood wish of being with her friend once more.

This 'quest' led us to shape the story as a fable, inspiring the use of intertitles to delineate the acts, thus imbuing the film with the essence of a magical tale. Employing visual illusion tricks akin to Méliès, we played with perception and film form like never before.

In assembling our crew, we surrounded ourselves with cherished friends. Given the intimate nature of the project, our intent was always to share the experience with those who would treasure it as deeply as we do.

The casting process was notably relaxed and straightforward. We auditioned four actresses, ultimately casting three as the protagonists, with Male playing a role in the first half of the film. The remainder of the cast was selected from individuals we had previously

collaborated with, trusting them to imbue the supporting characters with life, which they did admirably.

It was a pleasure to collaborate with such a fantastic cast, instilling in us the confidence to trust the process, knowing that they would adeptly adapt their roles, ensuring a successful outcome regardless.

This film emanates from our collective memories of joyous moments, with the aim to transform them into a sanctuary we can revisit whenever needed. *Don't You Let Me Go* speaks of friendship without overtly stating it—it is born from our shared experiences and embodies them.

If cinema and love have in common the gaze, let us regard this film as a love letter—to friendship, to cinema, and to the youth we were fortunate to share.



Ana Guevara and Leticia Jorge were born in Montevideo. They met while studying at the university where they became friends and partners. They have written and directed together ever since.

Their first feature film **So Much Water** (Tanta Agua) had its world premiere at the 2013 Berlinale and was awarded at FICCI Cartagena de Indias, Miami IFF, Guadalajara, Lima, Transilvania and San Sebastián festivals among others; and acquired for Europe by Arte and by HBO for the US.

Alelí, written by both and directed by Leticia, was released in 2019 at Biarritz and Chicago festivals.

Their short films **El Cuarto del Fondo** (2006), **Summer Runners** (2009) and **60 Candles** (2015), were premiered internationally at festivals such as Rotterdam, Bilbao, Tampere and Miami.

Between the two of them, they had four children, occasionally teach film, and currently, they are developing new projects.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

PRODUCER'S BIO

Agustina Chiarino is a renowned Uruguayan producer with more than 20 multi award-winning films that premiered at the most prestigious festivals. She holds a BA in Communication Studies, a Technical Degree in Political Sciences, and an MFA in Creative Documentary. She was a partner in CONTROL Z FILMS, co-founded MUTANTE CINE and in 2022 launched BOCACHA FILMS.

She produced the features: **The Disciple of Speed** by Miguel Calderón; **Giant, El 5** and **The Waves** by Adrián Biniez; **Hiroshima** and **3** by Pablo Stoll; **So Much Water** by Ana Guevara and Leticia Jorge; **Alelí** by Leticia Jorge; **I Woke Up With a Dream** by Pablo Solarz; and the documentary features **Madness On Air** by Alicia Cano y Leticia Cuba; **Bosco** by Alicia Cano; and **Alter** by Joaquín González Vaillant. She co-produced **History Of Fear** by Benjamín Nahistat; **My Friend from the Park** by Ana Katz; **Loveling** by Gustavo Pizzi; **The Heiresses** by Marcelo Martinessi; **Monos** by Alejandro Landes; **Shipwrecks** by Vanina Spataro; and **The Last** by Sebastián Peña Escobar. Her films have premiered at festivals including Cannes, Berlinale, Venice, San Sebastián, Sundance and Toronto, receiving several international awards.

She is a tutor at Biennale College, BrLab and PUENTES –which she co-organizes along with EAVE–. She’s been a reader for Torino Scriptlab, Doha Film Institute, Sundance, WEMW, national funds of Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Dominican Republic and is part of the committee at San Sebastián’s Co-production Forum since 2019.





CAST BIOS

Chiara Hourcade (Adela)

Chiara Hourcade was born in Maldonado, Uruguay. She has ample experience in theater, being an active member of the theater company "Pequeño Teatro de Morondanga," under the direction of Roberto Suárez. Her film credits include the feature films Don't You Let Me Go (Agarrame fuerte, Ana Guevara and Leticia Jorge, 2024), Koch's Variations (Variaciones de Koch, Julián Goyoaga, 2022), Mateina (Pablo Abdala and J. Peñagaricano, 2019), and The Candidate (El candidato, Daniel Hendler, 2016). In 2012, she won the Best Actress award at the La Pedrera Short Film Festival for the short film Mojarra directed by Lucía Garibaldi. She has also acted in series such as Porn and Ice Cream (Porno y helado, Martín Piroyansk, 2021), The Demons (Los demonios, Daniel Hendler,

2020), and All Behind Momo (Todo detrás de Momo, Pablo Stoll, 2018). In addition to her work as an actress, she has worked as a casting director.

Eva Dans (Luci)

Eva Dans is a Uruguayan screenwriter, director, and actress who graduated from the filmmaking program at Escuela de Cine del Uruguay and the master's program in screenwriting at the University of La Laguna/CECAN. Carmen Vidal Woman Detective (Carmen Vidal mujer detective) (Uruguay, 2020) marks her debut feature film, which she wrote, produced, directed, and starred in. The film played in numerous film festivals including Buenos Aires Independent (BAFICI), Chicago Latino, Tucumán, and San Juan International, and had a theatrical release in Uruguay

and Mexico. As an actress, she has appeared in Uruguayan and Argentine film productions including Don't You Let Me Go (Agarrame fuerte), Help (Auxilio), Hot Sandwich (Sánguche Caliente), The Dance of Impact (La danza del impacto), 7 Lives (7 vidas). She is currently developing her second film, ¿Quién engañó a Carmen Vidal?

Vicky Jorge (Elena)

Victoria Jorge was born in Montevideo, Uruguay. She is a sociologist, teacher, and researcher at Universidad de la República, as well as a model and actress. She has appeared in various feature and short films including The Waves (Las olas, Adrián Biniez, 2017); Intro (Flavia Quartino, 2018); and Vampus Horror Tales (Piter Moreira, 2020).

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