

SIN SEÑAS PARTICULARES / IDENTIFYING FEATURES PRESS & BLURBS

World premiere in Sundance 2020 World Dramatic Competition

On every level, this is impressively accomplished cinema - Wendy Ide, SCREENDAILY

This is a confident, accomplished and distinctive feature directorial debut -Dennis Harvey, VARIETY

We should be seeing a lot more from Valadez for years to come, and contemporary Mexican cinema will be all the better for it - Beandrea July, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Speaks volumes of the boundaries of the human heart and of the undeniable qualities of this director, who should be watched with interest - Fabien Lemercier, CINEUROPA

Stunning Robert Koehler, CINEMA SCOPE

A visionary work of devastating power IDENTIFYING FEATURES among the 10 of the best from Sundance 2020- SIGHT & SOUND

REVIEWS

CINEUROPA Review: "Identifying Features" by Fabien
 Lemercier https://www.cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/384050

"speaks volumes of the boundaries of the human heart and of the undeniable qualities of this director, who should be watched with interest."

"Fernanda Valadez has chosen a rather innovative angle; a human approach which nonetheless reflects the great abyss engulfing the entire country at the beginning of the 2010s.

"A seemingly simple though beautiful portrait of a woman of the people and a mother, of whom the slightest facial movements are followed closely by the camera"

"benefits from **Claudia Becerril**'s wonderful work at the helm of photography and from the musical expertise of **Clarice Jensen**"

• **FILM THREAT** REVIEW "Identifying Features" by Alex Saveliev: <u>https://filmthreat.com/reviews/identifying-features/2/</u>

« Hernández is splendid, speaking volumes in an introverted, almost-silent performance."

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"...there's plenty to admire in this sad, contemplative journey into the heart of darkness."

"Identifying Features contains sequences that display a surprisingly deep-rooted passion for/knowledge of cinema."

• **SCREENDAILY** REVIEW "'Identifying Features': Sundance Review" by Wendy Ide: <u>https://www.screendaily.com/reviews/identifying-features-sundance-review/5146207.article</u>

"On every level, this is impressively accomplished cinema."

"Powerful... the film gives an intimacy and a human face to an ongoing tragedy which has reached almost epidemic levels in Mexico."

• **SLUG MAGAZINE** "Sundance Film Review: Identifying Features (Sin Señas Particulares)" by Alexander Ortega <u>https://www.slugmag.com/arts/film-arts/filmreviews/sundance-film-review-identifying-features-sin-senas-particulares/</u>

« the fact that this isn't a feel-good story with silver lining underscores that it's all the more urgent"

"Hernández absolutely thrives in her first leading acting role in *Identifying Features (Sin Señas Particulares)*. She commands Magdalena's determination, fear and inquisitiveness. »

• **SALT LAKE MAGAZINE** "Film Review: Identifying Features" by Michael Mejia: <u>https://www.saltlakemagazine.com/film-review-identifying-features/</u>

« Atmosphere is as substantively developed through the excellent sound design as it is through Claudia Becerril Bules's wonderfully disorienting and apocalyptic visuals."

 UNSEEN FILMS Review by Steve Kopian review: <u>http://www.unseenfilms.net/2020/01/identifying-features-2020-sundance-2020.html</u>

"Magnificent and haunting... One of the best films at Sundance"

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• **SALT LAKE MAGAZINE** REVIEW "Sundance 2020: Identifying Features" by Jaime Winston: <u>https://www.saltlakemagazine.com/sundance-2020-identifying-features/</u>

"Mercedes Hernández (Magdalena) gives a stoic, memorable performance throughout the film."

"a riveting, poignant story of a mother's unyielding, meandering search for her son."

• IRISH FILM CRITIC REVIEW <u>https://www.irishfilmcritic.com/movie-review-</u> identifying-features-is-a-strong-powerful-story-with-a-shocking-ending/

"Director Fernanda Valadez did a fabulous job of truly capturing powerful emotions that stay with you well after the movie has ended."

• VARIETY REVIEW <u>https://variety.com/2020/film/reviews/identifying-features-review-1203487325/</u>

"Identifying Features" is impressive in many ways, from its strong naturalistic performances to the vivid sense of dislocation and vulnerability felt by the principal characters"

"This is a confident, accomplished and distinctive feature directorial debut"

"There are moments that are striking ... "

• "SIN SEÑAS PARTICULARES" Review by Jim Ross: <u>http://takeonecinema.net/2020/sin-senas-particulares/</u>

"As a first feature, Valadez's film is remarkably accomplished"

"A visually stunning first feature from director Fernanda Valadez"

 'Identifying Features' ('Sin Señas Particulares'): Film REVIEW" by Beandrea July:

https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/review/identifying-features-sin-sen-asparticulares-review-1302423

"We should be seeing a lot more from Valadez for years to come, and contemporary Mexican cinema will be all the better for it."

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INTERVIEWS

 WOMEN AND HOLLYWOOD, INTERVIEW "Sundance 2020 Women Directors: Meet Fernanda Valadez – "Identifying Features"" by Cody Corrall

 <u>https://womenandhollywood.com/sundance-2020-women-directors-meet-fernanda-valadez-identifying-features/</u>

"When you look back, it's easy to forget that when our grandmothers were born — in Mexico, at least — they weren't allowed to vote. Now, we are making films. »

• INDIE WIRE, INTERVIEW/MENTION with DP in "How I Shot That: Here Are the Cameras Used to Shoot This Year's Sundance Films" by Chris O'Falt: <u>https://www.indiewire.com/2020/01/sundance-2020-cinematography-camera-lens-1202204356/</u>

" I believe this use of light and the lenses we chose allowed us the photograph the landscapes almost like a character, and the actors in the landscapes as if the images were and expression of their emotions."

• SCREEN DAILY INTERVIEW/PROFILE "Sundance director Fernanda Valadez talks Mexican abduction drama 'Identifying Features'" by Jeremy Kay: <u>https://www.screendaily.com/features/sundance-director-fernanda-valadez-talks-mexican-abduction-drama-identifying-features/5146503.article</u>

" Driven by a powerful central performance and compelling cinematography by DoP Claudia Becerril Bulos that includes a dazzling flashback sequence, *Identifying Features* is artistically accomplished. "

<u>LISTING</u>

 REMEZCLA <u>LISTING</u> in "From Walter Mercado to Diego Luna: Must-See Latino Movies & Series at Sundance Film Festival" by <u>https://remezcla.com/lists/film/latino-</u> <u>movies-sundance-2020/</u>

"The solemn *Sin Señas Particulares* punctuates its contemplation of family and loss with fleeting moments of human connection, allowing one woman's aching personal story to encapsulate the weight of a tremendous real-world humanitarian crisis."

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- SCREEN DAYLY <u>LISTING</u> in "Sundance 2020: Screen's guide to the World Cinema Dramatic competition" by Michael Rosser: <u>https://www.screendaily.com/features/sundance-2020-screens-guide-to-the-worldcinema-dramatic-competition/5146394.article</u>
- SIGHT AND SOUND "Ten of the best from Sundance 2020" by Anjana Janardhan , Ela Bittencourt , Joshua Rothkopf: <u>https://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-</u> <u>magazine/reviews-recommendations/sundance-2020-josephine-decker-eliza-hittman-</u> <u>kirsten-johnson-miranda-july</u>

"Valadez combines stunning cinematography, evocative sound design and hints of magical realism to create a visionary work of devastating power."

https://deadline.com/video/identifying-features-trailer-sundance-documentarymiracle-st-bernards/

Fernanda was interviewed for this special segment on PBS NewsHour back in February, which is re-airing tonight...

[Video] "What global success of Mexican filmmakers means for the next generation" by Jeffrey Brown:

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/what-global-success-of-mexicanfilmmakers-means-for-the-next-generation-at-home

- INTERVIEW IN SPANISH "Fernanda Valadez: "Nuestro problema en México es la distribución"" by Gabriel Lerman: <u>https://www.goldenglobes.com/articles/fernanda-valadez-nuestro-problema-en-mexico-es-la-distribucion</u>
- REVIEW IN PORTUGUESE"#ConexãoSundance 20202: IDENTIFYING FEATURES" by Daniel Cury: <u>https://cinemacao.com/2020/01/26/conexaosundance-2020-identifying-features/</u>

« Causa muita empatia, e mostra uma realidade que muita gente não conhece. (Makes you feel a lot of empathy and depicts a reality that many people are unaware of)

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"Magdalena, muito bem interpretada pela atriz principal » (Magdalena, vey well portrayed by the main actress)

• **VIDEO INTERVIEW** Link to the Mexico's New Wave panel at Sundance with the participation of Fernanda: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a37gbmqetsg</u>

"Ten of the best from Sundance 2020" by Anjana Janardhan , Ela Bittencourt , Joshua Rothkopf:

https://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine/reviewsrecommendations/sundance-2020-josephine-decker-eliza-hittman-kirsten-johnsonmiranda-july

Mention (with trailer) in "New Directors/New Films 2020" by David Hudson: <u>https://www.criterion.com/current/posts/7217-new-directors-new-films-2020</u>

"New Directors/New Films 2020 — Dispatch 2: Identifying Features, The Killing of Two Lovers, The Mole Agent":

https://inreviewonline.com/2020/12/09/ndnf-2020-2/

Recommendation by Joshua Brunsting with a nice pull quote "A film of both beauty and desperation, a film embracing raw, human performances in a manner as to both evolve a compelling narrative and hit at larger truths about life, loss and the blind eye we as a society turn to a pandemic of murder at our borders."

P.S. I've just email him asking him to use the newly released theatrical release instead of the one he used.

"Seven Films to See at New Directors/New Films 2020" by Joshua Brunsting: <u>https://criterioncast.com/festivals/seven-films-to-see-at-new-directors-new-films-2020</u>

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2021

The Film Stage has included the film in their list of "11 Films to See in January" by Jordan Raup:

https://thefilmstage.com/11-films-to-see-in-january-2021/

The film was also included in the Vulture's list of "65 Movies We Can't Wait to See in 2021":

https://www.vulture.com/article/2021-movies-the-most-anticipated-films-of-the-year.html

Women and Hollywood included the film in their January 2021 Film Preview, which was also sent in their newsletter:

https://womenandhollywood.com/january-2021-preview/

"Sundance Winning Mexican Thriller IDENTIFYING FEATURES Opens in Virtual Cinemas in January": <u>https://www.vimooz.com/2021/01/09/mexican-thriller-identifying-features-release-date-trailer/</u>

A very positive review by Sean Boelman for Disappointment Media...

"IDENTIFYING FEATURES -- A Subtle and Stirring Debut" by Sean Boelman: <u>https://www.disappointmentmedia.com/reviews/identifying-features-a-</u> <u>subtle-and-stirring-debut</u>

Sean Boelman also included Mercedes Hernández as one of Disappointment Media's list of lead actress performances of last year...

"Disappointment Media's Favorite Lead Actress Performances of 2020": <u>https://www.disappointmentmedia.com/the-snake-hole/disappointment-medias-favorite-lead-actress-performances-of-2020</u>

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