

ACUSADA (“The Accused”)

A film by Gonzalo Tobal

Press Kit Documents

LOGLINE

Young and beautiful Dolores is charged with the murder of her best friend. As her loved ones fight to prove her innocence and the trial is about to begin, Dolores puts the entire strategy at risk.

SYNOPSIS

Dolores lived the life of a beautiful higher-class student until her best friend was found brutally murdered. Two years later, she's the only indicted suspect for the crime that attracts a lot of media attention and has placed her in the center of the public eye: everybody has an opinion about her innocence or culpability.

Dolores spends her days preparing for the trial, secluded in her house as her parents work as a team ready to do anything to defend their daughter. The best lawyer is not enough: they obsessively control around her, from how her looks and what she does, to what she eats and who she gets together with.

But as the trial moves forward and pressure grows, suspicion and secrets emerge within the family. Cornered, increasingly isolated and just when any mistake could prove disastrous, Dolores puts the entire strategy at risk.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

For the past few years, I have observed with wonder how real crime stories provoke huge fascination to all types of media and ourselves. I am twice amazed since, despite being aware of the phenomena, I can't escape its real effect: I'm captivated by the stories themselves and simultaneously on the construction and devices that surround, narrate and stage them.

As spectator to these stories, I feel a chronic unrest: the question about the human nature of the people involved. I imagine obsessively how these stories are lived behind the scenes: what happens to a person when going through such an experience in which private and public affairs are mixed with so much violence.

THE ACCUSED is simultaneously a crime film and a portrait of this question, of the external and internal process that anyone implicated in such a complex situation goes through, involving a range of aspects including legal, family-related, social, political and sexual.

In THE ACCUSED, we access the crime story through the optics of the family drama, the proximity of those involved, deriving in a film both intimate and intriguing. The audience must become a judge or prosecutor of sorts, shaping their judgement about the truth of a fact or character by means of the information provided by the script but also from the gestures and intimate behaviour of a protagonist whose inner world cannot be accessed, whose face is as opaque as doubt. Isn't cinema capable of unveiling a frail truth that escapes both the logic of Justice and arguments?

Lastly, the film is a portrait of a society overwhelmed by the current forms of communication and exposition that affect social and interpersonal relationships in a way that we have yet to understand. A society in which facts are being continuously sidetracked and truth, or whatever is left of it, is confused with the speech that provokes the best impression on the viewer.

BIO DIRECTOR - 100 words

Gonzalo Tobal was born in Argentina, 1981. His first feature film VILLEGAS (2012) premiered in Cannes Film Festival Official Selection and was distributed worldwide. Before then, he developed a successful career as a short film director, participating in Cannes between 2007 and 2010.

THE ACCUSED (2018) is his second feature film.

BIO DIRECTOR - 250 words

Gonzalo Tobal (Argentina, 1981) is a director, screenwriter, producer and editor.

His first feature VILLEGAS (2012) premiered in Cannes Film Festival Official Selection and received nomination nods for Best Debut Film at the Condor and Sur Awards.

Before then, he developed a successful career with shortfilms. NOW EVERYBODY SEEMS TO BE HAPPY (2007) received the Cinéfondation Award for Best Film, and CYNTHIA TODAVÍA TIENE LAS LLAVES (2010) premiered at the Cannes Critics' Week.

He produced and edited Natalia Garagiola's debut feature, HUNTING SEASON (2017), that won Best Film at Venice's Critics' Week. He also produced a short film by Gael García Bernal for the omnibus film MADLY (2016), premiered in Tribeca Film Festival.

THE ACCUSED (2018) is his second feature film as director.

COMPANY PROFILES

REI CINE

Established in Buenos Aires, Rei stands as a home for groundbreaking filmmakers in Latin America. Fully committed to all creative stages, we deliver cutting-edge content to the international audience.

Past credits include: THE ACCUSED (2018) by Gonzalo Tobal; THE QUEEN OF FEAR (2018) by Valeria Bertuccelli, ZAMA (2017) by Lucrecia Martel; HUNTING SEASON (2017) by Natalia Garagiola; LOS PERROS (2017) by Marcela Said; THE THEATRE OF DISAPPEARANCE (2017) by Adrián Villar Rojas; MADLY (2016) by Gael García Bernal; Mia Wasikowska & others; HISTORY OF FEAR (2014) by Benjamin Naishtat; KILL ME PLEASE (2015) by Anita Rocha da Silveira; SAND DOLLARS (2014) and CARMITA (2013) by Laura Guzmán & Israel Cárdenas; LEONES (2012) by Jazmín López; and VILLEGAS (2012) by Gonzalo Tobal.

All of the films have been successfully distributed worldwide and premiered in festivals such as Cannes, Berlinale, or Venice, amongst others.

K&S FILMS

K&S FILMS is a film production company founded by Oscar Kramer and Hugo Sigman over a decade ago. With a team of experienced producers, K&S Films strives for innovative and original films by notable directors, with storylines that appeal to audiences both locally and worldwide.

Among their most outstanding titles we find Chronicle Of An Escape (Adrian Caetano), On Probation (Damian Szifron), El Perro (Carlos Sorín), The Last Elvis (Armando Bo), 7th Floor (Patxi Amezcua), the nominated for an Oscar in the best foreign film category Wild Tales (Damian Szifron) Bafta winner best foreign film, The Clan (Pablo Trapero) winner of the silver lion award for best director at the 72nd Venice International Film Festival, The summit (Santiago Mitre) and El Angel (Luis Ortega).

K&S Films has provided production services for companies such as MGM (Operation Finale), Netflix (The Pope), Warner Bros. Pictures (Focus), New Regency (The Revenant), UGC (Lucky Luke) and MK2 (On The Road, A Monkey On My Shoulder)

<http://www.ks-films.com>

TELEFÉ

Telefe is a leader in the production, distribution and sale of content and multiplatform services in Argentina. It holds nine broadcast TV licenses and two channels; one national and one International with more than 10 million subscribers. For 26 years, Telefe has maintained its

leadership position with high quality content. With more than 12,000 m² of production space, it produces its own content as well as produces for third parties, both nationally and internationally. It is present on all continents as one of the most recognized producers of Spanish-language content, currently distributed in more than 100 countries. As a movie production house, Telefe is a driving force in the Latin-American movie scene, with no less than 8 features released per year. Some titles co-produced by Telefe includes Damian Szifron's Wild Tales, Juan José Campanella's Foosball and The Secret In Their Eyes, and Pablo Larraín's Neruda.

PIANO

Piano is a production and distribution company founded by Julio Chavezmontes and Sebastian Hofmann in 2011. "Halley", the company's feature debut, premiered internationally at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. Since then, Piano has produced 14 films, which have been selected to over 100 international film festivals, including Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Berlin and Toronto. In 2018, Julio Chavezmontes and Sebastian Hofmann were awarded the Special Jury Prize for Best Screenplay at the Sundance Film Festival.

In 2014, Piano expanded its operation to distribution, releasing bold and innovative films in Mexican theaters. Notable films include "The Square", "I'm not a Witch", "Eisenstein in Guanajuato", "Beach Rats", and the company's most recent coproductions, "Knife + Heart" and "Acusada".

BIO CAST

LALI ESPÓSITO (DOLORES)

MARIANA "LALI" ESPÓSITO (b. 1991, Buenos Aires) is an Argentine actress and music artist. As

a singer, she released 2 albums (Sony Music) and has become one of the most successful pop figures across Latin America, with over 10M followers across social media. In TV, she landed her first roles for big-hit teen series FLORICIENTA and CASI ANGELES (Canal 13), and starred prime time series ESPERANZA MIA (Canal 13). In film, she was the lead in box-office comedy hit PERMITIDOS (Ariel Winograd, 2016), to more than 350.000 admissions, becoming one of the five most successful local films in the year.

LEONARDO SBARAGLIA (LUIS)

LEONARDO SBARAGLIA (Buenos Aires, June 30th 1970) is an Argentine actor. He has recently starred in LAS VIUDAS DE LOS JUEVES (Marcelo Piñeyro, 2009), AIRE LIBRE (Anahí Berneri, 2014) and RELATOS SALVAJES (Damián Scifrón, 2014, Cannes Film Festival), amongst others. Sbaraglia has been awarded two Martín Fierros and one Goya Award, and has been nominated to Cándor de Plata and Emmy Awards.

INÉS ESTÉVEZ (BETINA)

INÉS ESTÉVEZ (b. 1964, Argentina) is a film, theatre and TV actress. She received local Academy Award Cándor de Plata for Best Actress in LA NAVE DE LOS LOCOS (Ricardo Wullicher, 1995), and nominated two more times. After a decade she returned to acting in EL MISTERIO DE LA FELICIDAD (Daniel Burman, 2014). In TV, she received the Martín Fierro as Best Lead in the series VULNERABLES (Adrián Suar, 1999) and was also awarded Best Actress in Short Series for TIEMPO FINAL (Alejandro y Sebastián Borensztein, 1999) and MUJERES ASESINAS (Marisa Grinstein, 2005).

DANIEL FANEGO (IGNACIO)

DANIEL FANEGO (n. 1955 Argentina) is an Argentinian actor. Among his latest performances are ¡ATRACO! (Eduard Cortés, 2012) an Argentina-Spain co-production featuring the likes of Guillermo Francella, TODOS TENEMOS UN PLAN (Ana Piterberg, 2012) another Argentina-Spain co-production where he shared cast with Viggo Mortensen and Soledad Villamil. BETIBÚ (Miguel Cohan, 2014), and EL ÁNGEL (Luis Ortega, 2018) which participated in the 71^o annual Cannes Film Festival as part of the Un Certain Regard section.

GERARDO ROMANO (FISCAL TABOADA)

GERARDO ROMANO (n.1946 Argentina) is an Argentinian actor who has worked in around 45 projects, including film and television, since the year 1979. His latest appearances include BETIBÚ (Miguel Cohan, 2014), ME CASÉ CON UN BOLUDO (Juan Taratuto, 2016) and LA CORDILLERA (Santiago Mitre, 2017) among others.

GAEL GARCÍA BERNAL (MARIO ELMO)

GAEL GARCÍA BERNAL is a Mexican actor, director and producer. His credits in film include: AMORES PERROS (Alejandro González Iñárritu, 2000), Y TU MAMÁ TAMBIÉN (Alfonso Cuarón 2001), MOTORCYCLE DIARIES (Walter Salles, 2004), BAD EDUCATION (Pedro Almodóvar, 2004), THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP (Michel Gondry, 2006), BABEL (Alejandro González Iñárritu,2006), NO (Pablo Larraín, 2012), and NERUDA (Pablo Larraín, 2016), among others. He has received a Golden Globe for his role in TV Series MOZART IN THE JUNGLE (Amazon Originals).