



OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2017



NUEV@S DIRECTOR@S
FESTIVAL DE SAN SEBASTIÁN
2017

KILLING JESUS

A FILM BY LAURA MORA

KILLING JESUS



MATAR A JESÚS

DRAMA, THRILLER / Co-production: Colombia, Argentina / Language: Spanish / 99 min.

Directed by **LAURA MORA**

From the producers of Award Winners *Dog Eat Dog & All Your Dead Ones* by Carlos Moreno

By the co-director of the Caracol TV SERIES hit *Pablo Escobar, The Drug Lord*

Paula, a young Colombian student, witnesses the cold-blooded murder of her father. After facing the inefficiency of the police, she accidentally crosses paths with the hitman who did the job. Driven by her anger, frustration and pain, the choice of revenge seems to be the only possible reaction... But what if both of them are the victims of a violent and corrupt system?

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

“Resistance is the only place hope inhabits” E. Sabato

KILLING JESUS is a social drama that looks to portray a society in conflict through the lives of two youngsters that have been brutally pierced by violence.

The main challenge in the naturalistic way in which I approached the story was how to express violence through small details in order to show that violence is also intimate and how deeply we, as a society, have been pierced by it.

In the process I discovered that violence seems to be attached to our own identity and to try to resist it can be seen as almost an act of treason towards a society. Ultimately it seems as if Colombia's history of violence could be described as a never-ending act of revenge.

The film tries to be a continuous dialogue between Paula (our protagonist) and the city that has always moved between violence and moral transgression. The character of Jesus is nothing else than the personification of that whole tragedy.

(How can a society that is so Catholic be at the same time the most violent?)

We will follow Paula on her journey as she follows Jesus, as if beyond her idea of killing him, she is seeking her own death.

Through all this journey we should never forget how young these characters are: a 22 year old Victim and a 23 year old Victimizer. They are just the reflection of a failed system, having been denied justice in their own way. The certainty of tragedy and death arrived way too early into each of their own existence.

In the creative process, I'm always anxious to be able to create moments of truth. I decided to work with non-professional actors that would fill the situations with their own experiences, their own language, their own relationship with the city and its violence will come so naturally that the screen will be flooded by the beauty that only detaches from life itself.

KILLING JESUS is a story about recognizing one another.

We will attend the transformation of a daughter devastated by death, into a human being that chooses to live and chooses the life of others above all.

She will try to think from the other's point of view, even when the other is the furthest from her own humanity; even when the truth that she demands as a victim, will be forever denied.

Paula with her attitude will try to cut an infinite chain of violence. She becomes a symbol of resistance.

KILLING JESUS was inspired by the painful reflections that arose after the killing of my father.



LAURA MORA, DIRECTOR

Laura graduated from film school in Melbourne, Australia. Whilst there, she directed two award-winning short films: WEST and BROTHERHOOD. When she returned to Colombia she was awarded a national production grant for her third shortfilm SALOME.

In 2012 She went on to direct next to Colombia's top director Carlos Moreno, more than 35 episodes of the award winning TV series PABLO ESCOBAR: THE DRUG LORD (2012) about the life of the infamous drug lord.

She has also directed several commercials, music videos and web series for different brands.

Her priority for many years has been her feature film KILLING JESUS ("Matar a Jesús")

The script won the development award at the Colombian national film funding and was selected at the prestigious co-production market from the Berlin Film Festival 2015.

In 2016 she finally got to shoot her most important and personal project in her career: "KILLING JESUS"; Shot over the course of 6 weeks on real locations in Medellín, with non- professional actors.

The postproduction took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Laura was born in Medellín- Colombia, 36 years ago.

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

64-A FILMS

DOG EAT DOG by Carlos Moreno (Sundance / San Sebastián)

ALL YOUR DEAD ONES by Carlos Moreno (Sundance / Rotterdam)

180 SECONDS by Alex Giraldo (Cartagena / Miami)

ONE THE STORY OF A GOAL by Gerardo Muyschondt and Carlos Moreno (Miami)

CIUDAD DELIRIO by Chus Gutiérrez (Busan)

FRAGMENTS OF LOVE by Fernando Vallejo (Montreal)

AZ FILMS

NERUDA by Pablo Larrain. Nominated to the Golden Globes 2016 as best Feature Film and winner of the Fenix Award 2016 as Best Film and Official Selection in Toronto International Film Festival 2017

PRIMAVERA by Santiago Giraldo

EI AMOR Y OTRAS HISTORIAS by Alejo Flah

VINO PARA ROBAR by Ariel Winograd

EL MUERTO Y SER FELIZ, by Javier Rebollo. Winner of a Goya Award for best actor with José Sacristán

LA LLAMADA by David Nieto Winzel

UN AMOR by Paula Hernández

LAS ACACIAS by Pablo Giorgelli (Cannes Semaine de la critique)



PRODUCERS

Diego F. Ramírez
Alex Zito
Ignacio Rey
Juan Pablo García
Maja Zimmermann

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Nancy Fernández
Pola Zito
Javier del Pino

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

Caracol Televisión
Dago García Producciones

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

Fondo para el Desarrollo Cinematográfico de Colombia
Incaa
Programa Ibermedia



CREW

DIRECTOR

Laura Mora

SCRIPTWRITERS

Laura Mora

Alonso Torres

LINE PRODUCER

María Fernanda Henao

UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER

Pamela Toro

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Leandro Borell

CINEMATOGRAPHER

James L. Brown ACS

EDITOR

Leandro Aste, SAE

ORIGINAL SCORE

Sebastián Escofet

ART DIRECTOR

Iris Ocampo

COSTUME DESIGNER

Ana María Acosta

MAKE UP

Laura Copó

CASTING DIRECTOR

Karel Solei López

Carlos “Fagua” Medina

SOUND DESIGNER

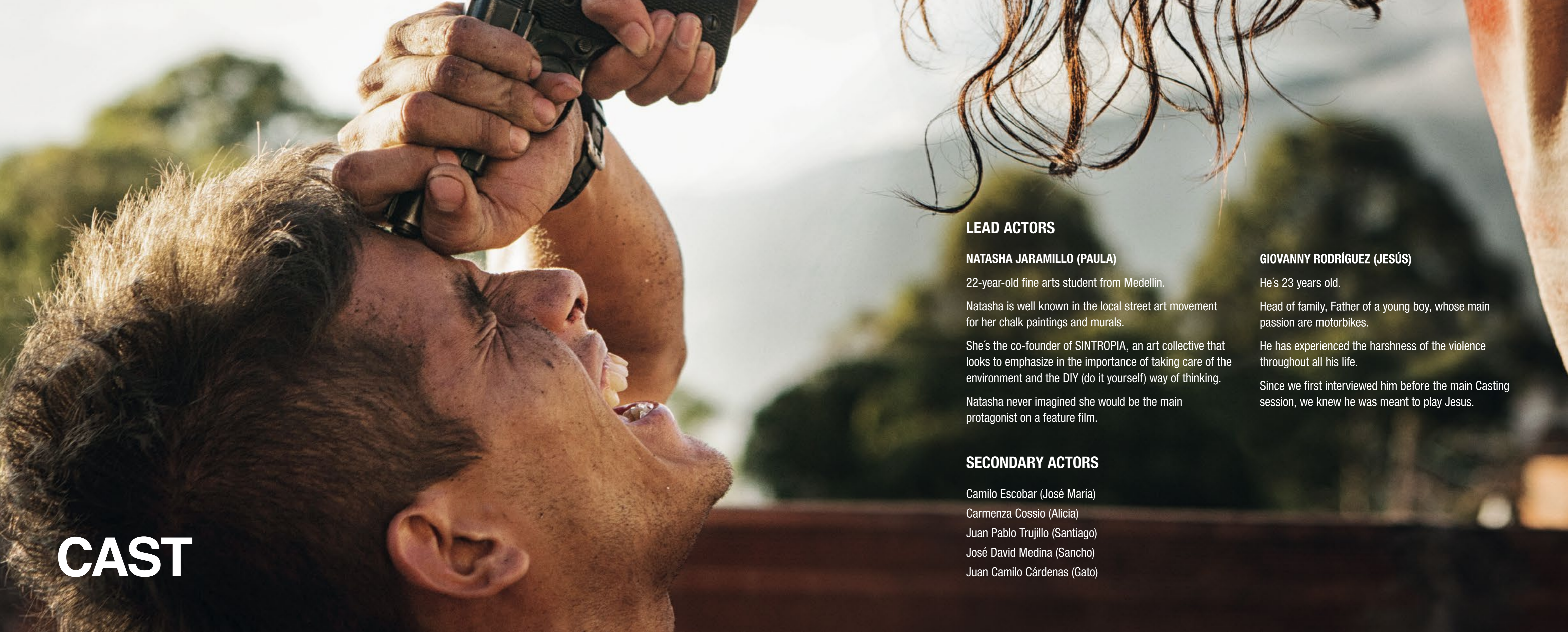
Guido Berenblum, ASA

SOUND

Carlos Lopera “Chubby”

ASISTANT DIRECTOR

Nataly Valdivieso



CAST

LEAD ACTORS

NATASHA JARAMILLO (PAULA)

22-year-old fine arts student from Medellin.

Natasha is well known in the local street art movement for her chalk paintings and murals.

She's the co-founder of SINTROPIA, an art collective that looks to emphasize in the importance of taking care of the environment and the DIY (do it yourself) way of thinking.

Natasha never imagined she would be the main protagonist on a feature film.

SECONDARY ACTORS

Camilo Escobar (José María)

Carmenza Cossio (Alicia)

Juan Pablo Trujillo (Santiago)

José David Medina (Sancho)

Juan Camilo Cárdenas (Gato)

GIOVANNY RODRÍGUEZ (JESÚS)

He's 23 years old.

Head of family, Father of a young boy, whose main passion are motorbikes.

He has experienced the harshness of the violence throughout all his life.

Since we first interviewed him before the main Casting session, we knew he was meant to play Jesus.

