



Centro de Capacitación
Cinematográfica, A.C.

SOFÍA SYLWIN JACOBO LIEBERMAN MERAQUI PRADIS



FICM
OFFICIAL SELECTION
2019

EnergaCAMERIMAGE
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2019
STUDENT STUDIOS PANORAMA

CRESCENDO

ANDREA PORTAL ISAÍ FLORES NAVARRETE PABLO CHEMOR ALEXANDER BRUCK SERGIO RÜED CAROLINA POLITI

Screenplay HIPATIA ARGÜERO MENDOZA Line Producer LARISA ARGÜERO MENDOZA Director of Photography CAMILO MONCADA

Art Direction VERA PARK Costume Design VESTURE ATELIER Makeup Design DANIELA VALDIVIA

Sound Design JUAN FRANCISCO HERNÁNDEZ Music CHARLES DANIELS

Directed by PERCIVAL ARGÜERO MENDOZA

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Mexico / 2019 / Narrative / 32 min / DCP / Color / Scope / Dolby Digital

CAST

Victoria Sofía Sylwin
Antonio Montenegro Jacobo Lieberman
Renée Meraqui Pradis
Sebastián Isaí Flores Navarrete
Isabel Andrea Portal
Cellist Pablo Chemor
Violist Alexander Bruck
Violinist Sergio Rued
Julia Carolina Politi

CREW

Director Percival Argüero Mendoza
Screenplay Hipatia Argüero Mendoza
Line Producer Larisa Argüero Mendoza
Cinematography Camilo Moncada
Production Sound Raúl Galindo
Editing Percival Argüero Mendoza
Sound Design Juan Francisco Hernández
Music Charles Daniels
Art Direction Vera Park
Costume Design Vēsture Atelier
Makeup Design Daniela Valdivia
Production Company Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica,
A.C.

LOGLINE

A violinist faces a terrible decision when the leader of the string quartet she is auditioning for tries to seduce her.

SYNOPSIS

Victoria is auditioning for the second violin position in the prestigious string quartet lead by her teacher, Antonio Montenegro. The night before the audition, she attends a cocktail party with the sole intention of remaining on his good side. When he tries to seduce her, she discovers that her talent will not be the only decisive factor in her getting the spot. Insecure and threatened by the sensual nature of Renée, her main competition, Victoria is forced to take part in a power-play, only to realize that her own freedom is at stake.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“Crescendo” portrays a decisive moment in Victoria’s life, a young violinist who discovers just what she is willing to take in order to be chosen for the prestigious string quartet founded by the teacher she admires the most: a middle-aged man who is determined to seduce her. As she stumbles to reach her goal, Victoria ignores the warnings of those who want to help her, out of fear she might be rejected by her teacher. She finally hits rock bottom and decides she will not live subjected to the rules of a game designed to consensually enslave her. In short, “Crescendo” is a story about empowerment in the face of abuse.

The story stems from concerns over social justice issues that the screenwriter and I share, particularly those related to gender violence. The horrors of rape and femicide (the killing of women on account of their gender) have been portrayed on countless films. However, aware that these hideous crimes are only the tip of the iceberg of a systemic problem that is present in practically all of our social interactions and institutions, we decided to focus on the structural aspects of the issue, those that enable a wide variety of unjust situations that women experience on a daily basis. This is how we found the conflict between Victoria and her teacher, an authority figure who is used to benefiting from social dynamics where women are objectified and silenced, dynamics that are reproduced by the actions and judgments of almost all the characters in the film.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Percival Argüero Mendoza was born in Mexico City on September 17, 1985. He studied a BA in Philosophy at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) but has been devoted to motion pictures since 2008. He majored in Film Directing at Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica (CCC), a world-renowned school that allowed him to gain experience in many areas of filmmaking, from screenwriting to post-production. He has directed six narrative shorts, the latest of which premiered at the 17th Morelia International Film Festival, had its international premiere in Poland at the 27th edition of Camerimage and won a Student Academy Award in 2020.



DIRECTOR'S SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Percival Argüero Mendoza is a Mexican filmmaker. He studied Philosophy at UNAM and later majored in Film Directing at CCC, a world-renowned school that gave him experience in many areas of filmmaking, from writing to post-production. He has directed six narrative short films, the latest of which won a Student Academy Award in 2020.

FILMOGRAPHY

2019	Crescendo	32 min / Drama
2015	SÂNGE	19 min / Horror
2013	No se ponga así	6 min / Drama
2013	Qué chismes	8 min / Comedy
2012	Abrigo rojo	7 min / Thriller
2012	Falso contacto	9 min / Horror



PRODUCTION NOTES

The Screenwriter and the Director started working on the screenplay for “Crescendo” in January, 2016. The project was in development for 8 months before principal photography began in September, 2016. The film was shot in 7 nights and 2 days. However, post-production lasted almost two years due to budget difficulties.

The Screenwriter, Producer and Director of “Crescendo” are siblings.

Percival Argüero Mendoza and Camilo Moncada were classmates at Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica (CCC). “Crescendo”, their thesis film, is their third collaboration as Director and DoP.

The characters play music composed by Franz Schubert, Felix Mendelssohn and Tomaso Antonio Vitali. All of the music for the film was produced by Charles Daniels.

Sofía Sylwin (Victoria), Jacobo Lieberman (Antonio) and Meraqui Pradis (Renée) had basic knowledge of violin. Andrea Portal (Isabel) had never held one before. The actors trained with Nabani Aguilar (the musical director) for three months in order to do the playback of the songs the music production team recorded before shooting.

Charles Daniels and Nabani Aguilar founded a string quartet with some of the best classical musicians they know in order to record the last movement of “Death and the Maiden”, the Franz Schubert piece that opens the film.

The men who play the members of the Montenegro Quartet are not professional actors. Jacobo Lieberman (Antonio) has a long career as a musician and composer. He is one of the founding members of the rock band Santa Sabina and has written music for over 50 films. Alexander Bruck (Violist) is a renowned performer and an iconic figure in the Mexican contemporary and experimental music scene. Pablo Chemor (Cellist) is a composer with a Master’s degree from King’s College London and a great passion for acting.



SCREENWRITER'S BIOGRAPHY

Hipatia Argüero Mendoza is a screenwriter born in Mexico City. She studied English Literature at UNAM and Screenwriting at CCC. She has written short films that have been selected for several international festivals and has worked on TV shows for Netflix, Amazon and Claro Video. In 2019, she directed her first short film, which will premiere soon. Her first feature project as a Director, "If They Kill Me", is in development and has participated in programs such as Talents Guadalajara and Nuevas Miradas at EICTV in Cuba. She currently studies the Screenwriting MA at the NFTS in England.

PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY

Larisa Argüero Mendoza is a freelance producer born in Mexico City. She got a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from ITAM, but her passion for cinema led her to study Film Production at CCC. Since then, she has produced six short films, among them "El sonámbulo" (Dir. Lenz Cloure, official selection at Morelia International Film Festival and Festival Biarritz Amérique Latine), "SÂNGE" (Dir. Percival Argüero Mendoza, official selection at New York Film Festival and Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival), and "Crescendo" (Dir. Percival Argüero Mendoza, finalist in the 47th Student Academy Awards). In 2013, she was selected for the Berlinale Talent Campus at Guadalajara International Film Festival. She has worked on the production of several feature films and TV series, mainly as Unit Production Manager and Production Coordinator. In 2018, her first feature as a Producer, "El club de los insomnes", had its theatrical release in Mexico, and is now available in Netflix. She is currently developing multiple projects at Malamadre A.C. with her screenwriter sister, Hipatia Argüero Mendoza, such as "If They Kill Me", which was selected at the FICG Talent Project Market to participate on the 13th edition of Nuevas Miradas at Cuba's EICTV. As part of the awards received during the workshop, in 2020 she attended the Distribution Training Program at EICTV.

LEADING ACTRESS' BIOGRAPHY

Sofía Sylwin is Mexican/Polish actress and singer. She studied at Centro Universitario de Teatro (CUT). Since 2011 she has performed in more than 20 stage plays, among them "El amor de las luciérnagas" (written and directed by Alejandro Ricaño, play with which she has traveled to Colombia, Spain and the UK), "Wenses y Lala" (written and directed by Adrián Vázquez), "El difícil problema" (written by Stoppard and directed by Sandra Félix), "Handel" (a play she produced based on thorough research about human trafficking in

Mexico) and “La maté por un pañuelo” (an adaptation of Shakespeare’s Othello directed by Andrea Salmerón). She has worked on theater for children projects such as “Historias mínimas de niños máximos”, directed by Gabriela Pérez Negrete and “Si no lo cuentas tú, ¿quién lo sabrá?”, written by Berta Hiriart and directed by Ewa Piotrowska (Korczak Festival, Poland, 2014). She has acted in several films, such as “Traición”, directed by Ignacio Ortiz Cruz and “Crescendo”, directed by Percival Argüero Mendoza. She collaborated with Triciclo Circus Band for their latest LP, “Ojos”.

CINEMATOGRAPHER’S BIOGRAPHY

Camilo Moncada is a Nicaraguan cinematographer currently based in Mexico City. Deeply moved by the power of images since adolescence, in 2005 he enrolled for the analog and digital photography courses at EAF. He then majored in Cinematography at CCC. He has worked on several feature films and TV series as Camera Operator and First AC. He has been DoP on nine narrative fiction shorts and two documentaries: “Aire” (Dir. Kami García), “The Old In Out In Out” (Dir. Raúl Galindo), “Cola de rata”, “Más allá de lo oscuro” (Dir. Armando Salomo), “SÂNGE”, “No se ponga así”, “Crescendo” (Dir. Percival Argüero Mendoza), “Sexo limpio”, “La Soledad”, “Rex” (Dir. María Conchita Díaz) and “La boca del diablo” (Dir. Gabriela García Rivas).

COMPOSER’S BIOGRAPHY

Charles Daniels is a composer and musician born in Mexico City. He has focused primarily on the composition of chamber and orchestral music. He is the founder and main composer of chamber rock ensemble Orkvs. As a composer for film and dance he has created the soundtracks for the short films “SÂNGE” and “Crescendo” by Percival Argüero Mendoza and the music for the choreography “Ánima” by Paula Rechtman. He is also a professor of harmony, orchestration, counterpoint and composition at AAF, DIM and UNAM. His chamber music has been showcased at festivals such as Zacatecas Cultural Festival, Morelia Music Festival, Chamber Music of Fine Arts and at the International Forum of New Music Manuel Enríquez. Among the ensembles that have played his music are the Mexico City Woodwind Quintet, José White String Quartet, Ensamble 3, Signos Ensemble, Zephyrus Ensemble, Stereocluster, Arizona Wind Qintet, Borderlands Ensemble and oboist Jonathan Thompson. His orchestral works have been played within Mexico and also internationally by orchestras such as Budapest Scoring Orchestra, Xalapa Symphony Orchestra, Sinaloa Symphony Orchestra of the Arts, Morelia Symphony Orchestra, Toluca Philharmonic Orchestra, Mexico State Youth Orchestra, New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving, Philharmonic Orchestra of Mexico City.

SCREENINGS

Morelia International Film Festival
October 2019

Camerimage International Film Festival
November 2019

Taxco Film Fest
February 2020

Shorts México
September 2020

Student Academy Awards
October 2020 (WINNER)

HollyShorts Film Festival
November 2020

WEBSITE

www.percival-am.com/crescendo

OFFICIAL TRAILER

www.vimeo.com/percivalam/crescendotrailersub

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