

QUINZAINE
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT
CANNES 2010

REAL
FEAR
IN REAL
TIME

The Silent House

A FILM BY
GUSTAVO HERNÁNDEZ
(LA CASA MUDA)

TOKIO FILMS PRESENTS A GUSTAVO HERNÁNDEZ FILM IN ASSOCIATION WITH ELLE DRIVER. ORIGINAL IDEA GUSTAVO HERNÁNDEZ AND GUSTAVO ROJO. SCREENPLAY BY OSCAR ESTEVEZ. STARRING FLORENCIA COLUCCI, ABEL TRIPALDI, GUSTAVO ALONSO, MARÍA SALAZAR.
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PEDRO LUQUE. EDITOR GUSTAVO HERNÁNDEZ. SOUND DESIGN NANDY CABRERA. SET DESIGN FEDERICO CAPPA. FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JUAN PONCE DE LEÓN. ORIGINAL MUSIC BY HERMAN GONZÁLEZ. EXECUTIVE PRODUCER GUSTAVO ROJO.



A PRODUCTION TOKIO FILMS. PRODUCED BY GUSTAVO ROJO. INTERNATIONAL SALES ELLE DRIVER

elle
driver

The Silent House

A FILM BY
GUSTAVO HERNÁNDEZ
(LA CASA MUDA)



2010 • URUGUAY • SPANISH • 78'

Crew

DIRECTOR: GUSTAVO HERNÁNDEZ
SCREENPLAY: OSCAR ESTÉVEZ
PRODUCER: GUSTAVO ROJO
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: PEDRO LUQUE
EDITOR: GUSTAVO HERNÁNDEZ
MUSIC: HERNÁN GONZÁLEZ
SET DESIGNER: FEDERICO CAPRA
SOUND EDITING: NANDY CABRERA
SPECIAL EFFECTS 3D: MAURO SCARONE
PRODUCTION COMPANY: TOKIO FILMS

Cast

Florencia Colucci
Abel Tripaldi
Gustavo Alonso
María Salazar

Director's Note

One night years ago when I was a child, I heard a strange sound coming from the mezzanine of my house, a faint sound but it paralyzed me completely. All my senses were alerted for a couple of seconds which seemed hours to me, trying to convince myself that it was only the wind pushing a window. I sharpened my hearing and I held my breath seeking simply for silence. It was a minuscule experience but I recall it sharply because in my memory it was the first time that I felt a different fear, raw and basic.

The Silent House arises from the premise to experience this real fear in real time, through the horror genre. Thus appears the necessity to narrate a story where the spectator doesn't notice any type of deceit through the manipulation of time and he can feel the fear from others like his own. We chose to narrate it in one continuous shot to be able to provoke identical emotions that can arouse from a strange creak in a mezzanine or from an extreme outside crash, without ellipses nor changes in time in the edition of the material. It's not an exercise of styles nor an eccentric challenge. It's simply the most honest narration form I found to pass on my own primary fears, trying to end up in a cinematographic language with a camera according to the story and its characters.

The Silent House is based on a true and old crime by the end of the 40's in a little village on the countryside. It's a story that I heard when I was a teenager and that always caught my attention because of some shocking details of mutilated bodies and Polaroid photographs. When we started to investigate we didn't find any significant information in police documents from that time but we visualized the event very clearly because the little information we had, contained the basic ingredients for the horror genre. Immediately we thought we should focus on the last 80 minutes of life of these victims trying to explore the tension and the circumstances that lead to commit these brutal murders.

Sometimes a story awakens different impressions in me that can be unequal and very different but that manage to disturb me. Personally the ones that manage to disturb me are the ones I enjoy most.. I'm not attached to this genre (sometimes so overestimated) to just film a sanguine episode. With The Silent House I committed myself to try and seduce emotions and seek a different cinematographic experience, without losing the objective to pass on feelings. I don't think there's anything more important and most difficult in cinema. Hopefully we can succeed even for a little moment, with this project and be able to go back to that experience when I held my breath for the first time that night I couldn't sleep.

The Plot

Based on a true story that happened in the late 40's in a small village in Uruguay. Filmed in one single continuous shot of seventy eight minutes, "La Casa Muda" focuses on Laura, who, second by second, intends to leave a house which hides an obscure secret, unharmed.

"The Silent House is a different independent film in its genre, filmed with a digital camera in one single shot, without any cuts and in real time. It's the first horror film in the world that discovers fear without tricks in one sequence of 78 minutes. It's also the first feature film that was completely filmed with the digital camera Canon Mark II. This camera offers extraordinary possibilities as it can shoot in high definition real full HD video, it transcends the limits of photography."

Synopsis

Laura and her father Wilson settle down in a cottage they have to renew since its owner will soon put the house up for sale. They will spend the night there and repair the following morning. Everything seems to go smoothly until Laura hears a sound that comes from outside and gets louder and louder on the upper floor of the house. Wilson goes up to see what is going on while she remains downstairs on her own, waiting for her father to come down.

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