

ARGENTINA

A film by Carlos Saura

85 min / Spanish / 2015 / Color / Argentina – Spain / Digital



FIRST RUN FEATURES

The Film Center Building
630 Ninth Ave. #1213
New York, NY 10036
(212) 243-0600 / Fax (212) 989-7649
Website: www.firstrunfeatures.com
Email: info@firstrunfeatures.com

Synopsis

ARGENTINA explores the heart of traditional Argentine folklore via a series of choreographed tableaux retracing a history rich in original culture. The unique mise en scène of the dance mixed with awe-inspiring traditional songs performed by the musicians make it unique. Poetic, riveting and moving, this live performance choreographed by Carlos Saura calls on the entire history of a country set to the tune of guitars and accordions.

"I always had the urge to shoot Argentinian music, especially for the wealth of its zambas and chacareras, what you call folklore."

—Carlos Saura

"My desire is to create a cinematic experience unlike any other."

—Carlos Saura

ARGENTINA shows through the music and dance of Argentinian folklore a country and its people, a landscape, a story and how this has shaped a way of being that remains fascinating.

Filmmaker Statement

Through the use of Argentinian Folk, I wish to introduce people to the way in which the citizens, geography and history of this fascinating country have shaped its lifestyle and culture.

Using a formal approach based on light and shadow, and the simplicity of a minimalist setting, I want to showcase the sublime beauty of these songs by returning to the soil from which they were born. I also wish to feature the traditional dances accompanying them—symbols of the population’s ancestral pride.

By beginning with the incredible heritage of Los Chalchaleros and the most beautiful traditional songs, in their original and/or current versions, I wish to explore the deep, telluric connection between song and soil, tradition and the future. For this essentially Argentinian project, I will obviously be working with the finest technicians in the country.

With all these tools at my disposition, I will create a film that is not only for aficionados but for all lovers of music and dance – as well as those who especially liked Carmen or Tango. My desire is to create a cinematic experience unlike any other.

—Carlos Saura

Filmmaker Biography

Carlos Saura is one of the most prestigious directors of Spanish cinema. He has won several national and international awards and has been nominated three times for an Academy Award. He has directed, among other films: “Cría Cuervos” (1976), “Tango” (1998), “Ay Carmela ” (1990), “Deprisa, Deprisa ” (1981).

“Carlos Saura [is] the major figure of the Nuevo Cine Espanol.”

—Variety

Select Filmography

LOS GOLFOS (1959), Cannes Festival
LLANTO POR UN BANDIDO (1963), Berlin Festival
THE HUNT (1965), Berlin Festival - Silver Bear (Best Director)
PEPPERMINT FRAPPÉ (1967) Berlin Festival - Silver Bear (Best Director)
STRESS IS THREE (1968) Venice Festival
HONEYCOMB (1969), Berlin Festival
ANNA AND THE WOLVES (1972), Cannes Festival
COUSIN ANGELICA (1973), Cannes Festival - Jury Prize
CRIA CUERVOS (1975), Cannes Festival - Grand Prize of the Jury
ELISA, MY LIFE (1977), Cannes Festival - Best Actor (Fernando Rey)
BLINDFOLDED EYES (1978), Cannes Festival
MAMA TURNS 100 (1979), Academy Awards - Nominated for Best Foreign Language
FAST, FAST (1980) Berlin Festival - Golden Bear
CARMEN (1983), Cannes Festival - Best Artistic Contribution, BAFTA - Best Foreign Language Film
LOS ZANCOS (1984), Venice Festival - Best Actor (Fernando Fernán Gómez)
EL DORADO (1988), Cannes Festival
LA NOCHE OSCURA (1989), Berlin Festival
¡AY, CARMELA! (1990) Goya - 13 awards including Best Film & Best Director
OUTRAGE (1993), Venice Festival
TANGO (1998), Academy Awards & Golden Globes - Nominated for Best Foreign Language
GOYA (1999), Goya - 5 Awards including Best Cinematography
FADOS (2006),
I, DON GIOVANNI (2009)
FLAMENCO, FLAMENCO (2010)
ARGENTINA (2015)

Select Biographies

El Chaqueño Palavecino *is one of the most popular folk singers of the last decade in Argentina who started from nothing after a difficult childhood and ended up selling thousands of records.*

Soledad Pastorutti (“La Sole”) *has changed the Argentinean folk music for nearly 15 years with a style and performance all her own. She is considered the “new promise of national folk” and is well-known all over the world.*

Jairo *recorded his first album before the age of 20 and has performed more than 500 songs in Spanish, French and Italian since. A legendary Argentinian figure.*

Liliana Herrero *is a famous Argentinean folk singer whose music is characterized by the merge of folk with contemporary sounds and arrangements (like electric guitar and other modern instruments), many of them originating from rock and jazz.*

Luis Salinas *is an accomplished guitarist, singer and composer. He’s considered one of today’s finest instrumental folk musicians.*

Jaime Torres *has played everywhere—from the modest stages of small towns in Argentina to the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, as well as to Saint Petersburg and New York.*

Metabombo *is a well-known Argentinean folk group that plays the “bombo” (drums).*

Ballet Nuevo Arte Nativo de Koki & Pajarín Saavedra *is a ballet company founded in 1994 by Pajarín and Koki Saavedra. They perform spectacular and innovative dances which remain true to the roots of folk.*

Lito Vitale *has worked within many musical genres, including tango, jazz and folk. An Argentinean composer, pianist and producer who has collaborated on the musical composition of “Argentina.”*

Also featuring: Peteco Carabajal, Juan Falú, Pedro Aznar, Liliana Herrero, Verónica Condomí, Walter Soria, Marian Farías Gómez, Horacio Lavandera, Gabo Ferro and Luciana Jury, Vitillo Ábalos, Mariana Carrizo, Lucho González, Jimena Teruel, Tomas Lipán, Marcelo Torres, Melania Pérez, Juventud Prolongada, La Orquesta Popular de los Amigos del Chango

And tributes to legendary Argentinean singers Mercedes Sosa & Atahualpa Yupanqui

Select Credits

Directed by Carlos Saura
Written by Carlos Saura
Produced by Barakacine SRL (Argentina)
Zebra Producciones (Spain)
Mondex&Cie (France)
Associated production Ajimolido Films
Mariana Erijimovich and Nelly Entertainment
Producers Marcelo Schapces
Mariana Erijimovich and Alejandro Israel

In coproduction with Corporación Radiotelevisión Española S.A.U.

Co-Producers José Velasco, Stéphane Sorlat
Supported by INCAA, ICAA, Ministerio de Cultura Argentina, Marca País
Argentina, Ibermedia
Executive producers Alejandro Israel, Antonio Saura, Guy Amon, Jorge Rodríguez
Photography Felix Monti
Musical coordination Lito Vitale
Production design Pablo Maestre Galli
Choreography Koki and Pajarín Saavedra
Sound Fernando Soldevila
Editing César Custodio, Iara Rodríguez Vilardebó
Costume design Marcela Vilariño
Make up Laura Fortini