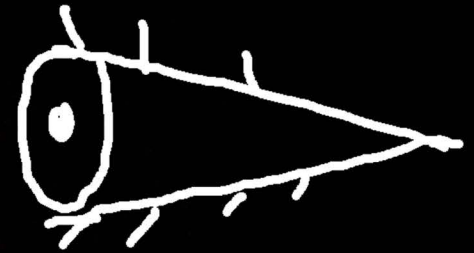


OFFICIAL SELECTION 2017
sundance
film festival



*Sueño en
otro idioma*
I DREAM IN ANOTHER
LANGUAGE

Una película de
A FILM BY ERNESTO CONTRERAS

Sueño en otro idioma

I DREAM IN ANOTHER
LANGUAGE

SYNOPSIS

When a language dies, a unique vision of the world is lost forever.

An indigenous language is in peril as its last two speakers (Evaristo and Isaura, 70's) had a quarrel in the past and haven't spoken to each other in over 50 years. Martín, a young linguist, will undertake the challenge to bring the old friends back together and convince them to once again talk to each other so he can obtain a recorded registration of the language and study it. However, hidden in the past, in the heart of the jungle, lies a secret concealed by the language that makes it difficult to believe that the heart of Zikril will beat once again.



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WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Born in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, my grandmother spoke Zapoteco. When I was a child, I didn't like hearing her. I preferred she spoke Spanish, but I wasn't able to grasp what it meant to her to lose contact with her past and her roots... In the end, my own. Today, I am sorry I didn't learn more of that lost knowledge. Sicarú Guyee is the only expression I remember.

To address the death of a language is the starting point to generate a reflection on our own reality and on how the continuous disappearance of our identity comes, perhaps, from so-called progress or even just because it doesn't matter to us anymore. We are currently living a crisis, not only in Mexico, but in many parts around the world, regarding the conservation of original languages, which tend to disappear by cultural pressure, the imposition of a dominant language or due to the emigration of native speakers in search of better opportunities. But we rarely stop to think about what this really means. When a language goes extinct, a unique vision of the world dies with it. Each language is a treasure of human creativity, taking shape over centuries and that exists thanks to our will to communicate ideas, feelings and share knowledge.

This story is inspired on true events.

Sicarú guyé
[Enjoy the journey!]

Ernesto Contreras

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ERNESTO CONTRERAS, director

Graduate from the Center for Studies in Communication Sciences and later from the University Center for Cinematographic Studies (CUEC) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He has directed four feature films, winning national and international acknowledgments.

In 2007, his first feature, *Blue Eyelids*, is nominated to the Caméra d'Or of the 60th Cannes Film Festival as part of the official selection of the International Critics' Week. The film participates in many festivals and receives, among others, the award for Best Ibero-American Film, Best Screenplay and the Mezcal Award in the 22nd Guadalajara International Film Festival, the Ariel for Best First Feature and the Special Jury Award at Sundance in 2008, among others. His feature documentary *Being: Café Tacvba* premieres in 2010, a film on the 20th anniversary of Mexico's most important rock band. And in 2015 his third film hits the theaters, *The Obscure Spring*, winning the Grand Jury Prize for Best Film and the Grand Jury Prize for Best Performance, awarded to the main cast, at the 32nd Miami International Film Festival. It also won three Ariel awards (editing, music and sound) and was nominated in seven other categories by the Mexican Academy of Cinematographic Arts and Sciences.

He has been screenplay and directing advisor for IMCINE and CUEC, and has formed part of the jury in national and international festivals. His latest film, *I Dream in Another Language*, received the Sundance Institute / Mahindra Global Filmmaking Award, was supported by the National System of Creators, selected to the Sam Spiegel International Film Lab (Jerusalem) and the Sundance Institute Screenwriters Lab. Alongside his filmmaking, Contreras has been General Director for documentary series for NatGeo, Discovery Channel, and HBO.

Former fellow off the National Fund for Culture and Arts, as well as the Rockefeller, Ford, TyPA, and Toscano foundations, including the Sundance Institute. In 2004 he received the Ariel Award for Best Short Film for his thesis *The Non-Invited*, and was later granted the National University Award in the field of Artistic Creation and Contribution to Culture of UNAM.

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MAIN CAST

Fernando Álvarez Rebeil

Theater, film, television, and experimental video actor. Films he has participated in have been included in festivals such as Locarno, Rotterdam, Cannes, Thessalonika, NT Latinbeat, Toulouse, Cartagena, Lima, and Havana, among others. He has worked in over 25 short films and 13 feature films, including *I Dream in Another Language*, by Ernesto Contreras; *The Untamed*, by Amat Escalante; *La región salvaje*, by Daniel Castro, and *The Incident*, by Isaac Ezban. He participated as actor in Guadalajara Talent Campus 2013, and Berlinale Talents 2014.

Eligio Meléndez

He has acted in over 30 plays and for 25 years he performed in political satire and cabaret. In television, he has hosted shows for children, entertainment, and worked in TV soap operas and series. In film, he has worked with directors like Arturo Ripstein, José Estrada, Mitl Valdés and Ernesto Contreras, among others. He was nominated to the Ariel for Best Supporting Actor in 2001 for his role in *En el país de no pasa nada*.

Manuel Poncelis

With an acting career of over 30 years, and theater teacher at different universities, he has worked in plays under the direction of renown directors and has participated in many international theater festivals. He has acted in over 20 films with directors like Arturo Ripstein, Tony Scott, Carlos Estrada, and Carlos Bolado. He has also appeared in National Geographic videos about Mexican archaeological sites. He was nominated to the Ariel for Best Supporting Actor in 2000 for role in *Herod's Law*.

Fátima Molina

In 2013 she worked in her first film *Fausto (Redemption of a Broken Mind)*, winner of Best Drama and Best Direction at the 35th Breckendridge Film Festival, Colorado, USA. She has appeared in TV series in Mexico. *I Dream in Another Language* is her latest film.



PRODUCTION COMPANIES

AGENCIA SHA

Since 2005, Agencia SHA supports and produces high quality feature films and documentaries with a strong commitment to personal views and passion by the authors. The company, apart from managing its own international sales, offers production services and includes important international clients.

Currently, it is in its fourth feature film, and two more in development for 2017.

Agencia SHA's films include *Sueño en otro idioma (I Dream in Another Language)*, directed by Ernesto Contreras, and produced by Agencia SHA, Alebrije Cine y Video, FOPROCINE, EFICINE, Revolver Amsterdam and received the Sundance Institute / Mahindra Global Filmmaking Award.

Its previous film, *Las oscuras primaveras (The Obscure Spring)* received the Grand Jury Award for Best Film and Grand Jury Award for Best Acting (Ensemble) at the Miami International Film Festival, 2015. And was nominated to 10 categories for the Ariel of the Mexican Academy of Arts and Cinematographic Sciences for Best Film, Best Director, Best Actress, Best Female Supporting Role, Male Revelation, Best Photography, and won three: Best Sound, Best Original Score, and Best Editing.

Its documentary, *Seguir siendo: Café Tacvba (Being: Café Tacvba, 2010)* premiered at the Guadalajara International Film Festival, as did *Párpados azules (Blue Eyelids, 2007)*, the latter earning several Ariel nominations and was part of the official selection of the 46th Critics' Week at Cannes, Horizontes Latinos at San Sebastian Film Festival, and won the Special Jury Prize at Miami International Film Festival and the World Cinema Special Jury Prize at Sundance in 2008.



PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Alebrije Cine y Video

Alebrije Cine y Video, founded by Mónica Lozano Serrano, renowned Mexican producer with over 20 years of experience, started operations in October of 2008.

For over ten years, Lozano Serrano was part of the team at Altavista Films, a prolific production house that took part in different film genres and established co-production and distribution alliances throughout the American continent, alongside making strong bonds with Europe to build a distribution and participation network for Mexican films, a mission she has continued at Alebrije. As complement to her producer's work, she also has distributed over 200 titles acquired by Estudio México Films.

Her entrepreneurial vision has made her an active collaborator with the Mexican Government promoting actions to improve production, distribution, and exhibition conditions for filmmaking in Mexico.

With over 27 films, Mónica Lozano has produced and co-produced some of the most internationally recognized Mexican films of the past years, such as: *Amores Perros* (Alejandro González Iñárritu, 2000); *En la Mente del Asesino: Aro Tolbukhin* (Agustín Villaronga, 2003); *Nicotina* (Hugo Rodríguez, 2003); *Voces Inocentes* (Luis Mandoki, 2004); *El Violín* (Francisco Vargas, 2005); *Malos Hábitos* (Simón Bross, 2005); *Dos Abrazos* (Enrique Begné, 2006); *Arráncame la Vida* (Roberto Sneider, 2007); *El Mural* (Héctor Olivera, 2010); *El Baile de San Juan* (Francisco Athié 2010); *Colosio: El Asesinato* (Carlos Bolado, 2012); the blockbuster success in Mexico and the United States, *No se aceptan devoluciones* (Eugenio Derbez, 2013); *Miradas Múltiples* (Emilio Maillé, 2013); *Las oscuras primaveras* (Ernesto Contreras, 2013); *La primera sonrisa* (Guadalupe Sánchez, 2014); *El Jeremías* (Anwar Sifa, 2014); *El Elegido* (Antonio Chavarrías, 2015); *¿Qué culpa tiene el niño?* (Gustavo Loza, 2016), and *Sueño en otro idioma* (Ernesto Contreras, 2016).



PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Revolver Amsterdam

Revolver Amsterdam is a hybrid production company that focuses on feature films and documentaries for an international audience, digital media and branded content. The company focuses strongly on English language and international films, working between Europe and the US, as well as on coproductions within Europe and with Latin America.

Recent films include *Love & Friendship* by Whit Stillman, starring Kate Beckingsale and Cloe Sevigny (produced by Blinder Film & Chic Films), which premiered at Sundance in 2016 and was a huge box office hit in the US. Also released in 2016 was *Bodkin Ras* by Dutch talent Kaweh Modiri, winner of the Fipresci Award at the IFF Rotterdam and selected for SXSW 2016.

Other projects Revolver Amsterdam produced include *Supernova* by Tamar van den Dop, which premiered at Berlinale in 2014, *Club Zeus* by Dutch talent David Verbeek, which premiered at the IFF Rotterdam where it was awarded with the 'Return of the Tiger Award'. For director Joost van der Valk we produced feature documentary *Crips, Strapped'n'Strong*, which premiered at Locarno and was screened in competition at IDFA.

Revolver Amsterdam has also co-produced a slate of international films, including *They Have Escaped* by Jukka-Pekka Valkeapaa (Venice 2014, Toronto 2014), *Drift* by Benny Vandendriesche (premiered at Pusan 2013, Fipresci Award 2013), *Lotus* by Pascale Simons (Dutch Filmfestival 2011), *22 May* by Koen Mortier (competition Toronto 2010), *Vivere* by Angelina Maccarone (competition Tribeca 2006).

Upcoming films are *The Price* by Siofra Campbell starring Noomi Rappace and Michael Shannon, *Ashes in the Snow* by Marius Markevicius starring Bell Powley, *Don't Swallow my Heart*, *Alligator Girl* by Felipe Braganca (with support of HBF Plus), and *I Dream in Another Language* by Ernesto Contreras (Sundance Global Filmmaking Award).

Sueño en otro idioma

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Director Ernesto Contreras

Cast Fernando Álvarez Rebeil, Eligio Meléndez, Manuel Poncelis, Fátima Molina, Norma Angélica, Mardonio Carballo, Juan Pablo de Santiago, Hoze Meléndez, Nicolasa Ortiz Monasterio and a special appearance by Mónica Miguel

Executive Producer Mónica Lozano

Producers Mónica Lozano, Luis Albores, Érika Ávila, Eamon O'Farrill, Dijana Olcay-Hot, Raymond Van Der Kaaij

Screenplay Carlos Contreras

Photography Tonatiuh Martínez

Production Design Bárbara Enríquez

Costume Design Gabriela Fernández

Casting Isabel Cortázar and Andrea Abbiati

Sound Design Enrique Greiner

Direct Sound Pablo Tamez

Original Score Andrés Sánchez

Editing Jorge Macaya

Visual Effects Roberto Ham

Production companies: Agencia SHA, Alebrije Cine y Video, Revolver Amsterdam, Fondo para la Producción Cinematográfica de Calidad (Foprocine), Eficine 189, with Casa José Cuervo, Estudios Churubusco Azteca, EFD

With the support of Instituto Mexicano de Cinematografía (IMCINE) and Cinema Máquina

This film received the Sundance Institute / Mahindra Global Filmmaking Award

And has been supported or was developed in

Sundance Institute Feature Film Program
Binger Film Lab
Sam Spiegel International Film Lab (Jerusalem)
Media Programme of the European Community
Rotterdam Media Fund
Global Film Initiative
Villa Kult

100 MIN, SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
ASPECT RATIO: 2:35