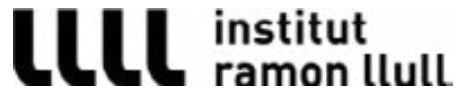




MY
EMPTINESS
AND I

A film by Adrián Silvestre

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



POSTPRODUCTION AWARDS



WIP AWARD MÁLAGA - POSTPRODUCTION - ARACNE POSTPRODUCCIÓN
WIP AWARD MÁLAGA - ABYCINELANZA SELECTION
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ABYCINE AWARD



SPECIAL MENTION

WORLD PREMIERE BIG SCREEN COMPETITION



My Emptiness And I

A film by Adrián Silvestre

KIT PRESS
Press Agent MAD AVENUE - EVA HERRERO

eva@madavenue.es
0034649706807

Produced by Marta Figueras, Javier Pérez Santana and Alba Sotorra

Testamento pct
javierperezsantana@gmail.com

Direction: Adrián Silvestre

Screenplay: Adrián Silvestre, Raphaëlle Perez, Carlos Marquès-Marcet

Premiering worldwide at



**OFFICIAL
SELECTION**

INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM
2022



Logline

Raphi is young, androgynous and naive. In Barcelona, she begins a gender transition as well as an arduous journey to find her true identity.

Synopsis

After moving from France to Spain, Raphi fantasizes about romances with princes and about starting a traditional family. However, her situation looks nothing like that in reality. She works in a call center in Barcelona, struggles with dates that often turn embarrassing, and is diagnosed by her therapist as having gender dysphoria. We follow this trans woman as she makes her transition during this essential, if confusing, period. We see her in her everyday life, as she talks candidly with colleagues, queer friends, and the men she meets through apps. Despite all the advice she receives, it turns out that it is mostly time and experience that will help her embrace her place in this world.

Trailer

Link: <https://vimeo.com/551238462>

Technical Details

Year: 2022

Type: Fiction - Feature Film

Genre: Drama

Audience: +18

Runtime: 98 ‘

Original version: Spanish, French.

Subtitles: English, French, Spanish.

Format: Colour, HD, Digital 5.1

Status: Completed. *World premiere at Rotterdam 2022*

Cast and Crew

Main Cast: Raphaëlle Pérez

Producers: Marta Figueras , Javier Pérez

Santana , Alba Sotorra

Director/s: Adrián Silvestre

Screenplay: Adrián Silvestre , Carles Marqués-Marcet , Raphaëlle Pérez

Director of photography : Laura Herrero
Garvín

Editing: Adrián Silvestre

Cast: Raphaëlle Pérez, Alberto Díaz, Marc Ribera, Isabel Rocatti, Carles Fernández Guía, Carmen Moreno, Sergio Reverón, Lena Brasas, Tina Recio, Alicia de Benito.



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Mi Vacío y Yo was created in response to an urge. The urge to portray the life of trans people in first person, not only making them participants in the project, but placing them at the core of the creative process, becoming active subjects, and not objects of representation.

Based on that philosophy, we produced *Sedimentos*, a feature-length documentary about six trans women, which was released in June 2021 and has since had a great response, receiving more than 50 international selections and 17 awards to date.

Just as I was developing *Sedimentos*, I met Raphaëlle Perez, a new member of the group of trans women who were part of my workshops. Raphaëlle gave me the opportunity to read the texts she had self-published about her transition in Barcelona, and I felt that life was giving me a gift. Her intelligence, her immense charisma, her creative potential, her desire to show the world her story, as well as the strength and precision of her stories, could not go unnoticed. But besides being a gift, life was imposing on me the ethical commitment and responsibility of bringing it to film with truthfulness, respect and dignity.

This is how we started this project, involving Raphaëlle in the creation from the first minute. We formed a script team with Raphaëlle and Carlos Marqués-Marcet, building a film text that was always faithful to its truth. Both Carlos and I were struck by her generosity and courage, always telling us about her successes and failures, joys and frustrations, with transparency and honesty. And above all, by her amazing visual memory for accurately recalling every detail of her past. This memory was key to carrying out not only the script but the entire implementation of the scenes when it came to filming. Raphi remembered every date, every emotion, the clothes she was wearing on that particular occasion, how the weather was on that day, the song that was playing in that bar, the unexpected phrase that made a decision for her... all of it. And I, as the director, was guided by her indications to use all my energy, my author's eye and my knowledge to serve her truth, always vigilant and with the willingness to make corrections when her experience and my intuition dictated a change.



As for the technical and stylistic approach, let's say that it was the coherent result of a constant adaptation to this reality, and its staging, stripped of artifices that could overshadow it.

The casting process was decisive, where we selected a cast that combined professional and natural performers, who in one way or another, through repeated improvisation work, could provoke in Raphi a trustworthy return to her past experiences.

Finding a suitable filming language for such scenes is an experience that I have acquired over the years, identifying the techniques that work, and always learning from my mistakes. The key is to generate a safe space for the actors and actresses on set, where they can flow freely, using their own words and experiencing their own emotions, without being aware of the camera and a technical team that, on the other hand, follows them stealthily, always attentive and receptive to their movements. It is about finding the right distance, the precise place from where to watch and film situations that sometimes only happen once, and that will be organized in an editing of still and slow shots, with the necessary time for the staging to be organic and build a small narrative unity. In this sense, the collaboration with Laura Herrero, director of photography, who is also a brilliant director of documentaries with women, was decisive. Laura has a great sensitivity to read the essence of what is in front of her, a special eye to frame it elegantly and the swiftness to communicate with me almost without words and move around the set discreetly, while improvisations flow.

Just as it has been with the rest of the team, everyone has responded not only with great professionalism, but also with great patience and empathy in dealing with how delicate some situations have been, always working from a perspective of love and respect. And although this may seem an idealistic or romantic perspective, trust me that it is the only point of view that has determined, in a natural, coherent, and at times almost unconscious way, a new technical and artistic style of filmmaking, which we are confident will be successfully translated to the big screen.

Adrián Silvestre



The Director and Screenwriter

ADRIÁN SILVESTRE

www.adriansilvestre.com

Filmmaker born in Valencia (1981).

He studied Audiovisual Communication, Film Direction and Contemporary Art History in Madrid, Rome and Havana.

In his film projects, he explores the limits between reality and fiction, staging real people alongside professional performers, taking on artistic practice from the analysis of their life experiences. His films are preceded by a process of close collaboration with communities, generally linked to issues of gender, migration and LGBTI groups.

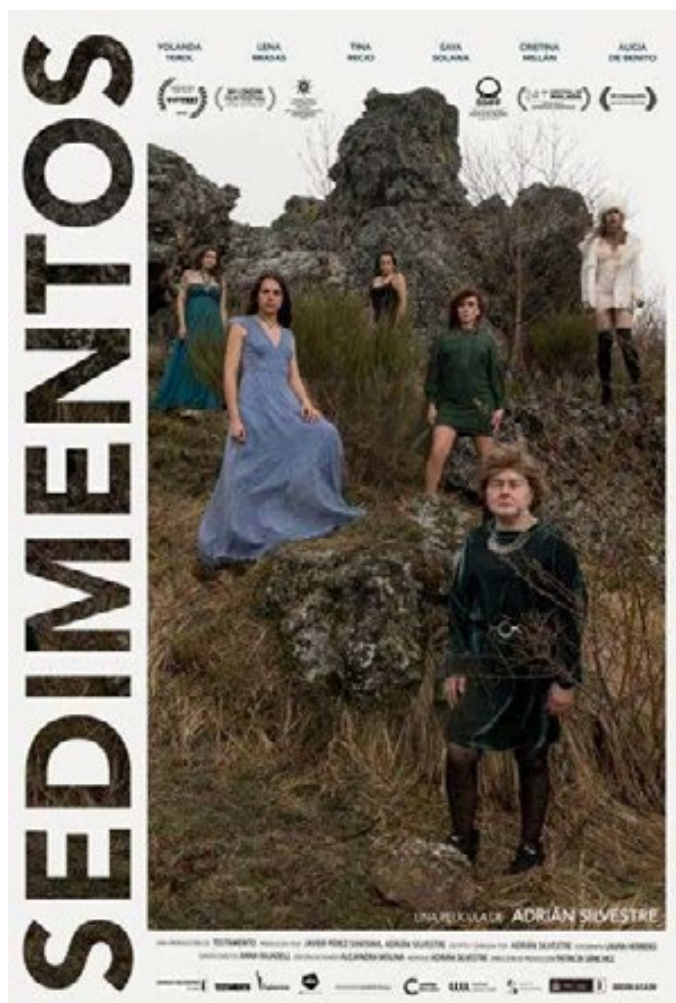
The Objects of Love (2016) is his first feature film. It was showcased in an extensive tour of international film festivals, winning numerous awards such as the **FIPRESCI** and the **Rizoma Film Award**.

Sediments (2021), his second feature film, has participated at **Malaga Film Festival**, **BFI London FF**, **San Sebastian FF**, **Thessaloniki Documentary FF** (Special Jury Prize), **Outfest Los Angeles** (Grand Jury Special Mention) and **Newfest NY**, winning best documentary award at **Cinespaña Toulouse**, **Cinehorizontes Marsella**, **Tel Aviv Fest** and **Lesgaicinemad**, among others.



FESTIVALS & AWARDS THE OBJECTS OF LOVE (2016)

- **Seville European Film Festival.** Resistencias Official Section. 2016. FIPRESCI Award.
- **Queer Lisboa (International Queer Film Festival).** Official Competition. 2017. Best Film. Best Actress (Ex aequo: Laura Rojas Godoy / Nicole Costa).
- **Rizoma Festival (Madrid).** 2017. Rizoma Film Award.
- **Zinegoak (Bilbao International LGBT Film Festival).** Official Selection. 2017. Best Director. Best Actress (Laura Rojas Godoy).
- **Sicilia Queer International New Visions Filmfest.** Official Competition. 2017. Audience Award.
- **Lesgaicinemad (Madrid International LGBT Film Festival).** Official Selection. 2016. Best Actress (Laura Rojas Godoy).
- **D'A (Festival Internacional De Cinema D' Autor De Barcelona).** Impulso Colectivo section. 2017.
- **Atlántida Filmfest.** Official Section / Walls and Borders. 2017.
- **Novos Cinemas (Pontevedra International Film Festival).** Official Section. 2017.
- **Hamburg International Queer Film Festival.** Official Competition. 2017.



FESTIVALS & AWARDS SEDIMENTS (2021)

24th MALAGA FF. Official Documentary Competition.

69th SAN SEBASTIAN FF. Made in Spain.

65th BFI LONDON FF. Official Selection. Journey.

23rd THESSALONIKI DOCUMENTARY FF. Newcomers Competition. SPECIAL JURY AWARD.

26e CINESPAÑA TOULOUSE. Compétition Documentaires. MEILLEUR DOCUMENTAIRE.

20 CINEHORIZONTES MARSEILLE. Compétition Documentaires. MEILLEUR DOCUMENTAIRE.

66 SEMINCI.Semana Internacional de Cine de Valladolid. Castilla y León en largo. ESPIGA ARCO IRIS.

26. LESGAICINEMAD. Sección Oficial Documental. MEJOR PELÍCULA. MEJOR DIRECCIÓN. PREMIO DEL PÚBLICO.

OUTFEST LOS ANGELES FF. Official Documentary Competition. GRAND JURY SPECIAL MENTION.

NEWFEST. LGBTQ+ Film and Media | New York. Official Documentary Competition.

BARCELONA FIRE! Official Documentary Competition. AUDIENCE AWARD.

MIX COPENHAGUEN. Official Documentary Competition. BEST DOCUMENTARY.

25th QUEER LISBOA. Official Documentary Competition. JURY SPECIAL MENTION.

19th GENDER BENDER (Bologna). Official Documentary Competition. YOUNG CRITIC AWARD.

OSLO FUSIÓN. Official Documentary Competition. JURY HONOURABLE MENTION.

16 TLV FEST. Sección Oficial Documental. BEST DOCUMENTARY.

23 ABYCINE. Cine Independiente. Talentos Abycine Lanza.

MOSTRA DE VALENCIA. Cinema del Mediterrani. Special Screening.

CATALAN FILM FESTIVAL. CINEMAATTIC. EDINBURGH/GLASGOW. Official Documentary Competition.

27e CHÉRIES-CHÉRIS PARIS. Panorama documentaires.

CINEMAMED. FESTIVAL CINÉMA MEDITERRANÉEN DE BRUXELLES. Panorama documentaires.

CUÓRUM MORELIA. MÉXICO. Documentary official section.

MAIN CAST SCREENPLAY

Raphaëlle Perez

In *Mi vacío y yo*, what Raphaëlle Perez tells us is her own life, her doubts and insecurities, her dreams and her fears and, most importantly, her personal daily struggle to be the person she wants to be.

She is an **actress** and **co-author** of the **theatre play** *Raphaëlle*, where she plays herself. A play that was premiered with resounding success at the Grec Festival in Barcelona, the Teatro Nacional de Catalunya (TNC) and the Teatro Español in Madrid.

"The audience, clapping and standing, expressed their gratitude for Raphaëlle Pérez's bravery at the CCCB." **El Periódico de Catalunya, 2018.**

"We must celebrate Raphaëlle's conception and wish her a long life."
Somnis de Teatre, 2018.

"Raphaëlle, at the TNC: the life journey of a young transsexual in the first person". **La Vanguardia, 2020.**

In *Mi vacío y Yo* Raphaëlle Perez reprises the experience as an **actress and co-author of the film's script**.

Currently, she combines her **acting work** with her **writing**.

This year she is about to publish **her first novel**. She has previously collaborated in *La caja de las rebeldes* (La Caja Books) with Nadia, Claudia and Raphaëlle.



SCREENPLAY

Carlos Marquès-Marcet (Barcelona, 1983)

Carlos Marques-Marcet is a director, screenwriter, and editor from Barcelona. He graduated from UCLA's School of Film and TV. His debut feature **10,000 Km** (2014) was awarded the **Goya Award for Best New Director**, five **Gaudí Awards**, **Special Jury Prize at SXSW**, **Best Film and Best Director at the Malaga Film Festival**, among others. His second film, **Anchor and Hope** (2017), premiered again at **SXSW** and **Rotterdam International Film Festival**, also received several awards and nominations, including **Gaudí Awards** and **Feroz Award**. In 2019 he released his third feature, **Los días que vendrán**, and made a foray into the series format by directing all the episodes of **En el corredor de la muerte**, an original **Movistar+** series. Recently, he directed two episodes for **HBO** shows **En Casa** and **Escenario O**.



DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY

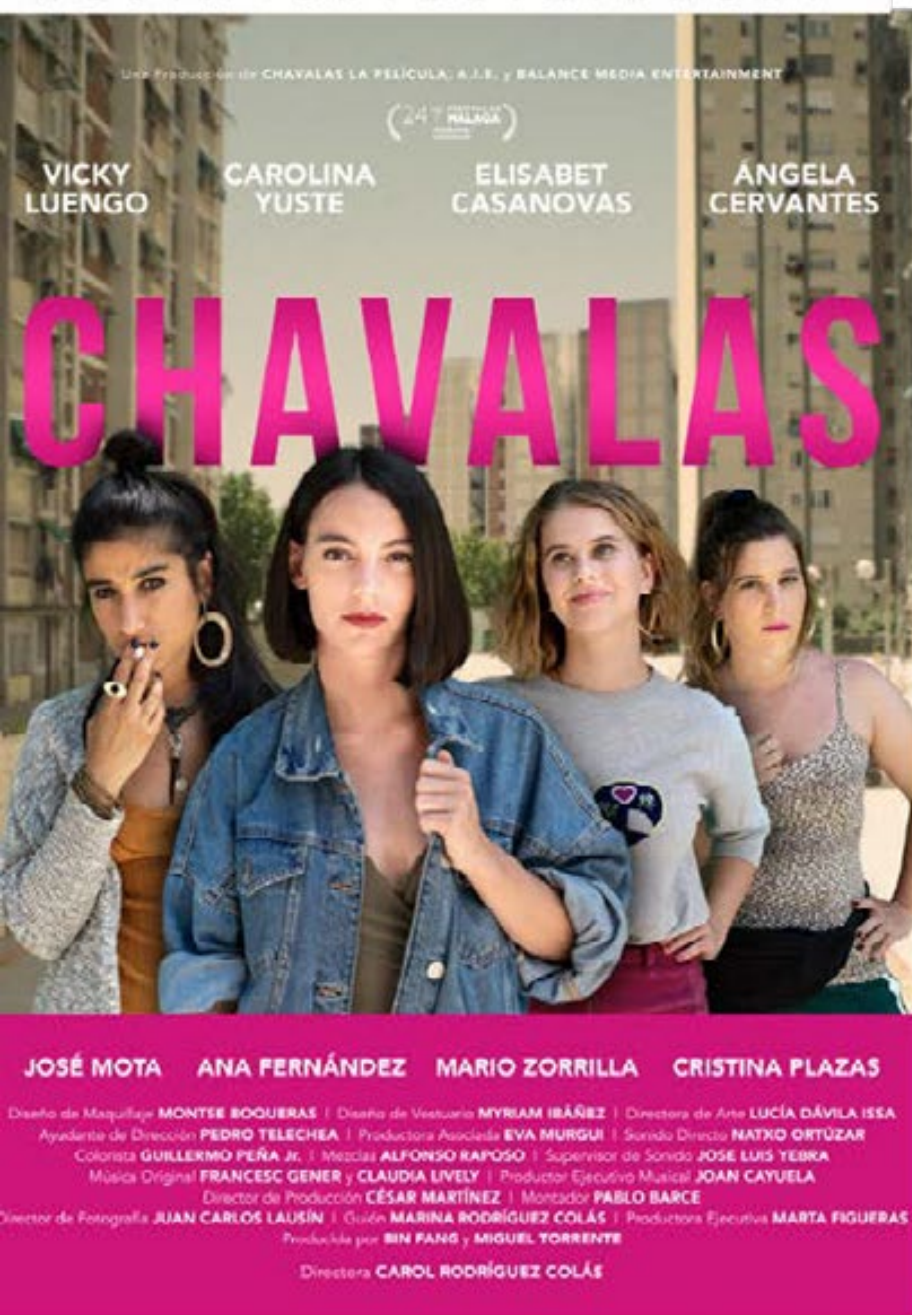
Laura Herrero

Laura studied a Masters in Creative Documentary at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. Previously she graduated as a Sound and Image Engineer, and began to cultivate herself more in the cinematographic area in San Francisco, CA. Since 2010 she came to Mexico to work as a cinematographer in different film projects.

In 2011, Laura becomes part of the filmmaking collective **Emergenciamx** and is a founding partner of **La Sandía Digital, Laboratorio de Cultura Audiovisual A.C.** She has photographed more than twenty short films in different countries. In 2012 she directed and photographed the feature documentary **Son duros los días sin nada** together with Laura Salas and produced by **La Sandía Digital**.

Her first feature documentary that she directed and photographed: **El Remolino**, premiered at the **Critics' Week** of the **LOCARNO Film Festival** and has been awarded in several festivals such as **DOCUMENTAMADRID (ES)**, **PLANETFOCUS(CA)**, **FICBAQ (CO)**, **FICMY (MX)**, **ECOZINE (ES)** and among them she won the award for best cinematography at the **SARATOV IFF** in Russia. She is currently finishing her next film **La Mami** and directing photography in the documentary **Alex** by Eloísa Díez (Mexico) and the current projects of Adrián Silvestre. Both projects and directors work on gender identity.





Festival de Málaga
Biznaga de plata: Public Prime

MOVISTAR PLUS
Best Film

ASECAM
Best Direction Novel



Production

MARTA FIGUERAS PROMARFI FUTURO 2010

marta.figueras18@gmail.com

Producer since 1996.

Her first film, *La Moños* (1996) directed by Mireia Ros receives the nomination of **Goya Prize for Best Direction**. Selected at the **International Film Festival of Chicago** and the **Mar del Plata International Film Festival**.

Hotel Room (1998) directed by Cesc Gay . Selected at the **San Sebastián Film Festival** (Zabaltegui). Prize of Best Movie at the **Alcances Atlantic Film Festival of Cádiz**.

El Triunfo (2006) directed by Mireia Ros. Selected at the **Berlinale, Panorama Section**.

Barcelona, antes de que el Tiempo lo Borre (2010) directed by Mireia Ros. **Seville European Film Festival**. **Memorimages Prize**, **Continuara TVE Prize**, **Gaudi Prize of Best Documentary Feature Film**.

Game Over (2015) directed by Alba Sotorra. Selected by the **Karlovi Vary International Film Festival**. **Gaudi Prize of Best Documentary Feature Film**.

Comandante Arian (2018) directed by Alba Sotorra receives an excellent has just obtained excellent critical and public acceptance at **HOTDOCS** , **Internation Film Festival of Shangai**. **Semnici**. Nominated by **Gaudi Prize of Best Documentary Feature Film**.

Quinqui Stars (2019) directed by Juan Vicente Cordoba, **Official Documentary Section of Seminci**.

In 2020 premieres her first film as director **Descubriendo a José Padilla**.

TESTAMENTO



Festival de Málaga

Biznaga de oro: Best Film
Biznaga de plata: Best Direction
Best Actor, Best Screenplay,
Best Music

Festival de Rotterdam

Festival Int. de Moscú

Special Prime

Festival de San Sebastián

JAVIER PÉREZ SANTANA TESTAMENTO

javierperezsantana@testamentopct.com

Testamento begins in 2014 with the union of Agustí Villaronga, film director and Javier Pérez Santana, film and theatre producer, to bring to the stage “**El Testamento de María**” by *ColmToibín*. Directed by Agustí Villaronga and played by Blanca Portillo (Premio Max 2016).

The idea is to put on their own projects as well as other creators’ they admire and have a similar way of approaching work. The line they develop are quality projects with a clear author’s view not exempt of communication with the public. A clear example is the theatre play with which they took this path and gave the name of the production company.

Testamento has created several documentaries among which these stand out:

DreamSongs by A. Vila in co-production with TVE, TV3 y IB3. Official Section of Seminci, Valladolid. Guadalajara International Film Festival.

María Conversa by Lydia Zimmermann. Has participated in various festivals like Málaga, Edimburgo, Londres, Israel, etc...

Hiel de la tierra by Pep Bonet (worldpress audiovisual) with which they have participated in various festivals and gained the international of Panamá.

*They are currently in the pre-production of the feature film **Sin sangre** based on Alessandro Baricco’s novel and directed by Agustí Villaronga.*

*And in the co-production of Adrián Silvestre’s documentary **Sedimentos**.*

Agustí Villaronga

Spanish film director. His outstanding track record includes: **Tras el cristal**, **El niño de la luna**, **El mar**, **Aro tobulkin**, **Panegre**.

Javier Pérez Santana

Founding partner of **Mallerich audiovisual-Paco Poch** in 1994, where he was general manager.

He is currently the administrator of Paco Poch distribution and producer of **Testamento**.

www.testamentopct.com



Acadèmia del Cinema Català

14 PREMIS GAUDÍ

DOCS Barcelona

Young Jury Award
Audience Award

SomCinema

Best Documentary

Warsawa Film Festival

Special Mention by the jury
in the category of Best
Documentary

Goya Awards

Nominee for Best Documentary

Gaudí Awards

Preselected as Best Documentary

Rose d'Or Awards

Nominee for News and Current Affairs



ALBA SOTORRA CINEMA PRODUCTIONS

www.albasotorra.com

Alba Sotorra Cinema Productions is a production company based in Barcelona, specialized in the production of fiction and documentary feature films for cinema, television and VOD platforms internationally. With a team exclusively formed by women, we tell stories from a gender-conscious perspective, with a social and political commitment to present-time topics that move us because of their genuine and risky essence.

Motivated by the lack of diversity of points of view in the cinema industry, we seek to give voice to a wide range of stories told by women who have a strong personal connection to the subject of their films.

We have produced documentary feature films such as: **“The Return: Life After ISIS”** (2021), nominated to the **GOYA Award for Best Documentary**, world premiere at SXSW, Canadian premiere at HotDocs, UK premiere at Sheffield IFF and national premiere at DocsBarcelona, among many others; and **“Comandante Arian”** (2018), premiered at HotDocs, Shanghai, Karlovy Vary and Sheffield among many others. We have produced the fiction feature film **“The End Will Be Spectacular”** (2020), which premiered in Rotterdam, Kolkata IFF and has been distributed in cinemas in Spain, Germany, France, Switzerland, Korea, Japan and LatAm. We have generated international impact through the presence of our films at Class A film festivals such as HotDocs, Karlovy Vary and other internationally renowned film festivals. We have extensive experience in international coproductions, as we have worked with Germany, France, Qatar, China, Syria’s Kurdistan, Iraq, and most recently with Afghanistan. We have a solid relationship with Catalan, Spanish and EU film funds—we have been beneficiaries of ICEC, ICAA, MEDIA Creative Europe Slate and Single projects and Eurimages—and local, national and international TV broadcasters.

We are currently in post production of the feature documentary **“Francesca and Love”**, by Alba Sotorra, Spanish-French co-production with the support of Eurimages and Creative Europe, in production for our feature film **“SICA”**, by Carla Subirana, and in pre-production of the Spanish-Dutch-Afghan coproduction **“The Forgotten History”**, by Afghan director Roya Sadat and the animation feature film **“Rock Bottom”**, directed by María Trénor. We are also developing the feature film **“Bongoland”**, directed by Adrián Silvestre and **“Salen las lobas”**, a feature film directed by Claudia Estrada Tarascó.

PRODUCED BY

TESTAMENTO

■ PROMARFI FUTURO 2010 ■

AlbaSotorra
Cinema Productions

WITH THE FINANCING AND SUPPORT OF



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WITH THE COLLABORATION OF

**Catalan
Films**

aracne
digital cinema

Vaginarium