

Son of Monarchs

Hijo de Monarcas



a film by Alexis Gambis

For press inquiries:

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Mexico/USA | 97 minutes | Color | English/Spanish

WINNER of the Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize, Sundance Film Festival 2021

Written & Directed by: **Alexis Gambis** (*The Fly Room*, *The Color of Time*)

Produced by: **Abraham Dayan, Maria Altamirano**

Executive Producers: **Alexis Gambis, Thomas Campbell Jackson, Matthew Putman, Gerry Ohrstrom**

Co-Executive Producers: **Jonathan Estreich, Richard Lipkin, William Mapother**

Co-Producers: **Faride Schroeder Marina Fernández Ferri**

Starring **Tenoch Huerta Mejia**

SYNOPSIS

After his grandmother's death, a Mexican biologist living in New York returns to his hometown, nestled in the majestic monarch butterfly forests of Michoacán. The journey forces him to confront past traumas and reflect on his hybrid identity, sparking a personal and spiritual metamorphosis



DIRECTOR'S BIO

Alexis Gambis is a French-Venezuelan filmmaker and biologist. His films combine documentary and fiction, often embracing animal perspectives and experimenting with new forms of scientific storytelling. In 2008, he founded the Imagine Science Film Festival that recently celebrated its 13th year of showcasing science in film from around the world. In 2016, he launched the sister portal Labocine. Coined the "Netflix for science," the VOD platform provides a virtual ecosystem to experience science cinema in all its flavors by hybridizing forms, and fostering a dialogue between scientists, artists and educator. His latest feature Son of Monarchs dissects through issues of identity, (im)migration and animal/human evolution. This Mexican-American bilingual allegorical drama had its home premiere in October 2020 at the 18th Festival Internacional de Cine de Morelia and International Premiere at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival. The film was awarded the 2021 Alfred P. Sloan Prize, awarded every year to a film at the Sundance Film Festival that focuses on science or technology as a theme, or depicts a scientist, engineer, or mathematician as a major character. As a recipient of the 2019 TED Fellowship, his TED Talk makes a case for more science in fiction to humanize the scientist in the public eye and to inform a broader audience on the interplay of research advancements, scientific representations and social issues.

Alexis is currently working on two feature-length projects. His upcoming French-American docu-fiction entitled "Mousetrap" brings together memory, mice and magical realism in a haunting story about a young behavioral scientist obsessed by his childhood home. His next biopic, currently in development, entitled "El Beso" is about a retro-futurist journey into the life and science fiction writings of early 20th century Spanish father of neuroscience, Santiago Ramón y Cajal.

KEY CREDITS

CAST

Tenoch Huerta Mejía | Mendel
Alexia Rasmussen | Sarah
Lázaro Gabino Rodríguez | Vicente
Noé Hernández | Simón
Kaarlo Isaacs | Young Mendel
Ángel Adrián Flores | Young Simón
Ignacio Guadalupe | Don Gabino
Juan Ugarte | Pablo
Paulina Gaitán | Brisa
Electra Avellan | Lucía
Patricia Meneses | Lupita
Juan Ramón López | Paco
Fernanda Rivera | Gabriela
Featuring **Angelina Peláez** | Abuela Rosa
Featuring **Angélica Aragón** | Doña Lola
And **William Mapother** | Bob

CREW

Director of Photography | **Alejandro Mejía, AMC**
Edited by | **Èlia Gasull Balada & Alexis Gambis**
Original Score | **Cristobal MarYán, played by Cuarteto Ruwalcaba**
Production Designer | **Sofía Guzmán**
Costume Designers | **Lupita Peckinpah & Jessica Harrison**
Sound Designer | **Samuel Nacach**
Casting by | **Maria Antonia Yanes & Gabrielle Demeestere**
Sound Recordist | **Andrés Saldaña**
Script Supervisor | **Andrea Martínez Crowther**

SELECT PRESS QUOTES

"A daring mosaic which floats like a butterfly...a visually flamboyant film" - **Screen International**, Jonathan Romney

"A Poignant Story of Transformation" - **IndieWire**, Judi Dry

"A Lyrical Portrait of Fractured Identity" - **The Film Stage**, Diego Andaluz

"A piece of art that captivates as much as it informs" - **Playlist**, Gregory Ellwood

"Gambis brings together science and spirituality within the beauty of cinema and the power of visual storytelling that is poetic and meaningful." **Film Threat**, Sabina Dana Plasse

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STILLS



