

Sapukai Cine & Fortuna Films present
La última tierra (Last Land)

World Premiere | Hivos Tiger Awards Competition | International Film Festival Rotterdam 2016



A film by Pablo Lamar

Paraguay, Netherlands, Chile, Qatar | 2016 | 77 min. | color | fiction

P&I Screenings (access IFFR accredited guests / press only)
Tue 2 February, 11.30 hrs, Doelen/Jurriaanse Zaal
Thu 4 February, 09.30 hrs, Doelen/Jurriaanse Zaal
(& available in the IFFR Video Library after the first P&I screening)

Public Screenings

Wed 3 February, 19.45 hrs, Pathe 4 (world premiere)
Thu 4 February, 15.15 hrs, Pathe 6
Fri 5 February, 21.45 hrs, Pathe 2
Sat 6 February, 16.30 hrs, Cinerama 6

[Trailer](#) / [Facebook](#)

Attending & available for interviews / meetings:

Pablo Lamar, writer/director (attending 27 Jan - 6 Feb)
Ilse Hughan & Wiebke Toppel, producers (attending 27 Jan - 6 Feb)

Press & publicity contact at IFFR 2016:

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Sales contact:

Sapukai Cine, sapukai.cine@gmail.com



Logline & synopsis

On an isolated hilltop, an elderly couple lives in solitude. She is dying and he accompanies her through the passing. Her death transforms the days that follow.

Director's statement

By Pablo Lamar

La última tierra (*Last Land*) is a film about the echoes of death resonating within life.

I wanted to portray the mood of the main character as he experiences the loss of his companion. Through this process of letting go, he begins to recognize himself without her.

We accompany him as he is impacted by a heightened perception of time. Reflecting the presence of everything that surrounds him, the film takes on the tone of an intimate ritual.

Producer's statement

By Ilse Hughan

I am a 'follower' of the French Master filmmaker Robert Bresson. So when I met Pablo Lamar during a workshop for young Latin American filmmakers, I was intrigued by his proposal since it is exactly what I am interested in: a filmmaker with a voice of his own, looking for a way to tell a story with images and not with words.

Also I was very impressed by his previous work, the short film *Ahendu nde sapukai* (*I Hear Your Scream*). It is the perfect example of what you can do with film: no dialogues, just one scene that shows and tells something very universal and understandable. Less is more. That seems easy, but it is not, on the contrary it asks for a lot of creativity and courage.

And that's what Pablo did in *La última tierra*, cutting the 'flesh of the bones' so only the essential has been left, the essence of what he wants to communicate. Also 'time' is an important part of this approach, the duration of the scenes.

Credits

Cast	Ramón del Río Vera Valdez Barreto
Screenwriter & Director	Pablo Lamar
Production	Sapukai Cine Pablo Lamar Paraguay Fortuna Films Ilse Hughan, Wiebke Toppel Netherlands
Co-production	Cinestación Dominga Sotomayor Chile
Associate production	Sabaté Films Gabriela Sabaté Paraguay EntreFilmes Ricardo Alves Jr. Brazil
Director of Photography	Paolo Girón
Editor	Felipe Gálvez
Production designer	Carlo Spatuzza
Executive production	Gabriela Sabaté
Sound designer	Pablo Lamar
Mix	Roberto Espinoza
Line producer	Ivana Urizar

Supported by

Centro Cultural Cabildo, Paraguay
Fundación Roa Bastos, Paraguay
Fondec, Paraguay
Banco Itaú, Paraguay
Netherlands Film Fund, Netherlands
Hubert Bals Fund of the International Film Festival Rotterdam, Netherlands
Doha Film Institute, Qatar

Fundación TyPA, Argentina
BAL (Buenos Aires Lab), Argentina
ARTE International Prize, France
Cinéfondation, L'ATELIER Festival de Cannes, France
TorinoFilmLab, Italy

Biographies

Ramón del Río, actor

Born in Asunción, Paraguay in 1941, Ramón Del Río is one of the most talented Paraguayan theatre and movie actors. Building a rich career, he performed on stage in over one hundred plays. In 1982 he made his film acting début in the Brazilian movie *Noites Paraguias* directed by Aloysio Raulino. Since then he acted in several other feature and short films, notably in internationally acclaimed *Hamaca paraguaya (Paraguayan Hammock)* by Paz Encina (2006) which was awarded the Prix FIPRESCI of the Un Certain Regard section at the Festival de Cannes.



Vera Valdez Barreto, actress

Legendary Brazilian model and actress Vera Valdez was just 17 years old when she was hired in Paris for Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel's come-back show in 1954. Valdez became Chanel's favorite model, returned to Brasil, was imprisoned during the military dictatorship period and, helped by filmmakers Louis Malle and Bernardo Bertolucci, left the country again to live in exile. Currently residing in São Paulo, Vera Valdez performs on stage at Teatro Oficina, the experimental theatre company led by José Celso. (Photo by Fernanda Negrini)



Reads:

[Vice interview](#) (2011) with Vera Valdez by André Maleronka

[Vanity Fair interview](#) (2014) with Vera Valdez by Marie-Dominique Lelièvre

Pablo Lamar, director & screenwriter

Pablo Lamar, born 1984 in Asunción, Paraguay, studied film at the Universidad del Cine in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He has written and directed the short films *Ahendu nde sapukai (I Hear Your Scream, 2008)* and *Noche adentro (Night Inside, 2009)*, both of which premiered at the Semaine de la Critique of the Festival de Cannes and received awards worldwide. He also works as a sound designer for film.



La última tierra (Last Land), Pablo Lamar's first feature film, receives its world premiere in the Hivos Tiger Awards Competition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2016.

The project participated in the Taller de análisis de proyectos cinematográficos of the TyPA Fundación (Argentina), Rotterdam Lab (Netherlands) and TorinoFilmLab, section Framework (Italy). It also received a grant from IFFR's Hubert Bals Fund for script development and was awarded the Cinecolor and ARTE France CINEMA prizes at the Buenos Aires Lab (BAL) of BAFICI, the Buenos Aires International Film Festival.

Read:

[The Standard Print, interview](#) with Pablo Lamar about his short film *Ahendu nde sapukai (I Hear Your Scream, 2008)*

Filmography Pablo Lamar, director & screenwriter

Ahendu nde sapukai (I Hear Your Scream), 12', 2008
Semaine de la Critique, Festival de Cannes 2008; [watch it on Vimeo here](#).

Noche adentro (Night Inside), 17', 2009
Semaine de la Critique, Festival de Cannes 2009, [watch it on Vimeo here](#).

La última tierra (Last Land), 77', 2016
Hivos Tiger Awards Competition, International Film Festival Rotterdam 2016

Sapukai Cine | Paraguay

Sapukai Cine is a production company based in Paraguay created to produce the film projects of Pablo Lamar, including *Ahendu nde sapukai (I Hear Your Scream, 2008)* and *Noche adentro (Night Inside, 2009)*, both of which premiered at the Semaine de la Critique at the Festival de Cannes. In 2010, Sapukai co-produced Ricardo Alves Jr.'s short film *Permanencias (Permanences)*, which was selected for the Semaine de la Critique.

Pablo Lamar's *La última tierra (Last Land)* marks Sapukai Cine's first feature-film production.

Fortuna Films | Netherlands

Fortuna Films was founded by Ilse Hughan as an Amsterdam based distribution and sales company for documentary films for well-known documentary filmmakers such as Heddy Honigmann, Andreas Hoessli, Peter Liechti and Johan van der Keuken.

In 2002 Fortuna Films moved into production focusing on both development and production of independent filmmaking in Latin America.

Ilse Hughan studied at the University of Amsterdam (Literature and Translation) and worked for years as a Dutch translator of French and Italian movies. In 1992 she brought new life to Fortuna Films, the film company her grandfather Jean Desmet founded in 1909. She is managing director of Fortuna Films in Amsterdam and vice-president of Fundación TyPA, a cultural foundation based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She also works for the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) as a member of the selection committee of the Hubert Bals Fund and is co-founder and co-director of the Buenos Aires Lab (BAL), the co-production market for Latin American film projects within the framework of BAFICI (Buenos Aires International Film Festival).



Wiebke Toppel moved from Germany to the Netherlands and joined Fortuna Films in 2009. She previously worked for Polygram Film Hamburg, Universal Pictures Germany and as head of the Production branch of Studio Canal Produktion in Berlin.



Fortuna Films co-produced a.o. *Los muertos (2004)*, *Fantasma (2006)*, *Liverpool (2008)* and *Jauja (2014)* by Lisandro Alonso and *Hamaca Paraguaya (2006)* by Paz Encina. All 5 films have been selected for the Festival de Cannes respectively in the sections Quinzaine des Réalisateurs and Un Certain Regard. In 2014 *Jauja* was awarded the Prix FIPRESCI of the Un Certain Regard section at the Festival de Cannes.

Fortuna Films was associated producer of *Abrir puertas y ventanas (Back to Stay)* by Milagros Mumenthaler (Golden Leopard, Festival del Filme di Locarno 2011) and *Dos disparos (2014)* by Martin Rejtman.

Fortuna will be presenting at IFFR 2016 *La última tierra (Last Land)* by Pablo Lamar (Paraguay) in the Hivos Tiger Awards Competition and is currently in pre pre production of *Eureka* (working title) by Lisandro Alonso.

(Co)Productions :

- *Los Muertos* by Lisandro Alonso (Argentina), Quinzaine des Réalisateurs Cannes 2004, Toronto, Pusan, La Viennale, Sao Paulo, Rotterdam o.a.
- *Hamaca Paraguaya (Paraguaya Hammock)* by Paz Encino (Paraguay), Un Certain Regard Cannes 2006, Fipresci Price a.o.
- *Fantasma* by Lisandro Alonso, Quinzaine des Réalisateurs Cannes 2006
- *Liverpool* by Lisandro Alonso, Quinzaine des Réalisateurs Cannes 2008, Pusan, Toronto, London, Vienna, Torino, Rotterdam a.o.
- *Jauja* by Lisandro Alonso, Un Certain Regard Cannes 2014, Prix FIPRESCI Un Certain Regard
- *La última tierra (Last Land)* by Pablo Lamar (Paraguay), Hivos Tiger Awards Competition Rotterdam 2016
- In Development: *Eureka* (working title) by Lisandro Alonso

Cinestación I Chile

Cinestación is a production company and filmmaker collective based in Santiago de Chile that creates innovative and high quality films since 2008. A platform for emerging directors in Latin-America, Cinestación has great expertise with diverse voices, cultivating new talents and introducing their work to the audience.

Director and producer **Dominga Sotomayor** studied Film&TV at Universidad Católica de Chile, and a Masters in Directing at ESCAC in Barcelona. She developed her first feature *De jueves a domingo (Thursday till Sunday)* at the Cannes Cinéfondation. The film won the Tiger Award in Rotterdam and was screened in more than a hundred festivals. In 2013 she co-directed *La isla (The Island)* that also won the Tiger. Her second feature *Mar (Sea)* premiered 2015 at the Berlinale.



Sabaté Films I Paraguay

Sabaté Films is a Paraguayan production company created in 2009 by siblings Gabriela and Jorge Sabaté with the main goal of helping the growth of the film industry in Paraguay, producing and co-producing shorts, feature films and documentaries of high quality with an international appeal.

Gabriela Sabaté was part of the production of several films along with providing also production services for both Paraguayan and international filmmakers, as Paz Encina, Lucrecia Martel, Pablo Giorgelli, Lucia Puenzo and Pablo Lamar.

