



cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE

SARAH

A film by Álvaro Aponte-Centeno

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Álvaro Aponte-Centeno

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Technical Information

Working Title: Sarah
Director: Álvaro Aponte-Centeno
Screenplay: Álvaro Aponte-Centeno
Nationality: Puerto Rico
Genre: Drama
Format: 2:40 / Alexa / Anamorphic
Length: 100 min
Shooting location: Puerto Rico
Production Company: Moriviví

Director's Information

Álvaro Aponte-Centeno born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His first artistic education was in cello and classical guitar at the Puerto Rico Music Conservatory. He studied film at Escuela Internacional de Cine y Televisión, San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba. He also has participated in the Sundance Workshop for writer/directors. His second short film **My Holy Gaze** was premiered at the Official Competition at Festival de Cannes 2012. His first feature film **Silence of the Wind** received support from various prestigious international film funds and festivals like Aide aux Cinéma du Monde and Doha Film Institute Fund. It has also received awards from the Mar del Plata – International Competition, Special Jury Award and ACCA Jury Special Mention (Argentine Film Journalists Association). Alvaro's films (short and feature) have participated in other international film festivals like San Sebastian, Munich, Melbourne, Stockholm, Habana, Lima, Geneva, and Hong Kong.

He founded Moriviví, an interdisciplinary production company for arts project focused in film, video installation, photography, illustrated books, and cultural event. Álvaro Aponte-Centeno is developing his second feature film **Sarah** at La Residence of the Festival de Cannes.

Festival de Cannes

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.



With the support of HP. Printed on an HP Indigo Digital Press.

Synopsis

Sarah (14) is a young teenage girl living alone with her mother Julie (37). She practices classic piano day and night for she is determined to be accepted in a highly ranked specialized music school. She aspires to follow in the steps of her father Diego (37), a recognized musician who has been absent most of her life. Sarah's music centered life is suddenly interrupted when she begins to notice signs of mental illness in her mother. As Julie's illness progresses, Sarah becomes overwhelmed by the situation. Most of her time becomes compromised with taking care of Julie, therefore she becomes unable to concentrate for her upcoming audition. Things get out of hand when

Julie has a manic episode at Sarah's school that leads her to be interned into a psychiatric hospital. Left alone in their house, Sarah is forced to move with her father and confront her relationship with her abandoning father.

Statement of Intent

When I was 15-years-old, I experienced a first glance at a beloved person's mental illness. Accompanying her through her process, made me question society's role towards this sort of condition. As family members become responsible for the well-being of their loved one, they are also forced to work and sometimes silence the emotional pain of watching their loved one mentally decomposing. With Hirokazu Kore-Eda

and Asghar Farhadi as narrative referents, I want to create an emotional piece that accounts for the bitter-sweet reality that, as mine and many other families undergo. The characters are developed through long scenes full of realistic sounds and dialogues with little camera movement. Sound will play a very important role in the emotional level: intimate dialogues, silences and incidental music themes that illustrate the characters emotional state.

Synopsis

Sarah (14 ans) est une jeune adolescente qui vit seule avec sa mère Julie (37 ans). Elle pratique le piano classique jour et nuit car elle est déterminée à être acceptée dans une école de musique spécialisée de haut niveau. Elle aspire à suivre les traces de son père, Diego (37 ans), musicien reconnu qui a été absent la majeure partie de sa vie. La vie de Sarah centrée sur la musique est soudainement interrompue lorsqu'elle commence à remarquer des signes de maladie mentale chez sa mère. Au fur et à mesure que la maladie de Julie progresse, Sarah est dépassée par la situation. L'essentiel de son temps est accaparé par l'attention qu'elle doit porter à Julie, ce qui l'empêche de se concentrer

pour sa prochaine audition. Les choses deviennent incontrôlables quand Julie a une crise de démence à l'école de Sarah, ce qui la conduit à être internée dans un hôpital psychiatrique. Restée seule dans leur maison, Sarah est obligée d'aller vivre avec son père qui l'a abandonné et sera confrontée à cette relation.

Note d'intention

A l'âge de 15 ans, j'ai été confronté pour la première fois à la maladie mentale d'une personne aimée. En l'accompagnant tout au long de sa maladie, j'ai repensé au rôle de la société vis-à-vis de ce type de situation. Les membres de la famille tout en devenant responsables du bien-être de leur proche,

sont également obligés de travailler et parfois de faire taire la douleur émotionnelle de voir leur proche se décomposer mentalement. Avec Hirokazu Kore-Eda et Asghar Farhadi comme référents narratifs, je souhaite créer un moment émotionnel qui rend compte de la réalité douce-amère subie par ma famille ou de nombreuses autres familles. Les personnages sont développés dans de longues scènes pleines de sons réalistes et de dialogues avec peu de mouvements de caméra. Le son jouera un rôle très important au niveau émotionnel : dialogues intimes, silences et thèmes musicaux fortuits illustrant l'état émotionnel des personnages.

