

ALCARRÀS

A film by Carla Simón



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Carla Simón

E-mail: carlasimonpipo@gmail.com
Tel: +34 606 09 17 54

Festival de Cannes

5, rue Charlot, F-75003 Paris
Tel. 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 20
Fax 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 24
E-mail:
residence@festival-cannes.fr
www.festival-cannes.org

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.

Technical Information

Working Title: Alcarràs
Director: Carla Simón
Screenplay: Carla Simón and Arnau Vilaró
Nationality: Spain
Genre: Drama
Format: 16/9
Length: 100 min
Shooting location: Lleida, Catalonia

Production Company: Avalon
Plaza del Cordón 2 Bajo Izq.
28005 Madrid
Producer: María Zamora
Email: mzamora@avalon.me
Tel: +34 913 66 43 64

Director's Information

Carla Simón (1986) was raised in a small Catalan village. In 2011 she was awarded with a scholarship and moved to the United Kingdom to study at the London Film School, where she earned an MA and made four short films: *Born Positive*, *Lipstick*, *Las Pequeñas Cosas* and *Llacunes*.

Her autobiographical debut feature *Summer 1993* won the GWFF Best First Feature Award and the Grand Prix of the Generation Kplus at Berlinale 2017, among many other prizes all over the world. Carla also received the Women in Motion Young Talent Award in Cannes 2018. *Alcarràs* is her second feature in development, also taking part in the Torino Script Lab, where it won the CNC Award, and Nipkow Program.



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Synopsis

As every hot summer in Alcarràs, a small town in the deepest Catalonia, the large Solé family harvests a great expanse of land full of peach trees. One day the family wakes up to discover that some tractors are uprooting their trees. The new owner wants to put solar panels in their fields.

In this ensemble film, the whole Solé family, children and adults, get together to harvest their peaches for one last summer. For the first time in their lives, they will have to face an uncertain future. This will lead into a family break down putting in danger the unity of the Solés.

Depending on their age and genre, each member of the family will cope with this situation in a different way. While the men feel rage and betrayal; the women will be the ones worrying for the family's harmony. While the adults fight and resist, remaining attached to their past, the children will be the ones adapting into the new situation and bringing light into the darkness.

Statement of Intent

My Grandfather and my two uncles grow peaches in Alcarràs. Their lands have been like a second home to me, as I go there every Christmas and summer holidays. Around 10 years ago, my family lost 80% of the fields they cultivated. Overnight, they went from having a big farming business to being forced to start all over again.

I was very young then but I could feel and share their anger, their helplessness and their sense of injustice. This is a film about family relationships, and how they have to start transforming their roles at a moment when they're about to lose their common identity. What is the future of these people, of this place, of agriculture? Is there a future? The film is a nostalgic tribute to the last families of farmers that are about to disappear in our contemporary world.

Synopsis

Comme chaque été torride à Alcarràs, petite ville située au fin fond de la Catalogne, la famille Solé exploite une vaste étendue de pêchers. Un jour, la famille se réveille et découvre que des tracteurs déracinent leurs arbres. Le nouveau propriétaire veut installer des panneaux solaires dans leurs champs.

Dans ce film choral, toute la famille Solé, enfants et adultes, se rassemblent une dernière fois l'été pour la récolte des pêches. Pour la première fois de leur vie, ils devront faire face à un avenir incertain. Cela mènera à une rupture familiale mettant en péril l'unité des Solé.

En fonction de leur âge et de leur genre, chaque membre de la famille fera face à cette situation de manière différente. Tandis que les hommes ressentent de la rage et de la trahison; ce sont les femmes qui s'inquiéteront pour l'harmonie de la famille. Tandis que les adultes luttent et résistent, attachés à leur passé, ce sont les enfants qui s'adapteront à la nouvelle situation et apporteront la lumière dans la noirceur.

Note d'intention

Mon grand-père et mes deux oncles cultivent des pêches à Alcarràs. Leurs terres ont été comme une deuxième maison pour moi, car j'y vais chaque Noël et chaque été. Il y a environ 10 ans, ma famille a perdu 80% des champs qu'elle cultivait. Du jour au lendemain, ils sont passés d'une grande entreprise agricole à la nécessité de tout recommencer à zéro.

J'étais très jeune à l'époque, mais je pouvais sentir et partager leur colère, leur impuissance et leur sens de l'injustice. C'est un film sur les relations familiales et sur la façon dont chacun doit modifier son rôle au moment où ils sont tous sur le point de perdre leur identité commune. Quel est l'avenir de ces personnes, de ce lieu, de l'agriculture? Y a-t-il un avenir? Le film est un hommage nostalgique aux dernières familles d'agriculteurs qui sont sur le point de disparaître dans notre monde contemporain.

