



ASCENSIÓN

a film by César Augusto Acevedo



cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE

César Augusto Acevedo

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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.

Technical Information

Working Title: Ascensión

Director: César Augusto Acevedo

Screenplay: César Augusto Acevedo

Nationality: Colombia

Genre: Drama

Format: 4K

Length: 100 min

Shooting location: Colombia

Production Company: Burning Blue

Producer: Diana Bustamante

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Partner: Ciné Sud Promotion

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Director's Biography and Filmography

César Augusto Acevedo was born in Colombia in 1987. His first feature film **La Tierra y la Sombra** was premiered at the 2015 Cannes Festival's Critics' week. The film won four awards in the Cannes Film Festival: the *Caméra d'or*, the *Rail d'or*, the *SACD Award*, and the *France 4 Visionary Award*. After his premiere, the film has been presented in more than 40 film festivals worldwide and won many national and international awards. Acevedo directed the short films **Los Pasos del Agua** (Cannes 2016) and **La Campana** (unreleased).

Main previous works:

La Tierra y la Sombra, 2015, 97'

Cannes Film Festival – *Caméra d'or* / San Sebastian Film Festival

Los Pasos del Agua, 2016, 11'

Cannes Film Festival / Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival



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Synopsis

Basilio returns to his old home after many years. Even so, his Mother (Elmira) has been waiting for him. Separated in life by violence, they understand that they are only being reunited now that they are dead, and thus decide to set off towards heaven in search of the Father and the Promised Land. This is how Mother and Son, now ghosts, begin a physical and spiritual journey in which they will recreate their family story and of the violence they endured, crossing a world devastated by the horrors of war with destroyed villages and stories of desolation and death. All of this was caused by Basilio, who in life was a savage criminal, and is now condemned to relive over and over the horror of his actions but now carrying his crippled Mother throughout the entire journey. In this empty world where God is present in the silence, they will bear witness to how war not only destroys bodies but also spirits.

Statement of Intent

Everything lives within us, both good and evil. For that reason our biggest virtue as human beings also turns into our biggest tragedy: we are free to make of this world to the image of what we carry in our hearts, a world resembling our spirits. Just as we have the ability to destroy, we also have the ability to create. We are capable of inflicting wounds as well as we are capable of healing them. This film is a declaration of love and faith, of trust in that not everything is lost and that we can always make this a better place. It depends of us.

Note d'intention

Tout vit en nous, le bien et le mal de la même façon. Pour cette raison, notre plus grande vertu en tant qu'êtres humains se transforme également en notre plus grande tragédie: nous sommes libres de faire ce monde à l'image de ce que nous portons dans nos coeurs, un monde qui ressemble à nos âmes. Tout comme nous avons la capacité de détruire, nous avons aussi la capacité de créer; nous sommes capables d'infliger des blessures tout autant que de les guérir. Ce film est une déclaration d'amour et de foi, confiant que tout n'est pas perdu et que nous pouvons toujours faire de tout cela un endroit meilleur. Cela dépend de nous.

Synopsis

Basilio ne retourne dans son ancienne maison qu'après de nombreuses années, alors que sa Mère (Elmira) l'a toujours attendu. Séparés dans la vie par la violence, ils comprennent que maintenant morts ils sont réunis, et décident donc de partir vers le ciel à la recherche du Père et de la terre promise. C'est ainsi que Mère et Fils, maintenant fantômes, entament un voyage physique et spirituel au cours duquel ils recréeront l'histoire de leur famille et de la violence endurée, traversant un monde dévasté par les horreurs de la guerre avec des villages détruits et des histoires de désolation et de mort. Tout cela à cause de Basilio, criminel sauvage de son vivant, maintenant condamné à revivre encore et encore l'horreur de ses actions, mais cette fois portant sa mère paralysée tout au long de ce voyage. Dans ce monde vide où Dieu est présent dans le silence, ils témoigneront de la façon dont la guerre détruit non seulement les corps mais aussi les esprits.