

Las Herederas

“The Heiresses”

A film by Marcelo Martinessi



Marcelo Martinessi

Address: Defensa Nacional 737, Asunción, Paraguay
Tel: + 595 971 150 500
E-mail: marcelomartinessi@gmail.com

Résidence du Festival Festival de Cannes

3, rue Amélie, F-75007 Paris
Tel. 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 20
Fax 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 24
E-mail:
residence@festival-cannes.fr
www.cinefondation.com

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.

handwriting: © Carlo Spatzza - smoke photo: © William Wazy



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LA RÉSIDENCE

Technical Information

Working Title: Las herederas (The Heiresses)
Writer/Director: Marcelo Martinessi
Nationality: Paraguayan
Shooting Location: Asunción, Paraguay
Format: HD
Length: 90 min.
Production Company: MIRA
Producer: Karen Fraenkel

Director's Biography & Filmography

Marcelo Martinessi (Paraguay, 1973) studied communication before going to the London Film School. His work revolves around memory and identity. He was director of 'Tv Pública Paraguay' – first experience of public television in his home country – from its creation (2010) until the Coup d'État of June 2012.

Recent short films:

Karai Norte (2009) Premiered at Berlinale Shorts. Best-Iberoamerican Short Film (Guadalajara), Glauber Rocha Award (Bahia), Best short at the AXN Film Festival.

Calle Última (2011) Premiered at Berlinale Generation, Official Selection at Clermont-Ferrand, Best Iberoamerican Short Film (Huelva).

El Baldío (2013) Premiered at the Huelva Iberoamerican Film Festival.



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Asunción, Paraguay, 2012. Chela (62) has led a very secluded life, spending most of her time painting and writing in her diaries. As heiress from a prosperous family, she has received enough money to live comfortably. But when she turns 60, the inheritance starts to run out. It all gets more complicated as her long time partner Martina (63) faces prosecution for unpaid debts and has to go to jail.

Forced to support herself, Chela begins working for the first time in her life. She provides a sort of taxi service for the local petite-bourgeoisie. That is how she meets Angy, a stylish 45 y.o. married woman, to whom she connects instantly.

Statement of intent

I come from a country that after decades of dictatorships and a one-party-only regime, had an opportunity to change. My generation lost that opportunity. Our democratic 'spring' was suddenly interrupted by a new Coup d'État in 2012.

This film is an attempt to return to that spring, to that moment of strong desire, when after a long period in the dark, someone – a country, a woman – faces unexpected possibilities.

Asunción, Paraguay, 2012. Chela (62) a mené une vie très isolée, passant la plupart de son temps à peindre et à écrire dans son journal. Héritière d'une famille prospère, elle a reçu suffisamment d'argent pour vivre confortablement. Mais, alors qu'elle atteint l'âge de 60 ans, l'héritage commence à s'épuiser. Tout se complique lorsque sa partenaire de longue date Martina (63) est poursuivie pour dettes impayées et doit aller en prison.

Contrainte de subvenir à ses besoins, Chela commence à travailler pour la première fois de sa vie. Elle offre une sorte de service de taxi pour la petite bourgeoisie locale. C'est ainsi qu'elle rencontre Angy, élégante femme de 45 ans, mariée, avec laquelle elle accroche immédiatement.

Note d'intention

Je viens d'un pays qui, après des décennies de dictatures et de régime parti-unique, a eu l'occasion de changer. Ma génération n'a pas eu cette opportunité. Notre « printemps démocratique » a été soudainement interrompu par un nouveau coup d'État en 2012.

Ce film est une tentative pour revenir à ce printemps, à ce moment de désir intense, lorsque, après une longue période d'obscurité, quelqu'un – un pays, une femme – fait face à des possibilités insoupçonnées.