

Technical Information

Working title: El Pelo Vivo / The Living Hair

Director: René Ballesteros

Screenplay by: René Ballesteros

Nationality: Chile

Genre: Horror

Format: Video

Length: 120 min.

Shooting location: Chile

Director's Filmography

René Ballesteros was born in Temuco, South Chile, in 1975.

main previous works:

La Quemadura 2009, 65 min., documentary.

Las Estrellas 2008, 7 min., documentary.

main awards:

Prix Joris Ivens, Cinéma du Réel 2010, Paris.

Grand Prix du Jury, Festival Documenta Madrid 2010, Madrid.

Prix du Meilleur réalisateur, SANFIC 2010, Santiago du Chili.

Prix spécial du Jury, Festival Cine/B3 2010, Santiago du Chili.

EL PELO VIVO

A Film by René Ballesteros



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.

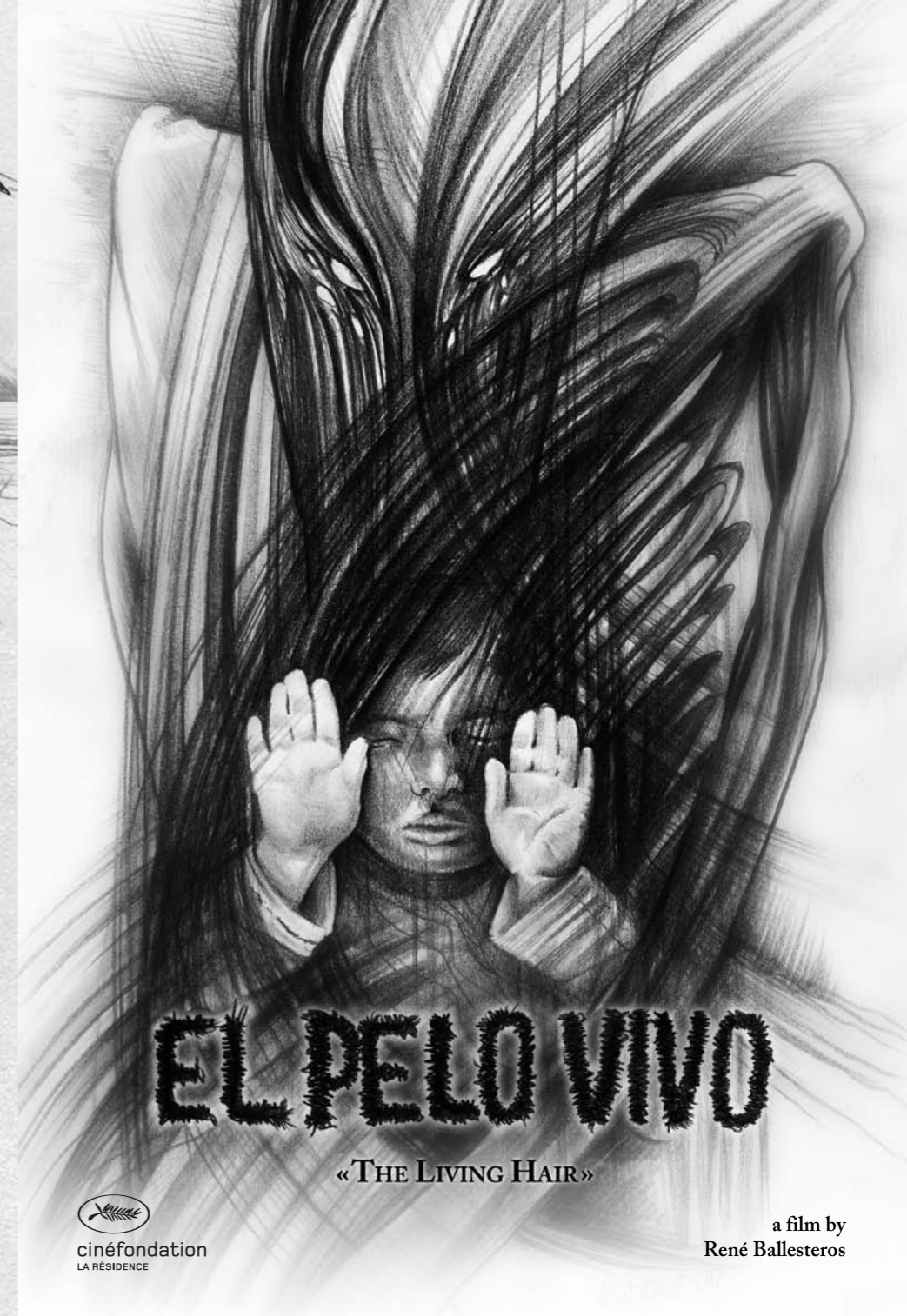
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cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE

a film by
René Ballesteros



SYNOPSIS

A children's home in the Mapuche countryside in the South of Chile. Lautaro (8) is leaving to join his new family when hallucinations put his adoption on hold. The child receives visits from an entity made entirely of hair: *El Pelo Vivo*. The workers at the home believe the hallucinations to be psychotic symptoms. Roberto, a psychologist who also grew up in an orphanage, is the only person to suspect that this is a case of child abuse being covered up by the institution. Then *El Pelo Vivo* begins to haunt him too.

SYNOPSIS

Un foyer pour enfants dans la campagne Mapuche du Sud du Chili. Lautaro (8 ans) va rejoindre sa nouvelle famille, quand des crises d'hallucinations remettent en cause son adoption. L'enfant est visité par une entité faite de poils : *El Pelo Vivo*. Pour les professionnels du foyer, il s'agit de symptômes psychotiques. Seul Roberto, psychologue lui-même issu d'un foyer, commence à soupçonner qu'il s'agit d'un cas d'abus sexuel étouffé par l'institution. *El Pelo Vivo* se manifeste alors aussi à lui.



NOTE OF INTENT

This psychosocial horror film project brings an entirely new being to the movie screen. *El Pelo Vivo* (The Living Hair) is an element of Mapuche culture – an ethnic group from the South of Chile. It lives in stagnant water and seeks out human hosts in which to live and take revenge for ancient slights. *El Pelo Vivo* does not have any determined shape. It might be a hair of infinite length, a moving tuft or a line that can hide inside woollen clothes, in the corners of a room or the orifices of the body.

Furthermore, an increase in hairiness marks the passage from childhood to puberty. In the film, this natural bodily manifestation becomes monstrous; but the real horror is in the institution, the adults and their network of silence. Monstrosity is both human and beyond human, it is a black hole, an infinite labyrinth. *El Pelo Vivo* invites you to grab hold of one of its hairs.

NOTE D'INTENTION

Ce projet de film d'horreur psychosocial donne vie à une entité inédite au cinéma. *El Pelo Vivo* (le poil vivant) appartient à l'imaginaire de la culture Mapuche – une ethnie du Sud du Chili. Tapi dans l'eau stagnante, il cherche des hôtes humains où nicher, pour se venger d'anciennes agressions. *El Pelo Vivo* n'a pas de forme fixe. Il peut être aussi bien un poil d'une longueur infinie qu'une touffe qui bouge, une ligne qui peut se dissimuler dans des vêtements laineux, dans les recoins d'une pièce, dans les orifices du corps.

En outre, le développement de la pilosité marque le passage de l'enfance à la puberté. Dans le film, cette manifestation naturelle du corps devient monstrueuse ; mais au fond, l'horreur réside dans l'institution, les adultes et leur réseau de silence. La monstruosité est humaine et dépasse l'humain, un trou noir, un échec sans début ni fin. *El Pelo Vivo* est une invitation à saisir l'un de ses fils.