



## RADIESTESIA

a film by  
**Jairo Boisier**



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

### Jairo Boisier

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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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### Technical Information

**Working title:** Radiestesia  
**Director:** Jairo Boisier  
**Screenplay by:** Jairo Boisier  
**Nationality:** Chile  
**Genre:** Comedy  
**Format:** HD  
**Length:** 90 min.  
**Shooting location:** Illapel, Chile

**Production:**  
a Zapik Films and Forastero co-production

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FORASTERO

### Director Information

Jairo Boisier Olave was born in 1975 in Talcahuano in south-central Chile.

After a diploma in sociology, he wrote and directed short films, including *El Nuevo* (2006, 19 min) and *Vestido* (2008, 23 min). This last was selected for the Festival de Clermont-Ferrand and over thirty international festivals, winning many prizes.

In 2010, he wrote and directed *La Jubilada* (82 min), his first feature film, which won the "Work In Progress" prize at the Festival de Belfort and had its premiere at the Rotterdam Festival. *Radiestesia* is his second feature film.



## SYNOPSIS

*Illapel, an average town in the north of Chile.*

Young Asunción accidentally discovers she has the gift of sorcery. Her father, Elías, a widower in his forties, sees a means to raise the family's income. Everything changes when he realises he can use this to give himself a new direction in life. He leaves the job he's been doing for a notary for the last fifteen years, with the intention of exploiting his daughter's talent for finding water throughout the country.

But Rebeca, his elderly mother, thinks differently. Believing that her ten-year-old granddaughter might suffer – but especially for fear of finding herself abandoned – she blocks the plan. She stops all work around the house and takes to her bed. Elías thinks she's being manipulative and continues with his plans, but Asunción, caught in the middle, does not want to leave her grandmother all alone.

Elías is left bereft. Will he manage to make them change their minds or should he just accept that everything return to how it was? How will he get over this to find a new direction in life?

## NOTE D'INTENTION

Radiesthesia is a pseudo-scientific activity that enables the detection, amongst other things, of underground water, via swinging a weight or the use of rods. Using radiesthesia, Asunción finds a lot more than water.

The story tells how the desire to transform his life emerges in a man whose future is blocked, but who wants to become someone in a world that values success. Basing his attitude on parents who live off the precocious artistic or sporting talents of their offspring, Elías ingenuously projects his aspiration for freedom, a freedom that proves illusory, when he transfers the dependence that previously linked him to his mother to his daughter.

These two female figures, the two poles of his life, each signify in their own way different stages in his life cycle within the family trio, and personify crucial issues of life in society. These questions manifest themselves on the one hand in the feeling of exclusion and the fear of abandonment experienced by the elderly, and on the other in the fragile and complex moment in which childhood step into the adult world: this last upset is illustrated by Asunción who, torn between her gift of sorcery and the family conflict it causes, grows up in the light of this trial.

A comedy touched with melancholy and absurdity, *Radiesthesia* depicts the subtle play of relations within a singular family, as such representative of Chilean society. Like water that comes out of the ground to regenerate the earth, the discovery of the young girl racially reconfigures family ties, and has a deep and lasting effect over three generations.

## SYNOPSIS

*Illapel, ville moyenne au nord du Chili.*

La petite Asunción se découvre par hasard un don de sourcier. Son père, Elías, veuf d'une quarantaine d'années, trouve là le moyen d'améliorer le revenu de la famille. Tout change quand il y entrevoit la possibilité de donner une orientation nouvelle à sa vie. Il quitte ainsi son travail, après quinze ans d'activité auprès d'un notaire, avec l'intention d'exploiter dans tout le pays le talent de sa fille à trouver les points d'eau.

Mais Rebeca, sa vieille mère, l'entend d'une autre oreille. Pensant que sa petite-fille de dix ans pourrait en souffrir mais surtout par peur d'être abandonnée, elle fait obstacle au projet. Elle arrête toute activité domestique et décide de garder le lit. Elías y voit de la manipulation et persiste dans son idée mais Asunción, au cœur d'un dilemme, n'est pas disposée à laisser seule sa grand-mère.

Elías est face à une épreuve. Aura-t-il la force de les convaincre ou devra-t-il accepter que tout redevienne comme avant? Comment relèvera-t-il le défi pour donner une direction nouvelle à sa vie?

## NOTE D'INTENTION

La radiesthésie est une activité pseudo-scientifique qui permet de détecter, entre autres, de l'eau dans les sous-sols, à l'aide de pendules et de baguettes. À travers elle, Asunción trouve bien plus que de l'eau.

L'histoire raconte comment le désir de transformer sa vie émerge chez un homme à l'horizon bouché, mu par l'ambition de se réaliser dans un monde qui valorise la réussite. Calquant son attitude sur ces parents qui vivent aux crochets de leurs enfants talentueux, comme artistes ou sportifs précoces, Elías projette avec ingénuité son aspiration à la liberté, qui s'avérera illusoire, dans un mouvement où il transfère vers sa fille le lien de dépendance qui l'unissait jusqu'alors à sa mère.

Ces deux figures féminines, aux deux pôles de leur vie, éclairent chacune à leur manière une étape différente de leur cycle vital dans le trio familial et incarnent des questions cruciales de la vie en société: d'une part, le sentiment d'exclusion et la peur de l'abandon ressentis par les personnes âgées, et, d'autre part, l'instant délicat et complexe où l'enfance entre de plein pied dans le monde adulte. Ce dernier bouleversement est illustré par Asunción qui, tiraillée entre son don de sourcier et le conflit familial qu'il engendre, fait face à cette épreuve en mûrissant.

Comédie empreinte de mélancolie et d'absurdité, *Radiesthesia* illustre un jeu de relations subtiles au sein d'une famille singulière et pas moins représentative de la société chilienne. Comme l'eau qui sourd du sol et le régénère, la trouvaille de la petite fille reconfigure radicalement le tissu familial, qui sera affecté de manière durable et en profondeur sur trois générations.

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