

The Match

The 40th Anniversary of the Most Iconic Match in History



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2026 OFFICIAL SELECTION
CANNES PREMIERE

WRITTEN AND
DIRECTED BY JUAN CABRAL Y SANTIAGO FRANCO

Labhouse & Industria del Milagro
present



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2026 OFFICIAL SELECTION
CANNES PREMIERE

The Match

Argentina – 2026 - 91'

INTERNATIONAL SALES

ROUND 12 – A Mediawan Sport & Goodfellas Label

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ROUND12



When does a match start? When does it end?

SYNOPSIS

The image features a wide, flat-topped mountain range under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The foreground is a dark, textured landscape, possibly a field of low-lying vegetation or a rocky plain. Overlaid on this scene is the word "SYNOPSIS" in a large, white, serif font, centered horizontally across the middle of the frame.



Synopsis

THE MATCH tells the story of the iconic match between Argentina and England, played at the Azteca Stadium during the 1986 Football World Cup.

Using rare archival footage such as Maradona's controversial "Hand of God", the film reconstructs that event as a living memory but also as the culmination of more than two hundred years of tension, encounters, and conflict between the two nations.

From the earliest moments of contact and dispute to the Falklands War as a direct precursor, the film traces a historical journey that reframes what happened on the pitch. In doing so, it subtly contrasts the beauty of football with the lingering absurdity of war, allowing the echoes of both to resonate into the present day.

THE PROJECT

ARG-106

About the Project

The Match is a feature documentary narrated by football legends **Gary Lineker** and **Jorge Valdano**, revisiting one of the most iconic encounters in football history and expanding it into a narrative that spans more than two hundred years of shared history between Argentina and England.

Based on the book *El Partido* by Andrés Burgo, the film reconstructs the 1986 World Cup quarter-final at the Azteca Stadium not merely as a sporting event, but as the symbolic culmination of centuries of tension, identity, and cultural ties between the two nations.

Through a distinctive narrative device — a museum of memory where past and present coexist — Lineker and Valdano guide the viewer on a journey that stretches from early geopolitical conflicts, including the Falklands War, to the defining moments of that unforgettable match.

Using rare archival footage, the film re-examines Maradona's two most iconic moments: the infamous "Hand of God" and the "Goal of the Century".

With testimonies from players on both sides, including **Oscar Ruggeri**, **Ricardo Giusti**, **Jorge Burruchaga**, **John Barnes**, **Peter Shilton** and **Julio Olarticoechea**, the film weaves together interviews, archival material and a cinematic approach that blends historical depth with emotional resonance. This tapestry is further enriched by music from **Queen**, while one of the film's chapters explores the band's visit to Argentina in the early 1980s — a rare moment of cultural encounter amid intense political tension, echoing the spirit at the heart of the film.

The Match reflects on the beauty of the game and the absurdity of war, revealing football as a force for unity.

NARRATORS

A silhouette of a person in a dark suit stands in the center of a dark, empty room with large windows in the background. The word "NARRATORS" is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the image, with the person's silhouette partially overlapping the letters.



GARY
LINEKER

JORGE
VALDANO







PETER
SHILTON

OSCAR
RUGGERI



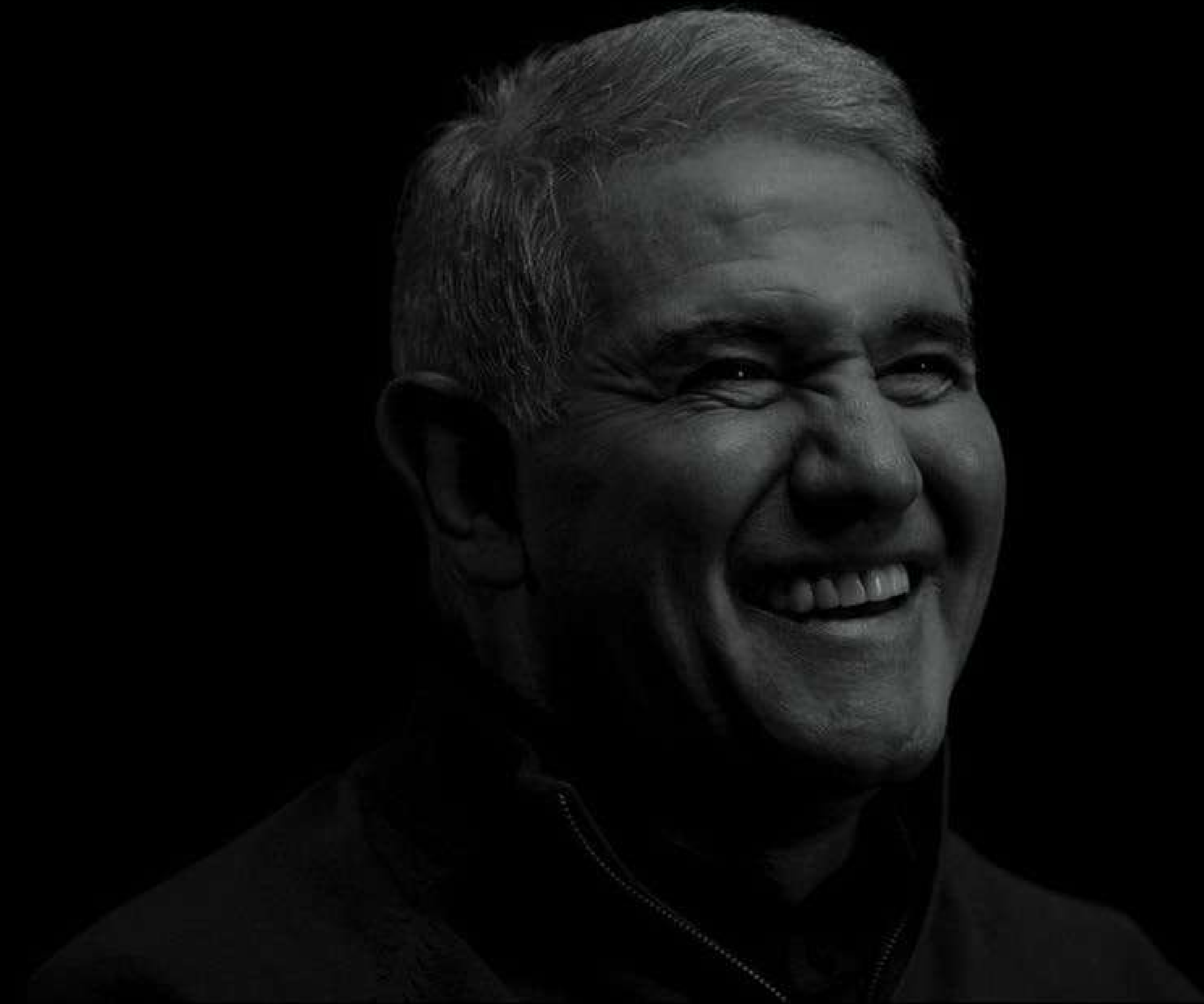


JOHN
BARNES

RICARDO
GIUSTI







JORGE
BURRUCHAGA

JORGE
OLARTICOECHEA





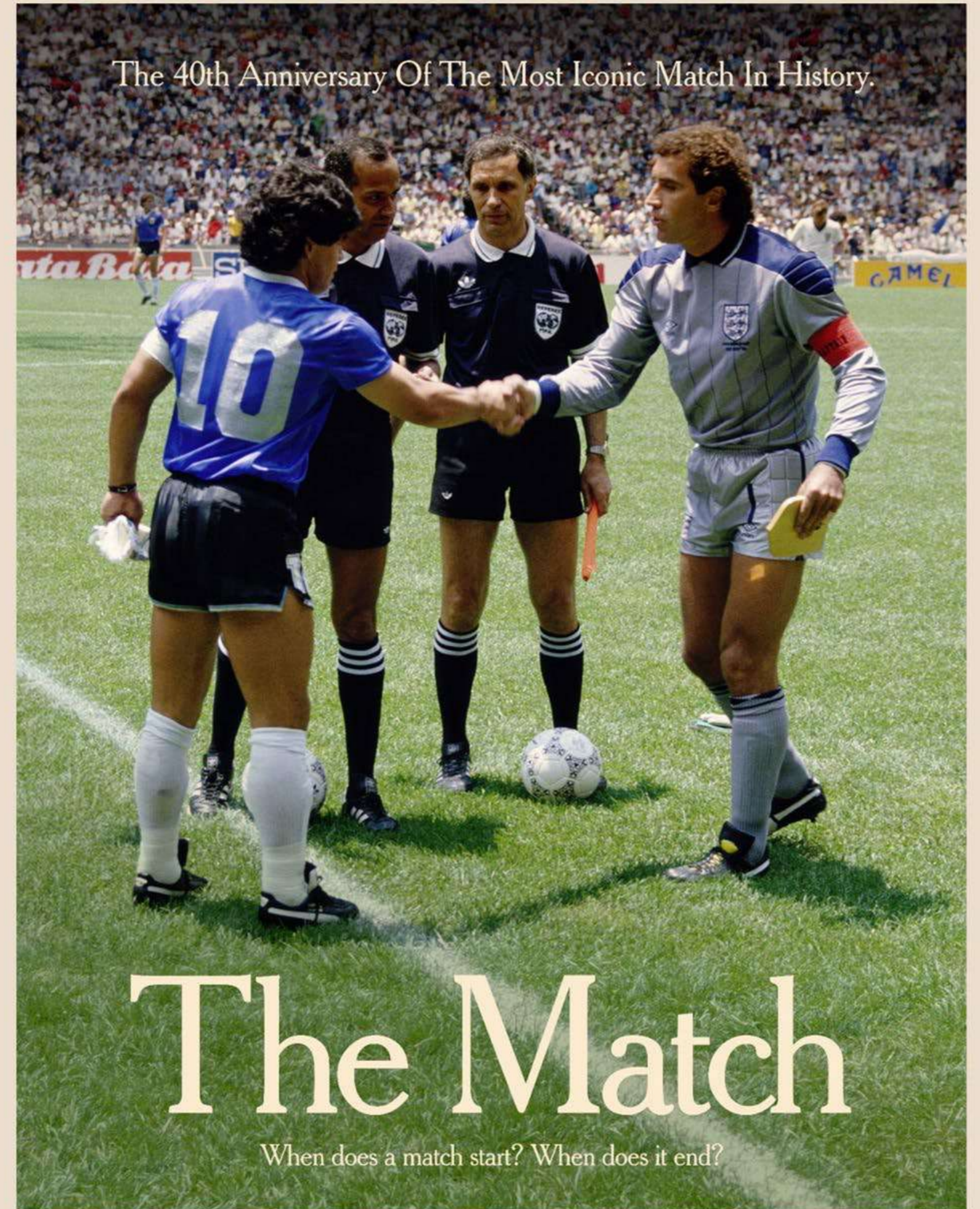


Two teams united for the first time

POSTER



The 40th Anniversary Of The Most Iconic Match In History.



The Match

When does a match start? When does it end?



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2026 OFFICIAL SELECTION
CANNES PREMIERE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JUAN CABRAL & SANTIAGO FRANCO PRODUCED BY FLORA FERNANDEZ MARENGO BASED ON ANDRES BURGO LABHOUSE PRESENTS A INDUSTRIA DEL MILAGRO
CO-PRODUCTION COMPANY BLURR STORIES CO-FINANCED BY JULIETA F. CASTAGNINO ORIGINAL MUSIC BY NICO BARRY & TOMAS JACOBI ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS MATIAS REYNAL, JUAN PABLO SORIN, SOL ALAC & MJZ
EDITED BY LUCAS COPPOLECCHIA, SEBASTIAN FASANELLI, JUAN P. SCAGLIONE & MAURO CAPOROSSI ARCHIVE AND RESEARCH BY ANDRES LEVINSON DISTRIBUTED BY BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL

THE TEAM



The Directors



Juan Cabral

Two/One, Cabral's debut feature film, premiered at Tribeca and was released globally on MUBI in 2020. *Variety* praised him as "an undeniably talented filmmaker." Juan Cabral also directs the fantasy drama *Risa and the wind phone*, set for theatrical release in Argentina on April 16, 2026, and winner of Best Film and Best Director in the Argentine Competition at the 40th Mar del Plata International Film Festival. He was nominated by the Directors Guild of America in 2016 and 2022 and has received the highest honors in the advertising industry, including two Grand Prix awards at Cannes Lions. He is the creator of some of the most iconic commercials in history, such as *Sony Balls* and *Cadbury's Gorilla*, voted the greatest commercial in the UK in recent years. In Argentina, he has received the prestigious *Konex Award* and the *Gardel Award*, and he is widely recognized for directing *Babasónicos'* music videos for over a decade.



Santiago Franco

Santiago Franco is a film director trained at the *Universidad del Cine (FUC)*. He began his career with a series of short films that were recognised and awarded at prestigious international festivals, including the *Shanghai International Film Festival* and *BAFICI*.

His work in advertising has been recognised at some of the industry's leading festivals, including Cannes Lions, El Sol and El Ojo de Iberoamérica.

The Match marks his first feature documentary.

The Producer



Flora Fernandez Marengo

*Oscar-Nominated Producer and Emmy winner Flora Fernandez Marengo has produced a slate of quality independent films including **The Guard**, starring Brendan Gleeson and Don Cheadle, **Calvary**, starring Brendan Gleeson, Chris O'Dowd, and Kelly Reilly, **War on Everyone** starring Alexander Skarsgard, Michael Pena, Theo James, and Tessa Thompson all directed by John Michael McDonagh. She also produced **The Betrayal** directed by acclaimed cinematographer Ellen Kuras.*

*She has recently made **Two/One**, starring Boyd Holbrook and Beau Bridges, Juan Cabral's debut feature film premiered at Tribeca and was released worldwide by MUBI in 2020.*

Technical Details

Title: The Match

Country: Argentina

Running time: 91 min

Written & Directed by: Juan Cabral & Santiago Franco

Producer: Flora Fernández Marengo

Based in the book by: Andrés Burgo

Production Companies: Labhouse, Industria del Milagro

Co-production Company: Blurr Stories

Co-producer: Julieta F. Castagnino

Associate Producer: Matias Reynal, Juan Pablo Sorin, Sol Alac, MJZ

Music: Nico Barry & Tomás Jacobi

Editing: Lucas Coppolechia & Sebastian Fasanelli,

Juan P. Scaglione & Mauro Caporossi

Archive & Research: Andrés Levinson

Production Design: Veronica Geraige

Cinematography: Pablo Gallego

Assistant Director: Marcos Vigo

Argentinian Distributor: Buena Vista International

International Sales: ROUND 12 - A Mediawan

Sport & Goodfellas Label

Narration:

Gary Lineker

Jorge Valdano

Featuring:

Oscar Ruggeri

Peter Shilton

John Barnes

Jorge Burruchaga

Ricardo Giusti

Julio Olarticoechea





Labhouse

INDUST
RIAL * DUL
MILAGRO LTD.

BUENA VISTA
INTERNATIONAL

ROUND 12