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GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA



MINISTERIO
DE CULTURA
Y DEPORTE



AGADIC



Asociación Galega das
Industrias Culturais



Centre national
du cinéma et de
l'image animée



Programa



EMBAJADA DE NORUEGA



Fondation
Emilie
Gourd

World sales

Habanero



A MEDIA VOZ

IN A WHISPER



Spain-France-Switzerland-Cuba | color-B&W | 80 min | 2019

auto-ethnographic doc

Written and directed by: Heidi Hassan & Patricia Pérez Fernández

Produced by: Daniel Froiz & Delphine Schmit

In co-production with:

Claudia Calviño / Producciones de la 5ta Avenida (Cuba)
Pierre-André Thiébaud / PCT cinéma télévision (Switzerland)

A MATRIUSKA (SPAIN) - PERSPECTIVE FILMS (FRANCE) production

World sales: **Habanero**



SHORT SYNOPSIS

Two filmmakers who have been best friends since childhood, both part of the Cuban diaspora, share their intimate and emotional journey while they try to find themselves and each other in a foreign land.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Childhood friends Patricia and Heidi grew up in Cuba, where they both went to the film academy. As children of the 1970s, they were brought up with the communist ideals of Che Guevara, but the promised bright future failed to materialize. Independently of each other, they fled the malaise and censorship of their homeland. Heidi ended up in Switzerland, Patricia in Spain. They had no contact for years.

Now both 40, they seek a way to approach each other again, choosing the medium that suits them best: video letters. Both have continued to film their lives, even though it seemed unlikely that they would ever work in film again. In their frank audiovisual communication, the two migrants recount all the roundabout routes they have taken in their lives: Patricia's years selling mojitos, Heidi's search for work and connection with society in Geneva, and the struggle with alienation and nostalgia for a country that no longer exists.

The result of the letters, ingeniously edited into a chronological yet freewheeling whole, is a sensitive, two sided account of uprootedness, motherhood, love of film, friendship and freedom. (source: IDFA's catalog)



PLOT KEYWORDS

Cuba | diaspora | migration | exile | friendship | sorority | filmmaking | women filmmakers | culture & identity | motherhood

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

We were born in a unique country: Cuba in the late 1970s. As it was the case of every Cuban child of that era, our education was conceived to transform us into an upgraded kind of human being — “the new man”. Every morning we would swear to follow Che Guevara’s example on behalf of Communism. It was an indoctrination technique, undoubtedly. But it also represented the promise of a dignified life; a life worth living. Suddenly, the illusion vanished. The fall of the Berlin Wall eroded the whole system and was the beginning of the Cuban collapse. Nobody was ready, least of all us teenagers, who were promised a bright future. Soon enough we experienced the huge disappointment of seeing all the essential values we were taught to cherish simply disappear. The sole dream of our generation —the one that should have accomplished the promises of the system— was to fled the island.

And so we did.

Migration is a painful process regardless where you come from, but in the case of Cubans it has an additional component because it implies a double uprooting: that of your cultural and social background and another, of your political-ideological one. The time lag is perpetual. We are the living memories of a world that no longer exists. Hence, this sort of nostalgia that impregnates our existence. Like strings that vibrate in the vacuum, we can’t find resonance neither in present day Cuba nor elsewhere. And this inevitably guides us to question our identity, to explore the fossil country embedded in us and, through it, our imagery.

Heidi Hassan & Patricia Pérez



CREDITS

Original title: A media voz

International title: In a whisper

Original language: Spanish & French

Directed by: Heidi Hassan & Patricia Pérez Fernández

Produced by: Daniel Froiz & Delphine Schmit

Script: Heidi Hassan & Patricia Pérez Fernández

Cinematography: Heidi Hassan & Patricia Pérez Fernández

Editing: Heidi Hassan, Patricia Pérez Fernández & Diana Toucedo

Sound design: Sergio Fernández Borrás, Heidi Hassan & Patricia Pérez Fernández

Original music: Olivier Militon Patricia Cadaveira

Poster artwork:)HV(Publicidad

Production companies:

Daniel Froiz / Matriuska Producciones (Spain)

Delphine Schmit / Perspective Films (France)

Claudia Calviño / Producciones de la 5ta Avenida (Cuba)

Pierre-André Thiébaud / PCT cinéma télévision (Switzerland)

Web site: <http://www.habanerofilmsales.com/portfolio/a-media-voz>

Trailer YouTube: <https://youtu.be/2A4s8KLRIxQ>

Trailer Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/369636718>





THE FILMMAKERS

HEIDI HASSAN

Heidi Hassan (Cuba, 1978). After getting a degree in Cinematography from the International Film School of San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba in 2002, she emigrated to Switzerland where she continued her professional training at the Haute Ecole d'Art et Design in Geneva (HEAD). She got her diploma in Film Directing in 2008. Nowadays she reconciles her personal work as a filmmaker and visual artist with numerous collaborations as a director of photography. Her work has been presented in prestigious international film festivals where they received several awards and critical acclaim. A MEDIA VOZ (In a whisper) is her second full-length documentary, made in collaboration with Patricia Pérez Fernández. It premiered at IDFA where it won the top award (Best Feature-Length Documentary).



HEIDI'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 2019. A MEDIA VOZ (documentary) 80'
- 2015. LOS TURISTAS (experimental) 15'
- 2014. LA OTRA ISLA (documentary) 70'
- 2008. ORAGES D'ÉTÉ (doc-fiction) 25'
- 2007. TIERRA ROJA (doc-fiction) 18'
- 2006. MISERERE. (fiction) 13'
- 2001. LA CAJA INFINITA (experimental) 3'

PREVIOUS AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

For TIERRA ROJA:

- Winner. International Amnesty Award. Festival Internazionale del Cortometraggio Corto Helvético al Femminile. Lugano, Switzerland. 2010
- Winner. Best Short Film. Festival Internacional de Cine Cubano (FICCU) Munich, 2009
- Winner. Carabela de Plata Award. Best Latin American Short Film. Festival Internacional de Cine Documental (ZINEBI) Bilbao, Spain. 2008
- Winner. Best Short Film. Muestra de Jóvenes Realizadores. Cuba. 2008

For HAY QUE SALTAR EL LECHO (directed by Patricia Pérez):

- Best Cinematography (to Heidi Hassan) Festival Cineplaza. Cuba, 2002

For ORAGES D'ÉTÉ:

— Best Sound (to Patricia Pérez) Muestra de Jóvenes Realizadores. Cuba, 2010

For LA OTRA ISLA

— Best Documentary. Havana Film Festival in New York. 2015

— Best Documentary. Lasa Film Festival. Puerto Rico, 2015

— Best Documentary. Centro Pablo de la Torriente Brau. Cuba, 2014

— Special Mention Muestra de Jóvenes Realizadores. Cuba, 2014

— Best Editing (for Patricia Pérez). 13 Muestra de Jóvenes Realizadores. Cuba, 2014

For A MEDIA VOZ (directed by Heidi Hassan & Patricia Pérez):

— Best Feature-Length Documentary. IDFA 2019

— Best Feature-Length Documentary Award. Havana Film Festival 2019

PATRICIA PÉREZ

Patricia Pérez Fernández (Cuba, 1978) After getting a degree in Drama from Havana's Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), she continued her training at the International Film School of San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba, where she got her diploma in Film Directing in 2002. In 2003 she got a scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies at the Film and Audiovisual School of Catalonia (ESCAC) and migrated to Spain. Since then, she has made several fiction short films and documentaries. Currently, she is a staff member of DOCMA (Spain's Documentary Producers Association). A MEDIA VOZ (In a whisper) is her debut as a full-length documentary director. Co-directed with Heidi Hassan, the film premiered at IDFA where it won the top award (Best Feature-Length Documentary).



PATRICIA'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2019. A MEDIA VOZ (documentary) 80'

2013. PISCINA MUNICIPAL (documentary) 38'

2007. EL TERCERO DE LA SERIE (fiction) 1'

2002. HAY QUE SALTAR EL LECHO CON LA FIRME CONVICCIÓN DE QUE TUS DIENTES HAN CRECIDO (fiction) 10'

2002. HUMO. (fiction) 10'

2001. OTOÑO (documentary) 13'

PREVIOUS AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

For EL TERCERO DE LA SERIE:

— Winner. Best short. 1er Festival de Cine y Emigración. Spain, 2007

Por PISCINA MUNICIPAL:

— Special Mention. Alucine Latin FF. Toronto, 2013

For HAY QUE SALTAR EL LECHO:

— Best Cinematography (for Heidi Hassan) Festival Cineplaza. Cuba, 2002

— Best Sound Design. Festival Cineplaza. Cuba, 2002

— Special Mention for Direction, Editing and Art Design (short). Festival Cineplaza. Cuba, 2002

For ORAGES D'ÉTÉ (directed by Heidi Hassan):

— Best Sound (to Patricia Pérez) Muestra de Jóvenes Realizadores. Cuba, 2010

For LA OTRA ISLA (directed by Heidi Hassan)

— Best Editing (for Patricia Pérez). 13 Muestra de Jóvenes Realizadores. Cuba, 2014

For A MEDIA VOZ (directed by Heidi Hassan & Patricia Pérez):

— Best Feature-Length Documentary. IDFA 2019

— Best Feature-Length Documentary Award. Havana Film Festival 2019





IN A WHISPER: FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

Winner. Best Feature-Length Documentary. IDFA 2019 (World Premiere)

Market Premiere. Ventana Sur 2019

Winner. Best Documentary. Havana Film Festival 2019



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