

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY, LEÓN SIMINIANI



León Siminiani majored in Spanish Literature and Film Direction at Columbia University, New York. Passionate about the possibilities of the audiovisual, he investigated different formats and genres.

Some of his most notable fiction film work includes *Dos más* (2001) (Best Drama at the 2002 EMMY Awards for Students and Audience Award (Versión Española), *Archipiélago* (2003) (Jury Award, Best Screenplay and Audience Award at the Columbia University Film Festival 2003) and finalist in the Sundance Channel's 2004 Latino Filmmakers Showcase, and *Ludoterapia* (2007), Best Short film at Europa Cinema 2007.

His most notable non-fiction film work includes the series of mini-documentaries *Key Concepts from a Modern World*, the first four installments of which; *La oficina* (1998),

El permiso (2001), *Digital* (2003) and *El tránsito* (2009)] have won more than 100 international awards.

In addition, Siminiani has explored hybrid formats with pieces as *Zoom* (2005) or the series *Límites* (2009) which won, among others, the First Award of the Alcala de Henares Film Festival (Alcine 09), and the First Award of the Ibero-American Short films competition Versión Española (TVE).

In 2011 he released a new fiction Short film titled *El Premio*, whose proposal of fiction around a real event, was recently nominated for the 2012 Goya Awards for Best Fiction Short film.

Produced by Avalon P.C., Pantalla Partida and himself, MAPA is his first feature film where he continues investigating the fertile border where fiction and non-fiction meet..



DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY, LEÓN SIMINIANI

- ***Key Concepts from a Modern World*** (Series of Micro essay films) (chapters # 1 – # 4 to date) *La oficina* (1998), *El permiso* (2001), *Digital* (2003) and *El tránsito* (2009).

The series won more than 100 national and international awards including Best Short film Award in Malaga Film Festival 2010 and First Award in Alcine 2009 ex aequo with *Límites 1ª persona* by the same author (both awards won by *El tránsito*).

- ***Dos más*** (Fiction Short film– 2001)

Best Fiction at the 2002 EMMY Awards for Students and Best Latino Director 2002 in DGA Students Awards USA; Audience Award (TVE "Versión española").

- ***Archipiélago*** (Fiction Short film – 2003)

Jury Award, Best Screenplay, Audience Award (Columbia University 2003) and finalist in the Sundance Channel's 2004 Latino Filmmakers Showcase.

- ***Zoom*** (Hybrid Format– 2005)

Nominated for Best Film in Notodofilmfest 2005.

- ***Ludoterapia*** (Fiction Short film– 2003)

Best Short Film in Europa Cinema 2007.

- ***Límites 1ª persona*** (Hybrid Format– 2009)

First Award of the Alcala de Henares Film Festival (Alcine 09) ex aequo with *El Tránsito*, Best Short film Versión Española

- ***El premio*** (Fiction Short film– 2011)

Nominated for the 2012 Goya Awards for Best Fiction Short film.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Map is a **film-diary**. It contains events that are real and narrated in the first person. Nothing is fictional. I filmed my own life situations for two years and a half, according I was living them. As if while filming them I was trying to understand them better, as if I was trying to put them in order. But in life things happen much faster than in cinema. Everything is more amorphous and chaotic. Thus, the editing challenge was to find a way to transform this collection of personal images into a film. This challenge is an integral part of the proposal. Or in other words, *Map* builds itself in front of the spectator, sharing doubts and fears but also hopes and revelations. Many considerations that are typically left out in a movie are here in front. So, little by little, everything becomes a game with the audience, an invitation to join my attempt to make a movie about a guy looking for a new *Map* for love: for life. In this long process certain fiction film techniques were useful. But this should not mislead us: if there is any doubt about the nature of the film, please classify it in the "**cinema of reality**".

León Siminiani.



MAPA. PRODUCTION MODEL

Map is a film made possible by one of the "new production models" that the introduction of digital and the ever growing crisis seem to demand from many a filmmaker in order to be able to survive.

Although if we worked with a very low budget, we had two factors that tend to be rather limited in "standard productions": time and creative freedom. In this sense, the film was more like a "hand-crafting" work over four years, than a production scheduled from the beginning.

The production design includes two different phases:

1st. A phase of *filming/writing/editing* that the director completed with a small team and without time limitation. You film, write, edit, re-film, rewrite, reedit... and so on as many times as necessary until you find the proper editing.

2nd. A post-production phase in which top professionals are involved. Juanma Nogales (Twin Pines), María Carretero (El Ranchito) and Nacho Royo (La Bocina) worked on the image processing, color grading and sound design.

We are therefore facing a hybrid "production model", which aims to combine the freedom of working alone with the best finishes possible. This production model, on the other hand, beyond the economic, wanted to adapt itself from the beginning to the particular film language of the project director.

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