

ANTONIO
DE LA TORRE

MÓNICA
LÓPEZ

JOSE MARÍA
POU

NACHO
FRESNEDA

ANA
WAGENER

WITH THE SPECIAL COLLABORATION OF BÁRBARA LENNIE AND LUIS ZAHERA

KINGS FALL
KINGDOMS SURVIVE

THE
REALM

A FILM BY
RODRIGO SOROGOYEN

Official Selection

tiff

Toronto International
Film Festival 2018

66
SSIFF

OFFICIAL SELECTION
DONOSTIA ZINEMALDIA
FESTIVAL DE SAN SEBASTIAN
2018

CAST: ANTONIO DE LA TORRE, MÓNICA LÓPEZ, JOSE MARÍA POU, NACHO FRESNEDA, ANA WAGENER, BÁRBARA LENNIE, LUIS ZAHERA
WRITTEN BY: MILLA CARRER, DAVID RODRÍGUEZ FERRE, PABLO TORRES, ROBERTO FERNÁNDEZ, ALFONSO RABOSO, MIGUEL ÁNGEL REBOLLO, ALBERTO DEL CAMPO
DIRECTED BY: RODRIGO SOROGOYEN
PRODUCED BY: MILLA CARRER, DAVID RODRÍGUEZ FERRE, PABLO TORRES, ROBERTO FERNÁNDEZ, ALFONSO RABOSO, MIGUEL ÁNGEL REBOLLO, ALBERTO DEL CAMPO
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: DAVID RODRÍGUEZ FERRE, PABLO TORRES, ROBERTO FERNÁNDEZ, ALFONSO RABOSO, MIGUEL ÁNGEL REBOLLO, ALBERTO DEL CAMPO
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TORNASOL

ARTE

EL PASADO

BONFINGER

Le Pacte

MONEX

ARTEMEDIA

M+

MONSTER

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LATIDO

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EL REINO / THRILLER / Co-production: Spain, France / Language: Spanish / 2018 / 121 min

LOTIDO



Synopsis

Manuel López-Vidal is a beloved politician in his region: he enjoys a good social position, has a loving family, friends everywhere and plenty of natural charisma. He is also a corrupt man who has been enriching himself with public funds for years. After attempting to cover up for an associate, Manuel is left exposed. To his surprise, the Party's members seek to place the blame for the entire plot on his shoulders. But he will not surrender. How far is a person willing to go in order to hold on to power?

Filmography

MADRE. Short film, 2017

Goya Award Winner

MAY GOD SAVE US, 2016

Best Script – San Sebastian Film Festival

STOCKHOLM, 2013

Goya Award - Best Newcomer Actor

OCHO CITAS, 2008

From the producers of

THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES and **MARSHLAND**

Distributors

WARNER BROS (Spain), **LE PACTE** (France),
ROSEBUD.21 (Greece), **MOVIES INSPIRED** (Italy),
SWALLOW WINGS (Taiwan)

From the director of **MAY GOD SAVE US** praised by

“An exceptional thriller”

L'Obs

“The best serial killer film of the year is Spanish”

Le Figaro

“Sorogoyen has Scorsese in him”

Les Inrockuptibles



Director's Notes

THE KEY QUESTION

Why did Isabel Peña and me, Rodrigo Sorogoyen, tell this story? What did we want to say?

In a nutshell, it all sprung from indignation. The indignation inspired by what we have been witnessing since about 2007 until nowadays and what we still have to find out about.

Political corruption, and particularly the lack of a strong response to that corruption, left us and continues to leave us, first and foremost, perplexed, and then indignant, also depressed and, finally, almost anesthetised towards any new case of political fraud. As scriptwriters, we are fascinated by the world we live in. We don't need to invent stories because they are all around us already, clear as day. Just by opening a newspaper or listening to a conversation on the underground you can have the start of a good film.

We are fascinated by human beings. Unfortunately, we are also fascinated by evil. And the abundance of corruption cases in recent years inevitably forced us to ask some questions: "Who are these people? Are they made from the same mould as us? What crosses their minds when they lie in bed? Are they able to lie and steal during the day and then love their families in the evening? Is that even possible? Do they feel any regret? Are they blindfolded? Do they laugh at the rest of us before they go to sleep?"

All of these questions acted as the engine of our next film. Just like in **MAY GOD SAVE US** we wanted to create a thriller, a plot full of suspense that could grab the spectator, but which talked about human beings and their dark depths, their dilemmas in their lives. In the previous case, the key theme was violence and this time we have focused on corruption, not just political but also human corruption. Lying as a way of life.

We realised that there hadn't been any films made about the current political corruption in Spain and so we went ahead with the project.

From the very beginning, we knew (although Isabel and I don't really need to discuss certain things) that the film would be told from the perspective of the corrupt politician, the thief, the character who would normally be the antagonist, the enemy, the baddy, in most films.

We were aware that this would be a challenge, but we also knew that it would make the film far more interesting and, importantly, that it would allow us to answer those initial questions we had pondered.

We wanted the audience to accompany this corrupt politician throughout his journey. The film would not deal with some law enforcers or ethical journalists uncovering a plot of corruption, but rather follow a guy who had been stealing from taxpayers for years and was finally discovered. And then, instead of accepting his crime and its punishment, he fights against everything and everyone to avoid going to prison.

In **MAY GOD SAVE US** we didn't want to say "violence is bad and dangerous" (it is such an obvious message that it wasn't very interesting) but rather attempted to understand why some people act in a violent way. Along a similar line, in **THE REALM** we didn't want to judge the corrupt politician (again, it would be too easy to judge: a politician who has no problem betraying citizens' trust and stealing from public funds is obviously guilty), we didn't want to say "stealing is wrong", since it is just as obvious to everyone. Instead, we wanted to ask "why", why do they do it and, especially, why once discovered, instead of apologising and accepting the punishment, in most cases they prefer to continue lying until they are left with no arguments.

That is why we thought that, with this approach, the only way to tackle the script would be to make our main character, Manuel López-Vidal, the absolute centre of the plot. So we set ourselves a guideline: everything would be told through his eyes. We wouldn't see anything that he didn't see.

Cast

ANTONIO DE LA TORRE – Manuel López-Vidal

MÓNICA LÓPEZ – Inés

JOSÉ MARÍA POU – José Luis Frías

NACHO FRESNEDA – Paco Castillo

ANA WAGENER – Asunción Ceballos

BARBARA LENNIE – Amaia Marín

LUIS ZAHERA – Luis Cabrera



Crew

DIRECTOR: Rodrigo Sorogoyen

SCREENPLAY: Isabel Peña,
Rodrigo Sorogoyen

D.O.P.: Álex de Pablo (A.E.C.)

EDITING: Alberto del Campo

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:
Mariela Besuievsky, Javier López Blanco

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Iñaki Ros

ART DIRECTOR: Miguel Ángel Rebollo

SOUND: Roberto Fernández, Alfonso Raposo

MUSIC: Olivier Arson

COSTUME DESIGNER: Paola Torres

MAKE-UP: Milu Cabrer

HAIRDRESSING: Paco Rodríguez-Frías



Production

PRODUCTION COMPANIES: Tornasol,
Atresmedia Cine, Trianera PC AIE,
Bowfinger, Le Pacte, Mondex et Cie

PRODUCERS: Gerardo Herrero,
Mikel Lejarza, Mercedes Gamero, Jean Labadie,
Anne-Laure Labadie, Stephane Sorlat

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