

la Biennale di Venezia

Biennale College
Cinema

la SOLEDAD

a film by
JORGE THIELEN ARMAND

« Acted out by a cast of real-life personages...
it puts a human face on the economic catastrophe
of contemporary Venezuela. »
Rogerebert.com



VENICE
FILM FESTIVAL
2016

MIAMI
FILM FESTIVAL
2017

CARTAGENA
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2017

Alfarería
Cinematográfica

LA FAENA

ARDIMAGES

JOSÉ DOLORES LÓPEZ; ADRIALIZ LÓPEZ; MARÍA DEL CARMEN AGAMEZ PALOMINO; MARLEY ALVILLARES; FABIÁN LÓPEZ; JORGE R. THIELEN; WRITTEN BY JORGE THIELEN ARMAND & RODRIGO MICHELANGELI; EDITED BY FELIPE GUERRERO; PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARIA GABRIELA VILCHEZ; CINEMATOGRAPHY BY RODRIGO MICHELANGELI; SOUND DESIGN & MIX ELI COHN; EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FERMIN BRANGER; PRODUCED BY ADRIANA HERRERA; RODRIGO MICHELANGELI; JORGE THIELEN ARMAND; CO-PRODUCER MANON ARDISSON.

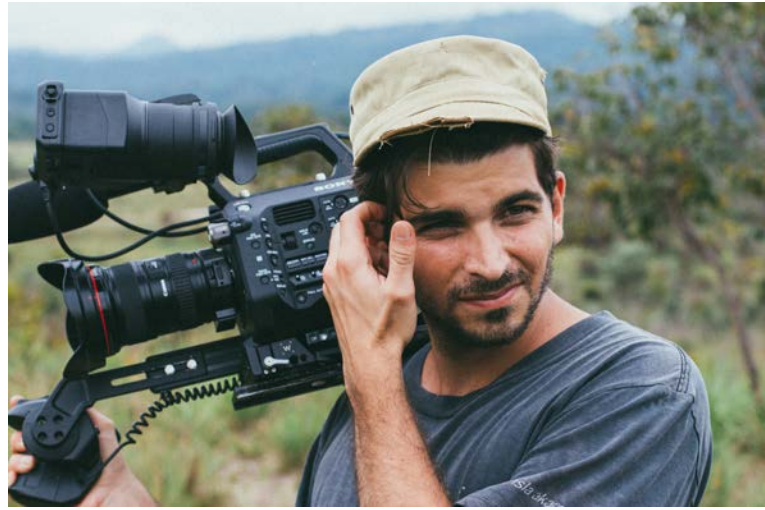


SYNOPSIS

Capturing the life of real people amidst the Venezuelan crisis, *La Soledad* is the story of José, a young father who discovers that the dilapidated mansion he occupies will soon be demolished. Desperate to save his family from homelessness, José begins a search for a cursed treasure that has long said to be buried in the house.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Jorge Thielen Armand is a Venezuelan director based in Toronto and Caracas. His debut feature film *LA SOLEDAD* had its world premiere at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival. Jorge's documentary *FLOR DE LA MAR* won the Jury Award for Best Documentary Short at the 2015 Cine Las Americas International Film Festival, and was screened at over 20 international festivals around the world including Margaret Mead, Sarasota, and RIDM. Jorge holds a Communication Studies BA from Concordia University in Montreal, and is an alumnus of Venice Biennale College Program, the Hot Docs Accelerator and the RIDM Talent Lab. In 2015 he founded La Faena with Rodrigo Michelangeli.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I remember discovering the vast gardens of great-grandma's house with José and my cousins; the stories of uncle Gonzalo had transformed La Soledad into a surreal place for us, and my encounters with the spirit of my great-grandfather drew me to this place all my life. I hadn't visited the house since I left Venezuela. I was away in North America for a while, but when I learned the house was going to be demolished I decided to return to Caracas. I wanted to make a film about my memories and the present of this dilapidated mansion with those who still live there. My father brought me to the house, and I saw José for the first time in eleven years; he lives in La Soledad with his family. I proposed we make a film together and he agreed.

The question of why my family had ceased the ritual of gathering weekly and on holidays interested me. The answer can be simplistic: it is common that the family nucleus breaks up after the senior family figure dies. But haven't the challenges, imposed on us by our broken country, impacted our relationships as well? Fascinated by what was left behind in La Soledad, I had a desire to conduct a kind of familial archaeological investigation.

I find our vestiges coexisting with the belongings of a new family—cement barbells conquer the antique sewing table, garden fountains have turned into fire pits, and motorcycles obstruct a six-foot painting in the once luxurious family room. The house is more than a metaphor for my

family's dispersal, it encapsulates the reality of today's Venezuela, forgotten in time, inhabited by people who have hope but who are not provided with opportunities. Amidst the economic chaos that plagues the country, moral values are also fading. In the film we see this through José's eyes, when he ventures into a hostile Caracas that provides no solutions to his real-life quest for a better future.

“...the house is more than a metaphor for my family's dispersal, it encapsulates the reality of today's Venezuela...”



La Biennale di Venezia presents
a La Faena Films & Alfarería Cinematográfica production

LA SOLEDAD

a film by Jorge Thielen Armand

Directed and Produced by **Jorge Thielen Armand**
Written by **Jorge Thielen Armand** and **Rodrigo Michelangeli**
Produced by **Adriana Herrera** and **Rodrigo Michelangeli**
Co-Produced by **Manon Ardisson**

Cast

Himself **José Dolores López**
Herself **Marley Alvillares**
Herself **Adrializ López**
Rosina **María Agamez**
Himself **Jorge Roque Thielen**

Crew

Cinematographer **Rodrigo Michelangeli**
Production Designer **Gabriela Vilchez**
Editor **Felipe Guerrero**
Sound Designer **Eli Cohn**
Costume Designer **Marisela Marin**
Production Manager **Carlos Luis Betancourt**
Post Supervisor **Fermín Branger**

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