

QUIZINE
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT
CANNES



PETRA

A FILM BY JAIME ROSALES

SYNOPSIS





The identity of Petra's father has been hidden from her all her life. When her mother dies, Petra embarks on a quest which leads to Jaume, a celebrated artist and a powerful, ruthless man. As she searches for the truth, Petra meets Marisa, Jaume's wife, and their son Lucas. Gradually the stories of these characters intertwine in a spiral of malice, family secrets and violence, which will drive them all to the edge. But fate's cruel logic is derailed by a twist that opens a path to hope and redemption.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



There is more than one theme to *Petra*. Each viewer will define the themes for themselves. But identity is important. As are fate and the conflict between good and evil. A tragic vein runs through the entire plot. If I had to summarize the subject of *Petra*, I would say it is a film about search and redemption.

Petra is a film that grew out of the need to reach out larger audiences than in my previous films. My first two films, *The Hours Of The Day* and *Solitary Fragments*, were released in theatres in the first decade of the new millennium. It was a time of great enthusiasm and even euphoria, just before the great crisis of the second decade. My film *The Dream And The Silence* (2012) was a bit of a swan song. At least, it was for me. With it-- my fourth film-- I ended a period as a filmmaker. *Beautiful Youth* was rather like starting over. *Petra* has been a further step along that new road.

Before I began to design the film, I had to go back to school. The best film school consists of films and books about cinema. Once again, I read the books and saw the films that marked my years of training. I went back to the classics and modern classics.

Film viewers want to have a good time. They want to be thrilled and moved. They want to be surprised. Surprise is the sap that feeds dramatic interest. The whole process consisted of creating a work that brought together attractive attributes. With Michel Gaztambide and Clara Roquet, co-writers of the screenplay, we went back to the classics. Aristotle was our beacon: "Everything must be surprising and necessary". Everything has been conceived to invite viewers to really get inside the film and travel with it. The journey is an inner one. Toward the interior of the characters and the viewers.

More than any of my previous films, *Petra* has been the result of a very participatory collective process. A central role was played by Bárbara Díez, the producer of the film and my partner in Fresdeval Films. She and I initiated the project and were joined quite generously by José María Morales, Antonio Chavarrías, Jérôme Dopffer and Katrin Pors. Their contributions enhanced the quality of the film. Thanks to them, we worked with an exceptional crew of Spaniards, French and Danes. It was wonderful to work with Hélène Louvart as DOP and with Kristian Eidnes Andersen for music composition. The cast, headed by Bárbara Lennie and Alex Brendemühl, understood perfectly the contained acting style I wanted. Combining internationally renowned actors like Marisa Paredes with natural actors like Joan Botey was one of the greatest challenges of the film.

Jaime Rosales



JAIME ROSALES

DIRECTOR AND SCREENWRITER — Barcelona, 1970

After receiving a degree in Business Economics from ESADE, his devotion to film was fostered when he won a scholarship in 1996 to study film at the prestigious International Film and Television School in San Antonio de los Baños (EICTV) in Havana and then at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) in Sydney. Since 2000 he has developed all his projects as a director with his production company Fresdeval Films.

Filmography

The Hours Of The Day

Cannes Festival 2003. Directors' Fortnight
FIPRESCI International Critics' Award

Solitary Fragments

Cannes Festival 2007. Un Certain Regard

Bullet In The Head

San Sebastian Festival 2008. In Competition
FIPRESCI International Critics' Award

The Dream And The Silence

Cannes Festival 2012. Directors' Fortnight

Beautiful Youth

Cannes Festival 2012. Un Certain Regard
Ecumenical Special Jury Award

Petra

Cannes Festival 2018. Directors' Fortnight



Bárbara Lennie


Bárbara Lennie had her cinema debut at the age of fifteen with the film *More Grief Than Glory* (2001) by Víctor García León. She performed her first leading role in Montxo Armendáriz' *Obaba* (2005), which earned her first nomination for the Goya Award for Best New Actress. Since then, she has combined roles in hit TV series including *Amar es para siempre* and *Isabel* with a solid career in film including roles in *13 Roses* by Emilio Martínez Lázaro, *The Skin I Live In* by Pedro Almodóvar, and *Orange Honey* by Imanol Uribe. In 2014 she starred in *Magical Girl* by Carlos Vermut (Golden Shell winner at the San Sebastian Film Festival) and won the Goya Award for Best Actress. She also participated in *El Niño* by Daniel Monzón, which brought her another nomination for the Goya Award for Best Supporting Actress. She has also appeared in risky projects such as *Dying Beyond Their Means* by Isaki Lacuesta, *Maria (And Everybody Else)* by Nely Reguera, which led to another nomination for the Goya Award for Best Actress, and *The Apostate* by Federico Veiroj. She is in *Everybody Knows* by Asghar Farhadi, opening film of this year's Cannes Film Festival.





Alex Brendemühl

Alex Brendemühl had his debut in a starring cinema role in *A Bench In The Park* directed by Agustí Vila (1998). After shooting *The Hours Of The Day* (Jaime Rosales, 2003) he shot *In The City* (Cesc Gay, 2004) and *Remake* (Roger Gual, 2005). He won the Sant Jordi Award for Best Actor in 2008 for his performances in *Me* (Rafa Cortés, 2007) and *The Silence Before Bach* (Pere Portabella, 2007). The success of *Me* --which he also wrote-- led him to direct his first short film, *Rumbo a peor*, screened as part of the Official Selection of the Cannes Film Festival in 2009. In 2010 he won the Gaudí Award for Best Actor for *The Two Lives Of Andres Rabadan* by Ventura Durall. We have also seen him in *Dying Beyond Their Means* by Isaki Lacuesta, *Ma-ma* by Julio Medem, and *Truman* by Cesc Gay. Recently, he starred with Marion Cotillard in *From The Land Of The Moon* by Nicole García, which competed in the Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival in 2016.



Joan Botey

Joan Botey is a chemical and agricultural engineer. He worked as a chemical engineer in the plastics and painting industries for most of his career in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. He is the proprietor of Fitor, a large, beautiful country estate in the Empordà region that he inherited from his father. In recent years, he has been engaged in exploiting the estate. His unique approach to nature and society has allowed him to do business with cork production, hunting, tourism and hiking. He published a book about biodiversity that includes his own watercolour paintings. *Petra* marks his first role as an actor.

Marisa Paredes

Marisa Paredes is one of Spain's most renowned actresses at the national and international level. Outstanding among her numerous cinema roles are the films she made with Pedro Almodóvar, such as *High Heels* (1991), *The Flower Of My Secret* (1995), *All About My Mother* (1999), *Talk To Her* (2002) and *The Skin I Live In* (2010). She has also appeared in films by Arturo Ripstein such as *Deep Crimson* (1996) and *No One Writes To The Colonel* (1999). She worked with Guillermo del Toro in *The Devil's Backbone* (2001) and Roberto Benigni in *Life Is Beautiful* (1997). She has worked with directors including Carlos Saura, José Luis Borau, Jaime Chávarri and José Luis Garci. She has received countless awards for her memorable performances as well as lifetime achievement tributes. She has had an extensive and prestigious stage career in addition to her work heading institutions, such as her tenure as President of the Spanish Film Academy. In 2018 she received the Goya Award for Lifetime Achievement.





Cast list

Petra
BÁRBARA LENNIE

Lucas
ALEX BRENDEMÜHL

Jaume
JOAN BOTEY

Marisa
MARISA PAREDES

Julia
PETRA MARTÍNEZ

Teresa
CARME PLA

Pau
ORIOI PLA

Juanjo
CHEMA DEL BARCO

Martha
NATALIE MADUEÑO



Main crew

Director
JAIME ROSALES

Creative Producer
BÁRBARA DÍEZ

Screenplay
JAIME ROSALES
MICHEL GAZTAMBIDE
CLARA ROQUET

Composer
KRISTIAN SELIN EIDNES ANDERSEN

Director of Photography
HÉLÈNE LOUVART (afc)

Line Producer
BÁRBARA DÍEZ

Art Director
VICTORIA PAZ ÁLVAREZ

Editor
LUCÍA CASAL

Sound Design & Sound Mix
CARLOS E. GARCÍA

Sound Recordist
NICOLÁS TSABERTIDIS

Costume Designer
IRATXE SANZ

Make-up
CHICHA BLANCO

Casting
SARA BILBATÚA
MARÍA RODRIGO

First AD
ÀLEX VILÀ

Producers
BÁRBARA DÍEZ
JOSÉ MARÍA MORALES
ANTONIO CHAVARRÍAS
JÉRÔME DOPFFER
KATRIN PORS
MIKKEL JERSIN
EVA JAKOBSEN

Associate Producers
MIGUEL MORALES
ÀNGELS MASCLANS



Technical data

Original Title: PETRA

Spain / France / Denmark — 2018

35mm (1:2,39), Dolby digital 5.1, colour

107 minutes

Spanish and Catalan

Year: 2018

Shot in Madrid and north of Girona

PETRA IS A FILM PRODUCTION BY



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WORLD SALES



SCREENINGS IN CANNES

May 10th (Thu) 08.45am • Marriott Theatre Croisette
May 10th (Thu) 08.45pm • Marriott Theatre Croisette — Official screening
May 11th (Fri) 07.00pm • Studio 13
May 12th (Sat) 11.30am • La Licorne

MARKET SCREENINGS IN CANNES

May 11th (Fri) 03.30pm • Gray 2
May 12th (Sat) 6.00pm • Riviera 1

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Riviera A5 Cinema from Spain



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