



Las cinéphilas

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY MARÍA ÁLVAREZ

CHELO



Reviews

“I see everything through the eyes of cinema”, says Estela, one of the main characters in María Alvarez’s documentary. The film follows several retired women who spend most of their time going to the cinema in Spain, Uruguay and Argentina. With patience and sensitivity, the director presents them, lets them be and talk about their passion for cinema, which slowly leads them to reveal other aspects of their lives: their eagerness for knowledge, the losses that moulded them, their intelligence, their fantasies and, above all, their touching loneliness.

LA NACION - Natalia Trzenko

Alvarez’s first great decision is the selection of her cast. The second is her capacity to photograph their souls. **ESPECTADORES - María Bertoni**

In *Las cinéphilas* María Alvarez explores the pleasures of the last loneliness. The documentary of the Argentine director entwines the lives of six retired, cinema fanatics, old women.

RAMIRO BARREIRO - EL PAIS

As a way of answering the question what do you want to be when you grow up?, the director constructs a documentary in real time which simultaneously suggests possible scenarios for her own future. In her first film, María Alvarez pays a sensible -and necessary- tribute to the seventh art through a solid job of casting, choosing these women who recommend how the movie should start and move like fish in water in movie theatres like La Lugones or Sala Chaplin, those fictional oceans where “the cinephiles” are never alone and are always hunting for that lost time. **CINEMASONOR - Mercedes Orden**

Obsessive, imaginative, curious and funny, the cast of *Las cinéphilas* loves cinema, and thanks to Alvarez’s work and point of view, it turns out that the cinema loves them too.

CENTRO DE INFORMES

The camera captured them, took them to the big screen and left them forever in the memory of mortals: us, the viewers. **CINERAMAPLUS+ - Mariana Ruiz**

Through the lighting on their close-ups that emulates the big screen, *Las cinéphilas* reflects on the importance of cinema, not only as an art but also through what we look at, as a shaper of who we are. **SUBJETIVA - Marcela Barbaro**

The interweaving is skilful, fluid and heterogenic. María Alvarez seems to have kilometres of celluloid behind her eyes. One of the small jewels of BAFICI that turns the screen into a mirror and makes us ask ourselves: Will that be me in the future?

FANDANGO - Gabriela Botello

In other hands, this material could have taken the grim road of cynicism; instead, its humanism is one of its merits. The other great merit of *Las cinéphilas* is how it grows together with its characters, little by little, shaking us in uncomfortable ways, depending on how sincere we want to be with ourselves, moving away from stereotypes, sometimes digging deeply into them, sometimes opposing them. *Las cinéphilas* confronts us with what we are and what we fear to be. And with what, in the end, we’ll end up being. If everything goes well.

EL ANGEL EXTERMINADOR - Griselda Soriano

Las cinéphilas is a small and endearing love letter to eternal cinema. María Alvarez’s camera strips the women in their solitude, the ravages of old age, their never-ending and sometimes absurd rituals, in frank talks about their sex lives. These are not idealized women, they are, in good English, the real deal. **DESISTFILM - José Sarmiento Hinojosa**

Las cinéphilas is a simple, effective and, maybe, subversive film: we usually believe that “cinephilia” is a male passion. **PAGINA 12 - Horacio Bernardes**

PALOMA



Synopsis

Las cinéphilas are retired women from Spain, Argentina and Uruguay who go to the cinema every day. Like drops of water, fiction leaks into their lives and leaves a mark on their memory.

Credits

CAST LUCÍA AGUIRRE, NORMA BARBARO, ESTELA CLAVERÍA, PALOMA DIEZ-PICASSO
CHELO PLAZA DOMÍNGUEZ **AND** LEOPOLDINA NOVOA

A DOCUMENTARY FILM WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARÍA ALVAREZ

PRODUCED BY TIRSO DIAZ-JARES RUEDA AND MARÍA ALVAREZ EDITED BY MARÍA ALVAREZ
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER DANIEL ROSENFELD DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TIRSO DIAZ-JARES RUEDA
FINAL EDITING CONSULTANT RAQUEL MARRACO PEIRES IMAGE POST & DCP JULIÁN GIULANELLI
COLOR CORRECTION GUSTAVO BIAZZI SOUND MIX GASPAS SCHEUER (ÑANDU STUDIO) AND
GABRIEL GUTIERREZ (MENOSDOCEDB) GRAPHIC DESIGN MARTÍN LEHMANN

ESTELA



DIRECTOR'S NOTES— María Álvarez

Las cinéphilas is a choral documentary about several retired women who live in Spain, Uruguay and Argentina and go to the cinema every day.

Since I was a film student, I've been seeing these ladies, sharing matinee shows with them. They were there, and still are: "the cinephiles". We always see them. So, I decided to film them.

The biggest challenge was to construct a tale with a dramatic arc, without a voice-over or a concrete story; to take the viewer on a journey from "cinephile" to "cinephile", intertwining their stories to build one unique character that reveals the constant dialogue between fiction and life. Each one of these women is a different aspect of the same character: my own future.

Beyond the love of film, I was interested in the cinema as a place that contains solitude and passage of time, cinema as a "date" that motivates these old women to dress up and leave their homes, to be at a certain place at a certain time. What would they do if movie theatres didn't exist? I did not want to make a film about movies. Movies and cinema are two different things. And cinema is a (great) excuse to talk about something else.

LEOPOLDINA



Film Biographies

María Álvarez – Writer / Director

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

She wrote “Burn before Reading”, an award-winning play (Fray Luis de León Second Prize, Spain), published in 2017.

In 2012, she wrote the short film “The Sea”, a participant in the Official Competition at the Mar del Plata Film Festival and in the alternative short section at the Cannes Film Festival.

In 2010-2011, she directed “The Bank”, a fictional documentary (eight ½-hour chapters) about the history of the National Bank of Argentina. Fragments are available here: <http://alvarezreel.blogspot.com.es>

She has extensive experience as a first assistant director in film and advertising production in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Spain.

She is also the author of an art blog: loescriboportubien.blogspot.com

Las cinéphilas is her first feature film.

Tirso Diaz- Jares Rueda – Producer

Born in Madrid, Spain, on October the 4th, 1965.

During 2015 and 2016, he produces and photographs *Las cinéphilas*.

He works as a First AD in films such as “Solo o en compañía de otros” (1991) by Santiago San Miguel, “Fuera de Juego” (1991) by Fernando Fernán Gomez, “La Mansión de los Cthulhu” (1992) by J.P.Simon, “Hay que zurrar a los pobres” (1993) by Santiago San Miguel, “Tatiana, la muñeca rusa” (1995) by Santiago San Miguel, “The Last Serious Thing” (2003) by Michael Haussman, “Sing for Darfur” (2008) by Johan Kramer and “Johan Primero” (2010) by Johan Kramer.

He works intensively as a 1st AD on production services all around the world with directors such as Michael Haussman, Adam Berg, Tom Kuntz, Fredrik Bond, Ringan Lledwige, Craig Gillespie, Lance Accord, Joachim Back, Johan Renck, Henry Alex-Rubin, Malcolm Venville, Romain Gavras, amongst many more.

He started to work in professional cinema in the AD department in films such as “La Vaquilla”(1985) by Luis García Berlanga, “Crimen en Familia” (1985) by Santiago San Miguel, “Oceano” (1989) by Ruggero Deodato and “The Rift” (1990) by J.P. Simon.

Daniel Rosenfeld – Associate Producer

Buenos Aires, 1973. Screenwriter, director and producer

Directed and produced “Saluzzi”, “La quimera de los héroes”, “Cornelia frente al espejo” y “Al centro de la tierra”; awarded in different festivals.

He also produced, “La calle de los pianistas”, amongst other films..

www.danielrosenfeldfilms.com

LUCÍA



Film Festivals / Awards



World Premiere - Audience Award, Best Argentinian Film, BAFICI 19 – April, 2017



International Premiere – Screenings: Friday August 4th, 2017 - 11h00, Kursaal
Saturday August 5th, 2017 - 18h30, L'altra Sala

NORMA



Info

Las cinéphilas

Argentina 2017 / Color / 71m / DCP 2k / Spanish (English Subtitles) / All Audiences (G)

Shot in Argentina (CABA & Mar del Plata), Uruguay (Montevideo) and Spain (Madrid).

© Copyright 2017-María Alvarez

Contact

lascinephilas@gmail.com

María Alvarez

Tirso Diaz-Jares

Daniel Rosenfeld

<https://web.facebook.com/lascinephilas>

alvarez.amaria@gmail.com

aupatirso@gmail.com

rosenfeld.daniel@gmail.com

An aerial night view of a coastal promenade. The sky is a mix of dark blue and orange, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The promenade is illuminated by a series of streetlights, and the ocean is visible in the background. The text "Las cinéphilas" is centered in the image.

Las cinéphilas