

# DAYS OF THE WHALE

A Film By  
CATALINA ARROYAVE

## SYNOPSIS

Cristina and Simon are two young graffiti artists from Medellín, a city that deals with the consequences of a violent history. They defy their environment when they decide to paint a mural over a threat written in a wall.

THE  
WALLS  
ARE OURS



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*Cristina and Simon are two young graffiti artists who paint the city that they live in, Medellín. Their restless spirit leads them to defy a criminal gang when they decide to paint a mural over a threat written in a wall. The love that unites them, their friendship with other artists at La selva- an old house they use as a refuge- and familiar tensions, come together to tell a story were the powerful strength of youth faces fear, violence and the difficulties of growing up.*

## **DIRECTOR`S NOTE**

*Days of the whale is a movie that I wrote wanting to speak about my growing up years in the context of Medellín. A period of time, a series of days. I wanted to talk about the people I fell in love with, the time I spent talking about nothing, walking, and wanting to do an abstract thing that materialized in the idea of changing the world. That combined with an imminent reality that came across when I graduated from the University and started working in films as an assistant director: most of the city of Medellín is governed by mafia gangs that impose their law in the territories they control.*

*I have always been obsessed with freedom, and that took me to write a story about my contempt with that criminal reality and the desire of rebelling against it. I started fantasizing about using the stories that my graffiti artist friends told me about their adventures in the streets, dealing with the owners of each territory, and also with using the colors, rhythm and textures of this universe to make a film. That's how Days of the whale was conceived.*

*Afterwards, other ideas appeared: speaking about colombian middle class, scarcely represented in our cine-*

*matography; speaking about my friends, about people that have surrounded me, and giving them a place in a personal story that touches a delicate subject of our context today; using the music that has accompanied us to grow up (salsa, reggetón, rap); speaking with honesty about being a woman and not idealizing the female character, showing a girl that is strong and vulnerable at the same time; and finally, speaking with a cinematographic language was simple, fresh, able to communicate with a wide audience (not only intellectuals): a fluid camera, natural actors and realistic ambients.*

*Since I write in paper most of the time, I wanted to enjoy the moment of filmmaking and wanted to create a powerful aesthetic experience, so we focused the photography and sound on telling the story, but also in creating interesting images and atmospheres.*

*Inspired by Patti Smith's Just kids, and movies such as I promise you anarchy (Julio Hernández Cordón), Fish tank (Andrea Arnold), And your mother too (Alfonso Cuarón) and some of Noah Baumbach and Cassavetes films, I decided to throw myself into the process of making Days of the whale.*





# CATALINA ARROYAVE'S FILMOGRAPHY



*Catalina Arroyave majored in Social Communication and studied filmmaking in Argentina and Cuba. In 2010 she co-funded Rara, an art house producing company based in Medellín. Also, she worked as an assistant director, actor coach and teacher for several years. Her debut film Days of the whale won two screenplay awards, the most important Colombian production fund (FDC), and premiered in SXSW, alongside other Festivals selection as FICCI and BAFICI.*



# CREW AND CAST

## Producer

Jaime Guerrero

## Co-producers

Natalia Agudelo/ Nicolás Herreño

## Executive producers

Jaime Guerrero / Camilo Escobar/ David Correa / Mariana Gil / Andrés Arias / Juan Pablo Castrillón/ Catalina Arroyave

## Writer and director

Catalina Arroyave

## Cinematographer

David Correa F.

## Production designer

Tatiana Vera

## Sound designer

Daniel Vásquez y Sebastián Alzate

## Direct sound

Alejandro Escobar

## Music

Víctor Acevedo

## Cast

Laura Tobón/ David Escallón/ Carlos Fonnegra/ Christian Tappan

## Editing

Juan Sebastián Quebrada



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d35

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FilMedellín

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# PROJECT'S HISTORY

## Festivals

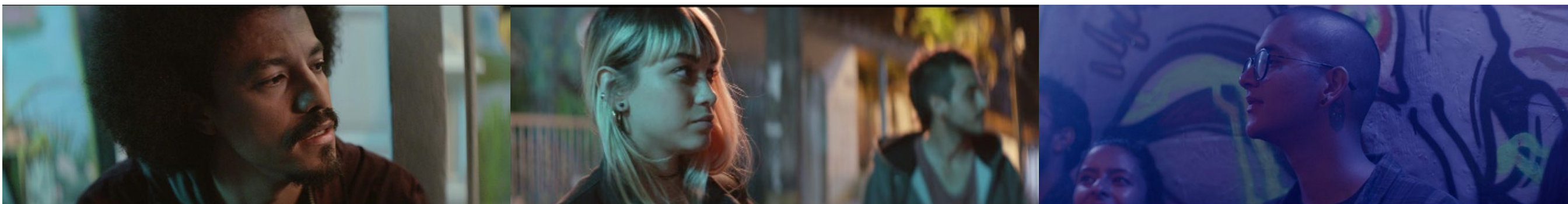
- SXSW international film festival
- FICCI, Festival Internacional de Cine de Cartagena de Indias
- BAFICI, Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Cinema
- Colfilm NY, Festival de Cine Colombiano de Nueva York
- FICBA, Festival de Cine Colombiano de Buenos Aires
- IndieBo, Festival internacional de cine independiente de Bogotá
- Melbourne International Film Festival
- Filmar América Latina
- Festival Latino de Trieste
- Festival Internacional de Cine de Monterrey
- Zurich Film Festival
- Malmo Latín American Fokus



## Awards

- CherryPicks Female First Feature Award in SXSW film festival
- Audience award at Colfilm New York
- Best colombian feature film in work in progress at the Bogotá Audiovisual Market (BAM)
- Winner of the Medellín's film commission incentive for Feature Films in production
- Colombian production development fund in the category of First Feature Films
- Winner of the screenwriting fund of Medellín's Mayoralty for First Feature Films
- Grant to participate in the International Screenwriting Lab- Labguion of Cinefilia corporation

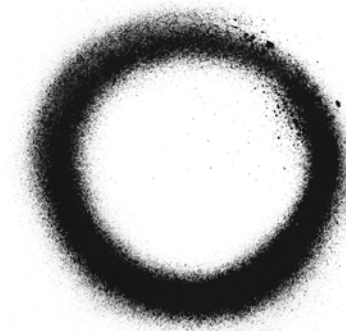




# SOUNDTRACK

- **“Medellín”** by *Los árboles*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSsx\\_clv3wM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSsx_clv3wM)
- **“Rumba cachao”** by *Siguarajazz*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_KbSdiyNEo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_KbSdiyNEo)
- **“Magdalena”** by *Hombre memoria*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtWxgVr80tg>
- **“Equipo de carretera”** by *Alcolirykoz*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xt6i4d40MHA>

- **“Vengo acabando”** by *Alberto Stylee*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgCIVliziWg>
- **“Punto rojo”** by *Mañas*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljtCGoCkQJk&spfreload=10>
- **“Convergencia”** by *Miguelito Cuní*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_9CEmzqHtNO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_9CEmzqHtNO)
- **“Esas cosas”** by *Doble porción*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGeQso\\_jlJs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGeQso_jlJs)



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