

A FERNANDO TRUEBA PC SA, THEY SHOT THE PIANO PLAYER AIE, LES FILMS D'ICI MÉDITERRANÉE, SUBMARINE SUBLIME, ANIMANOSTRA, GAO SHAN PICTURES, JULIÁN PIKER & FERMÍN SL, ARTE FRANCE CINÉMA, PRO DUCCIONES TONDERO, SAC Production

THEY SHOT THE PIANO PLAYER



A film by Academy Award® winner **Fernando Trueba** and Academy Award® nominee **Javier Mariscal**

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SYNOPSIS

A New York music journalist goes on a quest to uncover the truth behind the mysterious disappearance of young Brazilian piano virtuoso Tenorio Jr.

A celebratory origin story of the world-renowned Latino musical movement Bossa Nova, *They Shot The Piano Player* captures a fleeting time bursting with creative freedom at a turning point in Latin American history in the 60s and 70s, just before the continent was engulfed by totalitarian regimes.

LONG SYNOPSIS

It's 2010 and Jeff Harris, a journalist from New York, has just published a piece in *The New Yorker* on the 50 years of Bossa Nova.

Jessica, an enthusiastic editor who is captivated by the article, suggests that he write a book about this influential musical movement that revolutionized music in Brazil and around the world during the early 1960s.

While researching his new project, Jeff stumbles upon a pianist previously unknown to him: Tenório Jr. He begins to investigate and discovers that the pianist has not produced or recorded any music for over thirty years. He assumes that he must've died the way most of the musicians did back in the 70s: drugs or an accident while on tour...

He travels to Rio de Janeiro to continue his research on Bossa Nova where he meets musicians of all generations, from the survivors of the Bossa Nova era to the younger talents who continue to shape its legacy.

But the story of Tenório Jr. constantly intertwines with his journey. He discovers that Tenório disappeared in Buenos Aires during a tour on which he accompanied the great musical poet Vinicius de Moraes, and that Tenório was tortured and killed, and his body never found. He was 35 years old and was at that time one of the most brilliant instrumentalists of Brazilian music.

The mystery surrounding Tenório's tragic fate and the quality of his music eventually seduces Jeff. He continues to work on his book on Bossa Nova, but the story of Tenório does not leave him for a moment. Most of the musicians he meets and interviews were acquaintances, friends, and admirers of Tenório. The oblivion enveloping Tenório's story has not managed to erase him from the memory of those who knew him.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I like jazz. I like Brazilian music.

About four years ago, while listening to a Brazilian album from the 1960s, the piano caught my attention. I looked at the album cover and found a name that meant nothing to me: Tenório Jr.

I tried to learn more about him, if he had any albums under his name as a leader. Yes, in 1966, when he was twenty-five years old, he recorded an album called "Embaló," but it had been out of print for a long time. Almost 40 years had passed. What had he done since then? What had become of him?

Through the Internet, I discovered that he had collaborated on various albums with different artists: Milton Nascimento, Gal Costa, Egberto Gismonti, among others, but the latest ones were from 1975. It had been 30 years.

That was when I stumbled upon his story. Tenório died in March '76, at the age of 35. Actually, it cannot be said that he died. He simply vanished. He was in Buenos Aires accompanying Vinicius de Moraes and Toquinho. The night after the last concert, he went out to the street, and no one ever saw him again.

I couldn't believe it. A Brazilian pianist who disappears in Argentina? Why? I tried to find out more. Tenório went out to buy a sandwich—some say cigarettes, others medication, others...

It was 2 a.m. on March 18th. Six days before the military coup. But the coup on the 24th was only the official culmination of something that had been on the streets for a while.

The regime of Isabelita Perón was taking its last breaths, and in the streets of Buenos Aires, military groups, paramilitaries, and extreme left-wing Peronist guerrillas were waging a silent, undeclared war. Gunshots, bombs, murders, the first "disappearances"...

But what did all that have to do with a pianist? With a Brazilian pianist?

Tenório's disappearance left Brazilian musicians bewildered. They all think it must be a mistake. Tenório is a person with no known political activism. They all believed it was just a matter of days before Tenório reappeared.

That's what everyone in Rio de Janeiro hoped for. Especially one person, Carmen Cerqueira, Tenório's wife. They had four children, and Carmen was eight months pregnant with their fifth.

Finally, I managed to obtain a copy of "Embaló," that had been reissued in Japan. The album is fantastic. Some of Brazil's greatest musicians play on it: Paulo Moura, Raúl de Souza, Milton Banana, J.T. Meirelles... When the album was recorded, Tenório hadn't even turned 24 yet. At that time, he was still a medical student who, at night, revolutionized Brazil's music (meaning, the world's music) in some of the bars of the now legendary and disappeared "Beco das Garrafas" (Alley of Bottles), where musicians gathered for endless jam sessions that shaped the Brazilian variant of jazz: "Samba-jazz," the instrumental aspect of Bossa Nova.

Tom Jobim, João Gilberto, Baden Powell, Sergio Mendes, Luiz Eça, Deodato, etc... are some of the major players in a golden age that put Brazilian music at the forefront of the world's music. Tenório Júnior, along with Luiz Eça and João Donato, formed the triumvirate of great Brazilian pianists.

For several years, I traveled to different places in Brazil, Argentina, the United States, France... seeking people who could tell me about Tenório, who he was, what he was like, tell me things about his life, his music, his tragic disappearance.

After more than 150 hours of interviews with people directly connected to Tenório, one day I decide to start writing the script for "They Shot the Piano Player." I choose animation as the most suitable language to recreate his life, his music, and his era.

FERNANDO TRUEBA

THE BRAZIL OF THE BOSSA NOVA

The Bossa Nova musical movement erupted in Brazil at the end of the 1950s. A contemporary of the French Nouvelle Vague and American Hard-Bop, the Bossa Nova was an update, a modernization of the samba that would alter popular Brazilian music forever and have an enormous influence worldwide.

Its forefathers were João Gilberto, Vinicius de Moraes and Antonio Carlos Jobim. On a Copacabana dead-end street known as el Beco das Garrafas, there was a quartet of small clubs that produced a whole generation of musicians: Luiz Eça and the Tamba Trío, Sergio Mendes, Elis Regina, Baden Powell, and more.

In the mid-1960s, other musical movements influenced by the Bossa Nova appeared in Brazil: la MPB (Música Popular Brasileira/Brazilian Popular Music) from musicians Chico Buarque, Edu Lobo and others; the Tropicalia movement composed of Gilberto Gil and Caetano Veloso; and the Clube da Esquina Collectove formed by Milton Nascimento in Minais Gerais.

Though the duration of the Bossa Nova movement was relatively short, its influence in Brazilian music, and music worldwide, can still be felt today. It was a golden age, like the Impressionism period in France, the generation of '27 in Spain, which seduced composers and musical performers around the globe, including U.S. artists such as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, and Coleman Hawkins... few could resist the bewitching spell of the Bossa Nova.

WITH THE VOICES OF

JEFF GOLDBLUM as JEFF HARRIS

TONY RAMOS as JOÃO

ABEL AYALA as CLAUDIO VELLEJOS

ROBERTA WALLACH as JESSICA

ÂNGELA RABELO as SUZANA DE MORAES

STEPHEN HUGHES as JOHN ROWLES

ALEJANDRA FLECHNER as DÕNA HAYDEE

FEATURED MUSICIANS

VINCIUS DE MORAES

TOM JOBIM

JOÃO GILBERTO

CAETANO VELOSO

MILTON NASCIMENTO

GILBERTO GIL

PAULO MOURA

JOÃO DONATO

MUTINHO

ARETHA FRANKLIN

FILMMAKERS

**Directed by
Fernando Treuba and Javier Mariscal**

**Written by
Fernando Treuba**

**Produced by
Cristina Huete, Serge Laloand, Sophie Cabon, Bruno Felix, Janneke van
der Kerkhof, Femke Wolling, Humberto Santana**

**Associate Producer
Arnaud Boulard**

**Executive Producers
Nano Arrieta, Ulrik Frémont, Fabien Westerhof, Juan Carlos Concha**

**Technical Director
Juan Carlos Concha**

**Character Design
Marcello Quintanilha**

**Animation Director
Carlos León Sancha**

**Editor
Arnau Quiles Pascuai**

ABOUT THE CREW

FERNANDO TRUEBA

Fernando Trueba (Madrid, 1955) made his debut in 1980 with "Ópera prima" (1980). The film revitalized Spanish comedy, garnered awards at the Venice and Chicago festivals, and achieved great box-office success. This marked the beginning of a long career filled with triumphs and awards.

With "El año de las luces" (1986) Trueba won the Silver Bear at the Berlin Festival and the first of numerous Goya awards the Spanish Film Academy has recognized him with over the years. His films have amassed a total of 69 nominations and his cast and crew have received the award on 32 occasions - A record difficult to beat.

In 1989 he surprised audiences with the English-language psychological thriller "The Mad Monkey" (1989), which won 5 Goya awards, including Best Film, Best Director and Best Screenplay.

In 1992, he received the Oscar© for Best Foreign Language Film with "Belle Epoque" (1992), which also won the Bafta and 9 Goya Awards, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Actress and Best Actor and Supporting Actress.

"La niña de tus ojos" (1998) became another great success and was the big winner at that year's Goya Awards with seven awards, including Best Film, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actor.

With "Calle 54" (2000), Trueba managed to unite his two passions, film and music, in a tribute to the Latin jazz masters. The documentary not only received the Goya award for Best Documentary but also the Best Film Award from the USA Jazz Journalists Association.

"El Embrujo de Shanghai" (2002) received three Goya awards, while "El milagro de Candeal" (2004), received Best Documentary and Best Song. The latter unites film and music once again to portray the social work of a community in Salvador de Bahia (Brazil). Trueba's next adventure, "Chico & Rita" (2010), his first animated film in collaboration with Javier Mariscal, once again took him to the Hollywood Academy Awards, and was the first Spanish film nominated for the Oscar© for Best Animated Film.

"Chico & Rita" received the award for Best European Animated Film at the European Film Awards, the Goya for Best Spanish Animated Film, the Grand Prix HAFF at the Animation Film Festival in Holland, and the Best Animated Feature (TrickFilm Stuttgart), among other honors. The film was also nominated for the Annie Awards for Best Animated Feature and for the 83rd Academy Awards in the same category.

Trueba delved into the mysteries of art and creation with "The Artist and the Model" (2011), which earned him the Best Director Award at the San Sebastian Festival and brought together two film legends, Jean Rochefort and Claudia Cardinale.

"La reina de España" (2016), was presented in the Official Selection of the Berlin Festival, while "El olvido que seremos" (2020), an adaptation of the novel of the same name by Colombian Héctor Abad Faciolince, won the Goya for Best Ibero-American Film, along with five Platino Awards, among others. It was released as "Memories of My Father" in the US in 2022.

Music, Trueba's other great passion, has played an increasingly significant role in his films. Since "Calle 54", he has developed a parallel career as a music producer, collaborating with artists such as the legendary Cuban pianist and composer Bebo Valdés, the guitarist Niño Josele, the singer Estrella Morente, and rumbero Pedrito Martínez, among others

The album "Lágrimas Negras", in which he brings together Bebo Valdés and Diego "El Cigala", was a worldwide success, described by American critics as "an instant classic".

On the soundtrack of "Chico & Rita", perhaps his most complex work as a music producer, Trueba worked with Cuban, American, and Spanish music greats including Bebo Valdés, Jimmy Heath, Estrella Morente, Freddy Cole, and many more

His productions have been recognized internationally with three Grammy© Awards, for "El arte del sabor" (2000), "Bebo de Cuba" (2004), and "Juntos para siempre" (2008). He has also received six Latin Grammy© Awards for "El arte del sabor" (2000), "Lágrimas Negras" (2002), "Bebo de Cuba" (2004), "Bebo" (2005), "Juntos para siempre" (2008) and "Blanco y Negro" (2003), the latter in the category of Best Feature Film Music Video.

JAVIER MARISCAL

Javier Mariscal (Valencia, 1950) is, above all, an artist who develops his work in all kinds of media and disciplines. Furniture design, interior design, graphic design, landscaping, painting, sculpture, illustration, web and multimedia design and animation are the object of his professional activities.

In his own words: "My specialty is being creative, innovative, stretching the language, trying to evolve codes, signs, and graphic messages. Bring them up to date. Listening, being a sponge, observing, capturing in images what society breathes, what we believe in, what excites us and the ideas that are changing.

To do this "I have used any system, language or discipline that I have had at my disposal".

Closely linked to comics, Mariscal gained recognition in the 70s for his cartoons of "Señor Caballito", and later, for "Los Garririsis" which have accompanied him throughout his career. During the 80's he stood out for his work in industrial design, with one of his most highly regarded pieces being the "Duplex" stool, created alongside his interior design for the Valencian Bar of the same name. These works led him to collaborate with the Memphis group.

In 1979 he created one of his most iconic pieces, the image "BAR CEL ONA", which became a symbol of the city.

In the 90's, he was chosen to design the official mascot for the Barcelona '92 Olympic Games, with "Cobi" becoming the most profitable mascot in the history of the Olympics.

Together with the Estudio Mariscal team, which he founded in 1989, he has undertaken numerous projects. These include furniture design for Moroso, numerous covers for the prestigious magazine "The New Yorker", the interior design of the Hotel Dómine in Bilbao, the H&M store in Barcelona, as well as its graphics, the 11th floor of the Hotel Puerta América Madrid, the logo for the radio station Onda Cero, and the image and communication of Camper for Kids, among others.

During the 2000s, we can highlight the animated series "Twipsy", based on the mascot created for the Universal Expo in Hannover. Mariscal's work in animation has been present throughout his career, extending into other realms such as his lecture "Colors", which was later adapted to the theater. He is also closely linked to the music industry, having designed numerous album covers as well as the global image of the Latin Jazz label Calle 54.

In 2009 he held an exhibition of his work at the Design Museum in London, and released two monographic publications: Mariscal Drawing Life and Sketches. In 2010 Barcelona hosted the

retrospective exhibition Mariscal at La Pedrera. That same year he released the animated feature film "Chico & Rita", directed by Fernando Trueba.

His recent projects include a retrospective exhibition in Seoul, the graphic image for the La Mercè festivities in Barcelona, and the graphics, interior design, and sculptures for the Les Glòries shopping center. Mariscal proposes a link with our Mediterranean culture and presents a way of understanding the world and life with which we connect effortlessly.

ABOUT THE CAST

JEFF GOLBLUM

Jeff Goldblum is an American actor, musician, and film producer.

Goldblum's breakthrough role came in 1986 when he portrayed the scientist Dr. Seth Brundle in David Cronenberg's science fiction horror film "The Fly." This performance earned him critical acclaim and a Saturn Award for Best Actor.

In 1993, Goldblum achieved widespread recognition for his portrayal of the witty mathematician Dr. Ian Malcolm in Steven Spielberg's blockbuster hit "Jurassic Park." The film was a massive success, becoming one of the highest-grossing movies of all time, with Goldblum's charismatic performance earning him a Saturn Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

Other notable roles include his performances in "Independence Day" (1996) and its sequel "Independence Day: Resurgence" (2016), Marvel's "Thor: Ragnarok" (2017) which earned him a Saturn Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor. His most recent film credits include his return as Dr. Ian Malcolm in "Jurassic World Dominion" and his portrayal as The Alien in Wes Anderson's "Asteroid City".

One of Goldblum's notable television roles was in the crime drama series "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," where he portrayed Detective Zach Nichols. His work on the show earned him a Saturn Award nomination for Best Actor in a Television Series. His documentary series "The World According to Jeff Goldblum" in which he hosts has earned him Emmy nominations for Outstanding Hosted Nonfiction Series in both 2020 and 2022.

Aside from acting, Goldblum is an accomplished jazz pianist and has released albums with his band, The Mildred Snitzer Orchestra, including his most recent release "Plays Well with Others", showcasing his musical talent and love for jazz.

SHARED THEIR VOICES, OPINIONS, MEMORIES AND MUSIC

**Malena Barretto
Raymundo Bittencourt
Chico Buarque
Alberico Campana
Umberto Contardi
Mariana Croccia
João Donato
Eduardo Luis Duhalde
Laércio De Freitas
Gilberto Gil
João Gilberto
Jorge "negro" González
Elena Goñi
Luiz Eduardo Greenhalgh
Ferreira Gullar
Mano Herrera
Rogério Lima
Edu Lobo
Carmen Magalhães
Gilda Mattoso
Roberto Menescal
Paulo Moura
Ion Muniz
Mutinho
Milton Mascimento
Carlos Santamaría "Carlingas"
Judith Said
Marta Santamaría
Bud Shank
Elisa Andrea Tenório Cerqueira
Francisco Tenório Cerqueira Meto
Luiz Roberto Tenório
Manuel Tenório
Margarida María Tenório Cerqueira
Vitoria Tenório**

Toquinho
Bebo Valdés
Caetano Veloso
Horacio Verbitsky