

**"JOURNALISTS ARE THE FIRST RESPONDERS OF DEMOCRACY,
RUSHING INTO DANGER TO BRING US THE NEWS"**

- DAN RATHER

"JOURNALISM IS WHAT WE NEED TO MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK"

- WALTER CRONKITE

"THE ONLY SECURITY OF ALL IS IN A FREE PRESS"

- THOMAS JEFFERSON

**"JOURNALISTS RISK THEIR LIVES EVERY DAY TO BRING US THE NEWS.
WE OWE IT TO THEM TO SUPPORT THEIR WORK AND DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS"**

- CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR

STATE OF SILENCE




**"In the pursuit of truth,
there's no Silence"**

Luminate



Ford Foundation



State of Silence traces the compelling stories of four journalists who risked their lives in pursuit of truth and transparency. This urgent and intimate portrait serves as a timely reminder that the freedom of the press must not be allowed to remain under siege anywhere in the world.

LONG SYNOPSIS

State of Silence traces the harrowing journeys of four courageous journalists as they navigate treacherous terrain in their unwavering pursuit of truth and authenticity. In their fearless quest, these reporters shed light on the enduring suffering and anxiety experienced by their fellow citizens, even two decades after the so-called war on drugs began. Their resolute commitment exposes them to the risk of reprisals, as they willingly make themselves targets. Each person takes on the roles of investigator, chronicler, and victim, immersing themselves in the unimaginable violence perpetuated by the intersection of organized crime syndicates and corrupted local governments, known as the narcopolitical system. Through this deeply personal exploration, the narrative urgently underscores the endangered state of press freedom in Mexico. As we witness daily news reports, it is evident that journalists worldwide are facing severe threats to their fundamental right to freedom of speech. "State of Silence" is a film that offers an intimate portrayal of the dire situation in Mexico, transcending borders to become a representation of a global issue that requires urgent attention.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"As a director of documentaries, I have always had great respect for journalists. Their work shapes us. It allows us to understand the world, and often, we act or think based on their interpretation of certain events. In Mexico, mistreatment of journalists occurs on many levels, from discrediting the profession to the most lethal consequences.

This documentary shows the government's inaction and denial in the face of this violent crisis. Several administrations have come and gone, yet the problem only intensifies and journalists find themselves reporting their own deaths. Exhibiting this documentary is both an opportunity and a starting point to amplify the debate, with the intention that politicians and media industry leaders finally commit to address and sort out the issue".

Santiago Maza - Director

DIRECTORS BIO

Santiago Maza - Director

Santiago studied documentary film at the National Film & Television School (NFTS) and an MA in screenwriting at the London Film School (LFS). He has been selected and supported by institutions such as FONCA's Jóvenes Creadores, IMCINE, the Berlinale's Talent Campus and Doculab at the Guadalajara International Film Festival. Both in fiction and documentary, his work has led him to appear at festivals in America, Europe and Africa. His debut feature Truenos de San Juan was selected in more than 15 film festivals and won Best Documentary at the San Diego Latino Film Festival (SLFF). He co-directed the Netflix series Reasonable Doubt; and is the director of the two seasons of the documentary series led by Gael García Bernal 'The Issue'; and the documentary State of Silence, produced by Diego Luna. He is currently the director of the documentary department at La Corriente del Golfo.



Select filmography -

The Issue: CDMX (Documentary series, 2022, 66 min)

The Lockdown (Documentary feature, 2021, 79 min)

The Issue (Documentary series, 2020, 66 min)

Todavía Después (Short documentary, 2020, 10 min)

Después del Temblor (Short documentary, 2019, 23 min)

El Baby (Feature documentary, 2017, 79 min)

Los Truenos de San Juan (Documentary feature, 2016, 79 min)

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

"In a country like Mexico, where impunity reaches alarming levels, journalism becomes a fundamental pillar. It is independent journalism that guides us towards the truth. Today, I can affirm that my civic consciousness has been largely shaped by the tireless work and courage of the journalistic profession in my country.

Hence, my concern and indignation arise from the conditions under which they carry out their work, leading to the creation of this documentary as a tool to denounce this situation". **Diego Luna** - Producer



La Corriente del Golfo

La Corriente del Golfo is a production company based in Mexico, founded by Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal, focused on films, series, and podcasts.

The production company's first audiovisual projects are "Chicuarotes" directed by Gael García Bernal, and released at the Festival de Cannes; the series "Here on Earth", by Gael García Bernal and Kyzza Terrazas; the series and specials of "Bread and Circus", by Diego Luna, which won two Daytime Emmy Awards; as well as the web series "The Issue", directed by Santiago Maza; "Everything Will Be Fine", by Diego Luna; "Cassandro", starring Gael García Bernal; and our upcoming series La Máquina, starring Gael García Bernal, Diego Luna and Eiza González, directed by Gabriel Ripstein; "Thesis on a Domestication", feature film directed by Javier Van de Couter, starring Camila Sosa Villada and Alfonso Herrera; and the documentary "State of Silence", directed by Santiago Maza.

Our first podcast projects include "La advertencia", narrated by Diego Luna; as well as the audiobook "Desierto Sonoro", by Valeria Luiselli, read by Marina de Tavira; six seasons of MUBI Podcast: "Encuentros", that brings together some of the most prominent voices in Latin American cinema culture; "Mujeres de Fuego", narrated by Natalia Lafourcade in Spanish, and by Kate del Castillo in English; and "Las Guardianas", narrated by Alice Braga.





ORIGINAL MUSIC BY BEAK>

BEAK> have been lucky enough to play Mexico several times, we've met some amazing people and fell in love with the country so when we were approached to be involved in this important documentary, we felt honoured that our music could help tell the story.





TECHNICAL DETAILS

DOCUMENTARY | ENGLISH SUBS | DIGITAL 4K | COLOR | 79 MIN

DIRECTOR: Santiago Maza

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Diego Luna, Santiago Maza, Gael García Bernal and Joris Debeij

PRODUCER: Abril López Carrillo

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Odei Zabaleta

EDITORS: Sebastián Nuño and Jonás García

POST PRODUCER: Priscila Doncel Albores

ORIGINAL SCORE: BEAK>

PRODUCTION COMPANY: La Corriente del Golfo

IN ASSOCIATION WITH: Luminate and Ford Foundation

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EPK TRAILER STILLS

**“Uncover the truth with
State of Silence”**

