

RICOCHET

A FILM BY RODRIGO FIALLEGA



FESTA
DEL CINEMA
DI ROMA
OFFICIAL
SELECTION 2020



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Genre: Drama | Year: 2020 | Running time: 90 minutes | Language: Spanish | Subtitles: English | Country: Mexico / Spain



Presented at Ventana Sur's
"Primer Corte" section
(Films in Progress)



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Ricochet

A simple man in a small and quiet town faces a painful episode that reveals the most primitive and not always explainable impulses that can turn a simple good man into a cold murderer.

Synopsis

Martijn is a middle fifties man. He lives in a quiet town that seems to be frozen somewhere of the XX century. Even though he is a foreigner, he has lived there for 20 years he got married and started a family. Two years ago his son was killed accidentally in one of the town's feasts. Since then, Martijn has developed a terminal disease, sold the business he lived from and got separated from his wife.

The day that this film shows is the one when Martijn hears about his son's murderer leaving jail. Martijn then decides, with no warning at all, to take revenge.



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Producers

Gabriela Maldonado Miquelerena

Rodrigo Fiallega

Alejandro de Icaza

Co - Producers

Ángeles Hernández

Elena Ruiz

Elsa Reyes

José Cohen

Mariana Martínez | Samuel Rosete

Armando Cesar Pailaud

Main Cast

Martijn Kuiper | Andrés Almeida | Iazua Larios

Director / Writer: Rodrigo Fiallega | **Cinematographer:** Natalia Cuevas

Production design: Connie Martínez · Christian Galindo | **Sound Design:** Chema Ramos Roa

Editor: Elena Ruiz | Rodrigo Fiallega



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Synopsis

Martijn is a man in his mid-fifties who lives in a small town in Mexico that seems to have escaped time altogether. He is originally from Northern Europe, but he has been living there for so long that only his physical features and a lingering accent give him away. Martijn has a wife, Mariana (35), for whom he stayed in México and with whom he has a daughter, a young, sensible, smart girl by the name of Luisa. Martijn and Mariana have been separated for a few years, ever since their teenage firstborn was murdered. Moreover, Martijn has recently come down with a chronic disease that has taken a toll on his health.

Stemming from this double misfortune, which Martijn hasn't been able to recover from, our protagonist has changed his lifestyle. Reclusive by nature, Martijn has retreated further and further, to the point of selling the store he used to manage. Now he lives from the money from the sale and from the odd plumbing and gardening jobs he does around town. Thus, Martijn spends his days busy on his own garden as he listens to one of the few European things he has kept all these years: Wagner's music.

Despite all this, Martijn is well-loved among the townspeople, from the elderly Mrs. Herminia, who always asks about Luisa whenever she runs into Martijn, to Cristina and her husband Ramón (the town mayor) who are always concerned with his well being. One way or another, all the characters who come into Martijn's life show how much they care about him. Naturally, the one who cares most about him and the one he is closest to is his good friend Rafael. Kind, wise, and easy-going, Rafael is a key piece in the progression of Martijn's life, and someone who represents unconditional friendship.

"Ricochet" tells the story of the day when Martijn finds out that the man charged with the murder of his son is going to be set free. This is the day when Martijn will finally release all his pent-up frustration and impulsively reach a decision: to take revenge.

Under this harsh premise (based on a real case that took place in Argentina), "Ricochet" does not aim to be sensationalist, or wallow in tragedy and human violence, but rather delve into the sometimes unexplainable reasons that can turn a good man into a cold-blooded killer, as well as portray and explore through image and sound the many emotional states, environments, and characters from a rural Mexican reality that are often closer to the magical and poetic than to the mundane.



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Director's notes

This is a story that could very well be set in any part of the world, but I was interested in bringing it to some Mexican town, especially in the state of Jalisco, so as to be able to describe its environments and spaces. In this way, the story (which could easily turn into a tragedy or a melodrama, though that is far from my intention) is merely a motivation to explore emotional states through images and thus create a film that, without being a documentary, will be faithful to a rural reality in Mexico –as opposed to an urban one- that will include its characters, customs, and landscapes. However, there is also another motivation regarding the inner life of the main character, which is to show his impulses and actions without offering a previous justification or a moral analysis, but instead trying to offer a mere description, simply an observation of his behavior and actions, reserving all judgment.

Therefore, the aim of this film is to strive for a cinema of sensations and images, instead of one of action and narration. Such emotions and sensations will have to be conveyed on two levels: an outer one, complemented by the landscapes and the environment itself, and an inner one based on plot and the minimal actions woven around the main character.



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Rodrigo Fiallega (IMDb)

Director / Writer / Producer / Editor

He studied Philosophy at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and Audiovisual Communication at the Universidad Iberoamericana. After beginning his career at advertising cinema as assistant director and editor at the production company of Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu (Z Film), he collaborated with important spot directors of international height like Armando Bo, Michael Abt, Enelio Fariña or Antonio Urrutia. Continuing his own path, he began to experiment with photography, video and animation as well as to cooperate with other filmmakers in videos and documentaries while still working at advertising. He decided then to go to Barcelona where he studied an Audiovisual Interactive Communication Master (Universitat of Barcelona) and a Cinema Studies Ph.D. (Universitat Pompeu Fabra). Nowadays he continues working as director and VFX artist. Some of his works (short films, animations, videoclips, etc.) have been selected in numerous festival around the world like IndieLisboa (Portugal), Animadrid (Spain), Cinematou (Switzerland), I've seen Films (Italy), Cinérail (France), Ottawa International Animation Festival (Canada), Morelia International Film Festival (Mexico), among others.

As VFX artist he has worked in international films such as Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol (2011), Olympus has fallen (2013), Unbroken (2014), The Expendables 3 (2014), Ragnarok (2014) y Km31: Sin Retorno (2015)

Gabriela Maldonado (IMDb)

Producer

Bachelor in Business Administration at the University of Nueva Esparta in Caracas. In Barcelona she decided to venture in film production and made a Master in Line Production at the ESCAC (Escola Superior de Cinema i Audiovisuals de Catalunya) from where she has the opportunity to work at Escándalo Films. There, she performed several tasks related to the audiovisual production that can be emphasised: Post-Production secretary at Mar Coll's *Tres dies amb la família* and Elena Trapé's *Blog*, Producer of the animated series *Arròs Covat*, production consultant and supervisor of the ESCAC thesis short films. She now lives in Mexico where she has produced a couple of short films and the first fiction feature film of the recognised documental director Natalia Almada: ***Todo lo demás*** premiered at Rome Film Festival, New York Film Festival and at Morelia International Film Festival. In the past 3 years she has produced Matías Meyer's ***Modern Love***, Rodrigo Fiallega's ***Ricochet*** and Rodrigo Plás's ***The Other Tom***.

Natalia Cuevas (IMDb)

Cinematographer

Born in Chapala, Mexico, Natalia Cuevas started early her career as a still photographer on film sets for feature films. Having lived in her native Jalisco, London, and Barcelona, Natalia decided to settle back in Mexico City and start her formal studies in photography at the well known Escuela Activa de Fotografía where she earned her Photography degree. It was around 2007 when she discovered her new passion for the art and craft of Cinematography.

Her creative and artistic curiosity only became bigger as she decided to travel to New York and study cinematography at the New York Film Academy.

As cinematographer and Camera Operator she has been part of TV series like QUEEN OF THE SOUTH and RUNNER for USA and FOX Networks and for EMMY winner SR AVILA for HBO as Second Unit DP and Camera Operator. As a full time cinematographer now, Natalia works both on the commercial and feature film world.

In 2017 Natalia worked as the Cinematographer of the award winning documentary CHAVELA that has been screened in various festivals including HOT DOCS in Toronto, AFI Docs and the Berlinale.

Natalia is an active member of the Latinamerican female asociation of Cinematographers APERTURA.

Elena Ruiz (IMDb)

Editor / Coproducer

Award winner editor, Elena was born in Cardona (Barcelona), she graduated from the ESCAC in 2000. She began her professional career as editor of short films and video clips, also as Editor's Assistant, until in 2006 when she made the leap into feature film with *El orfanato* by J.A. Bayona, wich would give her her first nominación to the Goya, even though she didn't won that year, it would be J.A. Bayona's next film *The impossible* that would grant her the Goya for Best Editing. She has edited more than 30 films

In 2016 she founded alongside Ángeles Hernández Menos Lobos Films, a post-production company, and in 2018 *Érase una Vez* Films, a production company involved in her most personal projects.

In 2018 she was selected to be part of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

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Ángeles Hernandez ([IMDb](#))

Co Producer

Graduated from the prestigious ESCAC film school, she also studied in San Antonio de los Baños (Cuba). The Berlin Festival chooses her as BERLINALE TALENT with her documentary short film "La Otra Mirada". Ángeles is one of the relevant voices of Spanish cinematography according to Variety magazine.

She has produced films such as "The Platform", "The consequences", "The year of the plague", "Brief history of the green planet", "Grimsey", "Evolution", "Vulcania", "Tasting menu" among others .

This year she has produced and co-directed "ISAAC", selected at the Malaga Film Festival, at the FICG (Mexico) and the D'A. She currently works as a producer on a fictional feature film Astronauta by David Matamoros and on the animation project Hanna y los Monstruos by Lorena Ares where she is also a co-writer.

Elsa Reyes ([IMDb](#))

Co Producer

For several years she worked in the publishing industry and in 2001 she began to get involved in film production and advertising. Since then, she has been executive produced several short and feature films, both fiction and documentary. In October 2007, he founded the production house Zensky Cine, with Ramón Orozco. Her films have won numerous awards in internacional film festivas such as Morelia Int Film Festiva, Guadalajara Internation Film Festival, Huelva Latin American Film Festival, Sitges International Film Festival, Tokyo International Film Festival, among other.



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Martijn Kuiper (IMDb)

Actor - Martín

Born in Amsterdam in 1970. Martijn discovered his vocation for acting at the age of 27 in Madrid (Spain). His last period of 4 years of acting training and pedagogy of interpretation with Jorge Eines consolidates his passion for acting. After graduating, Jorge Eines offers him to play RICHARD THE THIRD from William Shakespeare in theatre. With this character he crowns his official training period and secures the acting technique of Jorge Eines based on physical actions.

In Madrid he also starts his career in TV and movie until 2015 when he auditions for "SR. ÁVILA" in which he's chosen to play the villain. This is a Mexican production for HBO, winner of an International Emmy Award. Very soon afterwards Martijn appears on NETFLIX during the second season of "INGOBERNABLE" and during the first season of "FALSA IDENTIDAD" consolidating his career in México.

Iazua Larios (IMDb)

Actress - Mariana

Born in Tamaulipas in 1982, Iazua has been nominated as a revelation in the awards "Diosas DE Plata", winner of the "Best Interpretation" award of the festival "Atalo" in Madrid. Known for his participation in "Apocalypso", "El Atentado", "Drops of Rocio", "The king of the Guardian", "Walls speak", "Winnetou & Old Shatterhand", "The treasure of the silver lake", "The death Of Winnetou", which is a national success in Germany.

Andrés Almeida (IMDb)

Actor - Rafael

Son of Lourdes and Luis Almeida, Andrés Almeida studied Plastic Arts, but from a young age he consumed cinema and considered himself a movie fan since he was a child. The best memories he has of his development as an actor are to go to international film shows every year in the cultural spaces of Mexico City. During 1997, while studying his first year of career at UNAM, he began his career in the seventh art with a small role in the film De noche vienes, Esmeralda (1997), directed by Jaime Humberto Hermosillo which was one of the most important Mexican films that year. After his participation in some short films, the actor returned to participate in another successful film, in this case the film directed by Alfonso Cuarón, Y tu madre Also (2001), alongside Gael García Bernal and Diego Luna. Since then he has participated in more than 50 films.

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Producer	Producer / Director	Co Producer (SP)	Co Producer (MX)
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