

A S Y M P H O N Y O F T H E U N D E R G R O U N D M E T R O P O L I S



T H E H I D D E N C I T Y

directed by VÍCTOR MORENO

EL VIAJE FILMS PRESENTS A FILM BY VICTOR MORENO **co-producers** RINOCERONTE FILMS, KINO PRAVDA S.L., POMME HURLANTE FILMS, DIRK MANTHEY FILMS, **executive producers:** JOSE A. ALAYON, MARINA ALBERTI, NAYRA SANZ FUENTES, DIRK MANTHEY, EVA CHILLON, VICTOR MORENO **script:** RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ, NAIRA SANZ FUENTES y VICTOR MORENO **cinematographer:** JOSE A. ALAYON **sound:** SERGIO FERNÁNDEZ BORRÁS, JANIS GROSSMAN **music:** JUAN CARLOS BLANCAS, ASMUS TIETCHENS **editors:** VICTOR MORENO, SAMUEL M. DELGADO **production manager:** CARMEN BELLAS **international co-production:** JAMIE WEISS, JOSÉ MIGUEL VIÑA.

elviajefilms



KINOPRAVDA

POMME
HURLANTE
FILMS

DIRK MANTHEY FILM



SYNOPSIS:

The technical dream, deployed towards the exploration of space, has also motivated an inverse movement: the opening of a subterranean world. Beneath the modern city there lies a vast labyrinth of galleries, tunnels, sewers, transportation networks... An immense spiders web that sits upon and depends on the visible city; a functional and essential space but also a symbolic area, a hidden sphere: the unconscious of the city.

An urban symphony that invites us to reflect upon the habitat we have created for ourselves.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A specific space tends to be the source of inspiration in my films. In most of my work it is my main character, allowing me to focus on the people who inhabit these spaces from a position that strays from the habitual one. I delve into the space and its specific dynamics in an attempt to create a portrait of the spirit of this area over a given time.

"The Hidden City" began in this manner. I had never seen the subterranean areas of a large metropolis before but the idea of discovering this buried universe has always intrigued me. One of the upsides of entering into this hidden world was that I was able to capture a space that has barely ever been filmed before. This gave me the opportunity to understand the goings-on of this space and its potential for transformation and creation. That is to say I felt like an explorer in an unknown territory, traversing these little seen and little understood areas: the underground zones hidden beneath the modern metropolis. This exploration led me to think about Michel Foucault's idea of heterotopia and the idea of working with existing spaces that are unknown to us, despite being familiar. Parting from this premise I thought about the deep meaning of a place that remains a territory conquered by man, subsuming the natural environment to its needs. How is it possible that this necessity to create new worlds carries so much weight? Without the aid of our technical abilities it would have been impossible to access these subterranean areas, meaning, that this area is an intrinsically human one; it is a clear representation of our own habitat.

From this theoretical base I set out to force open the body of the metropolis to find its soul within; like a bird, swooping down to peer into a space, where I feel, a great part of our current problems are manifest. A world that though deeply human, seems at the same time to be dehumanized. A world where it seems as if we had lost any possibility to change ourselves, dispersed and fragmented into our own creation. From this journey through our own world, a world that remains the subconscious of a big city, the film began adapting the form of an urban symphony rather than a cause and effect narration.

The camera moves in a smooth and undulating manner and the editing is used to disorient the spectator at times. This is how I wanted to approach my work, creating a dreamlike state, converting the scenes into a dance, fluctuating between the real and the imaginary, documentary and science fiction, consciousness and subconsciousness. "The Hidden City" is a *dérive*; a winding journey not only through a concrete space but also through a state of mind. It is a mind-bending journey in an unexplored territory. It is a sensory film; an invitation to peek into a dark tunnel and discover, as much as we insist on living beneath domes of concrete and steel, our own abyss. Only nature seems capable of putting an end to our desire to control.

VÍCTOR MORENO
(DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER)

Born in Tenerife in 1981 he currently resides in Madrid where he studied Philosophy and Film. He completed a Master documentary film at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona.

His film **"EDIFICIO ESPAÑA"** (The Building, 2012) was nominated for a **GOYA** Award for Best Documentary and was chosen to compete at the San Sebastián International Film Festival, DocLisboa, DocumentaMadrid and Buenos Aires Independent Film Festival (BAFICI). His film **"HOLIDAYS"** (2010), won the Special Jury Award "New Directors" in the Gran Canaria International Film Festival, and the Best Documentary Award at the International Documentary Film Festival of Guía de Isora (MiradasDoc).

He also made the medium-length film **"LA PIEDRA"** (The Stone, 2013), which was presented at the official section of **Visions du réel** (Switzerland) winning second place at the "Ciudad de Alcalá" (Alcine), among other prizes.

He has made several short films that have been screened at festivals and that have won awards in over 20 countries including **"EL EXTRAÑO"** (The Stranger) which won Best Film at the Notodofilmfest and the Special Jury Prize at the Viña del Mar International Film Festival. He also directed short films **FERIANTES** (2010), **FAJAS Y CORSES** (2007), **FAUNA HUMANA** (2008) and **FELICES FIESTAS** (2009), which were awarded prizes in festivals like En.Piezas, Mecal and Zinebi.

His works have been named best films of the year in magazines including Caimán Cuadernos de Cine, and have been shown on TVE and Canal + Spain and exhibited in festivals in more than 20 countries. His works have been screened in many European cities, in prestigious venues such as the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid), the Barbican Centre (London) and, beyond Europe, at UnionDocs (New York). He has taught at the IED Madrid, TAI Film School, and was the artistic director of the Lanzarote European film festival.

The Producer: El Viaje Films

Award winner at the Locarno International Film Festival (2015) and nominated at the European Film Awards (2016), El Viaje Films started in 2004, quickly consolidating a well recognized identity through films with a strong independent character, an interest in new narrative formulas, as well as an ethical commitment towards the subject. These works assimilate international references while focusing on the universality of this language.

Besides counting on institutional support such as Programa MEDIA, Programa IBERMEDIA, Sundance Institute, ICAA (Institute of Cinematography, and Audio Visual Arts, Government of Spain) and Canarias Cultura en Red (Government of the Canary Islands, EL VIAJE's filmography incorporates a growing amount of private investment.

WHITE ON WHITE (In Production, 2019) Fiction. Historical Drama Dir. Theo Court. With the support of: Hubert Bals Fund (Rotterdam IFF), ICAA, World Cinema Fund (Berlinale), Ibermedia, MEDIA, Canary Island Government, CNCA (Chile) and Radio Television Canaria (RTVC)

THE HIDDEN CITY (2018) Documentary Dir. Victor Moreno. With the support of ICAA, Community of Madrid, Eurimages, Cabildo de Tenerife, Government of Canary Islands, Radio Television Canaria (RTVC) and Radio Television Castilla-La Mancha

HOMBRE ENTRE PERRO Y LOBO (In Production) Documentary Dir. Irene Gutiérrez. With the support of ICAA, Ibermedia, Tribeca Film Institute and Radio Television Canaria.

EL MAR NOS MIRA DE LEJOS | The sea stares at us from afar (2016). Non-Fiction. Dir. Manuel Muñoz Rivas. Official Selection Berlinale (Forum, 2017) DeLuxe prize at Seville European Film Festival Critic's Prize at l'Aternativa Barcelona Independent Film Festival. With the support of ICAA and MEDIA.

PLUS ULTRA (2017) Short film co-directed by Samuel M. Delgado and Helena Girón. International premiere at Locarno Film Festival, official selection in San Sebastian and FIC Valdivia, among others. With the support of TEA-Cabildo de Tenerife.

DEAD SLOW AHEAD (2015) – Feature length Documentary. Special Jury Prize at Locarno International Film Festival. Best Documentary Award at the Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival; Best First Film and University Jury Awards at Doclisboa; Honorable Mention at the Seville Festival of European Film. Official Selection at the Mar del Plata International Film Festival, South by Southwest (SXSW), IDFA and Sheffield.

TOUT LE MONDE AIME LE BORD DE LA MER (2015) Documentary. Official Selection at the Rotterdam International Film Festival (2016), Nominated for the European film awards and nominated for best short films at the Goyas.

HOTEL NUEVA ISLA (2014) - Feature Length Documentary. World Premiere at the Rotterdam International Film Festival. Award for Best Latin American Feature Film (Mexico City

International Film Festival, 2014), Best Central American and Caribbean Documentary (Dominican Republic and the Caribbean, 2015) and the Award for Best Documentary at the New Orleans Film Festival. Official selection in various competitions: Toulouse Film Festival (2014), IBAFF (Murcia) and the Busan International Film Festival, Munich and Moscow, among others.

SLIMANE (2013)- Feature Fiction Film. Award

for Best First Film at IBAFF (Murcia International Film Festival); Award for Best Feature Film at Las Palmas de Gran Canaria International Film Festival; Official Selection at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Dubai International Film Festival, MARGENES and Cinema D'Autor (Barcelona), among others.

TECHNICAL AND ARTISTIC TEAM:

Directed by: Víctor Moreno

Screenplay by: Rodrigo Rodríguez, Nayra Sanz Fuentes, Víctor Moreno

DOP: Jose A. Alayón

Edited by: Samuel M. Delgado, Víctor Moreno

Music by: Atmus Tietchens, Juan Carlos Blancas

Producers: José Alayon, Marina Alberti, Nayra Sanz Fuentes, Eva Chillón, Dirk Manthey, Víctor Moreno

Production Companies: El Viaje Films, Rinoceronte Films, Pomme Hurlante Films, Dirk Manthey Films, Kino Pravda

With the support of:

ICAA, Comunidad de Madrid, Eurimages, Cabildo de Tenerife, Gobierno de Canarias, Open ECAM Radio Televisión Canaria, Radio Televisión de Castilla- La Mancha and German TV: NDR.