

CÁMPOCINE

Official Selection
tiff
Toronto International
Film Festival 2022

SSIFF
Donostia Zinemaldia
Festival de San Sebastián
Sección Oficial

THE SUBSTITUTE

(El Suplente)



A film by Diego Lerman

International Sales: **Urban Sales**

+33 1 48 70 46 56 // sales@urbangroup.biz

Producer: **CAMPO CINE**

Fernando de Montalvo 150 – CP 1427 (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

+54 11 4554-9036 // www.elcampocine.com.ar // nico@elcampocine.com.ar

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1.SYNOPSIS

Outskirts of Buenos Aires, nowadays.

Lucio, a prestigious university professor, takes the position of substitute teacher at a high school in the suburbs of Buenos Aires, where he grew up. Through tales, novels and poetry, he tries to distract his class from the harsh reality of their everyday lives. But soon, he must step out of his professional duties when Dylan, one of his students, is threatened by a local drug kingpin.



2. CAST

Lucio: Juan Minujín

Mariela: Bárbara Lennie

Dilan: Lucas Arrua

Amalia: Rita Cortese

Roberto: Alfredo Castro

Clara: María Merlino

Sol: Renata Lerman



3. DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What is the use of writing? To whom do we write? asks Lucio, the protagonist of THE SUBSTITUTE at the beginning of the film.

Culture seems to be a privilege of a few and at the same time, I believe, an essential prerequisite to question and challenge the dominant paradigms. There are deep-rooted dysfunctionalities constantly proving us that something is wrong. What are running towards? The end of capitalism? A time of transition? Some see the abyss and the collapse of humanity on the near horizon. However, I am convinced that the key lies in education. That battle that is fought daily by teachers in the classroom, and outside of it. I find it utterly touching. And at the same time, a very underappreciated, underrated task. The pandemic starkly demonstrated the place of education and culture in our society today.

As a student myself, there is an essential formative imprint that some teachers have left on me, a fire mark. That link between teachers and students is absolutely constitutive in people's lives. I have also lived the experience from

the other side, I was a teacher in various parts of the country and abroad: it is so rewarding to see the progress of those who one teaches and feel the gratitude and complicity that is generated with the students.

With this film, I set out to address the fragile and thin line that secondary education represents in the peripheral areas of the Buenos Aires suburbs. I wanted to portray this coexistence between marginality, survival and the struggle of adolescents to enter a society that is extremely hostile to those who lack support and basic life conditions the most.



The dilemma that teachers have there is disturbing: they oscillate between trying to provide educational content and dealing with the most essential deficiencies.

Violence becomes a daily occurrence in these marginal places and the attempts at collective construction, political dispute, outbursts of solidarity and social destruction merge contradictorily, and can't be clearly dissociated, becoming part of a complex and controversial whole.



THE SUBSTITUTE attempts to address some of these tensions that coexist without an apparent logic.

But beyond the universe of the film, there is the counterpoint with a character like Lucio, who comes from another social class, a man in the midlife crisis, with his world of security collapsing; going through a moment in life in which all his built certainties vanish, revealing a terrifying emptiness.

The sensation of finiteness and meaninglessness appear on his horizon. The lack of motivation makes him question himself on the most primary issues: there's nothing more useless and necessary in this functional world than the ephemeral arts.

I have invested several years of my life in the project THE SUBSTITUTE. I hope it will challenge you and not leave you indifferent.

It has been an enriching journey for me and also a beautiful challenge.

Diego Lerman

4. CREW

Director: Diego Lerman

Script: Diego Lerman - Maria Meira - Luciana de Mello

Story: Diego Lerman - Juan Vera

Executive Producer: Nicolás Avruj

Casting: María Laura Berch

Cinematography: Wojciech Staron

Art Direction: Marcelo Chaves

Wardrobe: Sandra Fink

Editor: Alejandro Brodersohn

Sound Design: Lena Esquenazi - Leandro de Loredó

Music: José Villalobos

Production Management: Giorgina Mesiano

Assistant Director: Bruno Roberti

Post-Production Coordination: Josefina Castillo Carrillo

Produced by: Campo Cine

In Coproduction with: Vivo film (ITA) – Pimienta Films (MEX) - Arcadia Motion Pictures (ESP)

In Association with: Bellota Films (FRA) – Patagonik (ARG) – Bord Cadre (SUI) - Sovereign Films (UK)

With the support of: INCAA - MIC - EFICINE PRODUCCION - ICEC - IBERMEDIA - CNC - AIDE AUX CINÉMAS DU MONDE

Producers: Nicolas Avruj - Diego Lerman

Associate Producers: Juan Pablo Galli - Juan Vera - Christian Failace

Coproducers: Marta Donzelli - Gregorio Paonessa - Nicolás Celis - Jonás Cuarón - Sandra Tapia - Ibon Cormenzana - Ignasi Estapé - Dan Wechsler - Andreas Roald - Jamal Zeinal-Zade - Dominique Barneaud



5. TECHNICAL SPECS

World Premiere:

Toronto International Film Festival -
Special Presentations (September 2022)

Premiere in Argentina:

20/10/2022



Title: El Suplente

English Title: The Substitute

Format: DCP

Origin: Argentina, Mexico,
Italy, Spain

Year: 2022

Duration: 110 minutes

Genre: Drama

Original Language: Spanish

Festivals:

- Toronto International Film Festival (Official Selection)
- San Sebastian International Film Festival (Competencia Oficial)



6. DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



Diego Lerman was born in 1976 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He studied Design of Image and Sound at the University of Buenos Aires, and Drama at the Municipal School of Dramatic Arts. He is a film director, scriptwriter and producer. To date, he has directed six feature-length films. TAN DE REPENTE (2002). MIENTRAS TANTO (2006). LA MIRADA INVISIBLE (2010). REFUGIADO (2014). UNA ESPECIE DE FAMILIA (2017). He also served as writer and director on all five. These films have been recognized in some of the most important film festivals in the world, and screened commercially not just in Latin America, but also in Europe, the United States and Japan.

In 2008, he founded the "Flor de un Día" Theater Company with the actress María Merlino and performed "NADA DEL AMOR ME PRODUCE ENVIDIA" (2008) with text by Santiago Loza, "QUE ME HAS HECHO VIDA MÍA" (2011) text by Pitrola / Merlino / Lerman, "¿CÓMO VUELVO?" (2014) based on texts by Hebe Uhart and "LA DAMA DEL MAR" (2016) free version of Ibsen's work written by Lerman / Pitrola / Merlino.

In 2009, he founded the CAMPO CINE production house with Nicolás Avruj. Campo Cine is very active in the film industry, producers of PLANTA PERMANENTE by Ezequiel Radusky, MONOS by Alejandro Landes, SUEÑO FLORIANOPOLIS, MI AMIGA DEL PARQUE by Ana Katz, HOGAR by Maura Depero, CIEGOS by Fernando Zuber, NEY by Nicolás Avruj among other feature films.

In 2015 he created the fiction series "LA CASA" of which he was Showrunner, Co-writer, Director and Executive Producer.

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

- "La Prueba" (1999) – Short film.
- "Tan de Repente" (2002) – Feature film - Locarno - Silver Leopard.
- "La Guerra de los Gimnasios" (2005) – Half-length film - Locarno.
- "Mientras Tanto" (2006) – Feature film - Venecia - Venice Days.
- "Servicios Prestados" (2008) – Documentary film - Locarno.
- "La Mirada Invisible" (2010) - Feature film - Cannes - Quinzaine Des Réalisateurs.
- "Refugiado" (2014) – Feature film - Cannes - Quinzaine Des Réalisateurs.
- "La Casa" (2015) - TV series - Rotterdam.
- "Una especie de Familia" (2017) – Feature film - TIFF + Official Selection at San Sebastian (Best Script)
- "El Suplente" (2022) – Feature film - TIFF + Official Selection at San Sebastian

7. PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY



CAMPO CINE

A feature film & documentary production house founded by Diego Lerman and Nicolás Avruj, Campo Cine is committed to personal, risky and innovative projects, for both local and international markets.

We have produced films that have been released in dozens of countries and have won awards in the most prestigious festivals (Cannes, Venice, Locarno).

Some of the films produced are "La mirada invisible", "Refugiado" and "Una especie de familia" by Diego Lerman; "My Friend from the Park" and "Sueño Florianópolis" by Ana Katz; "Porfirio" and "Monos" by Alejandro Landes; "NEY" by Nicolás Avruj; "Los hongos" by Oscar Ruiz Navia; "Marriage a Mendoza" by Edouard Deluc, "Las Olas" by Adrián Biniez, "Hogar/Maternal", by Maura Delpero, "Ciegos" by Fernando Zuber; "Planta Permanente", by Ezequiel Radusky, "El Pais de las Ultimas Cosas" by Alejandro Chomski and "Akelarre" by Pablo Agüero.

Following the countries with which we co-produce are: France, Spain, Uruguay, Colombia, Poland, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, United States, Italy and Brazil. Since 2011, we have started producing content for TV and digital platforms; both documentaries and fiction series, among which stand out "La Casa" and "Fotos, Retratos de un Pais".

PIMIENTA FILMS

Pimienta Films is an independent film production company founded in Mexico City in 2008 by Nicolás Celis. It is internationally known for its commitment to producing quality fiction and documentary feature films by auteur directors who tell compelling stories in new and artistic ways.

The internationally acclaimed filmmakers Pimienta has worked with include Alfonso Cuarón, Jonás Cuarón, Amat Escalante, Tatiana Huezo, Andrés Clariond, James Franco, Ciro Guerra, Cristina Gallego, Diego Lerman, Alejandra Márquez, Yuri Bykov, Elisa Miller and Rafi Pitts.

Our company has been involved in numerous co-productions with producers in Mexico, the United States, Latin America and Europe and has built strong relationships with our partners which have helped to open new markets for our films (and our partners' films) and has boosted film sales.

In addition to developing and producing our own films, Pimienta distributes films in Mexico for other producers and performs production services in Mexico for foreign productions. As a result, Pimienta is one of the most important film production companies in Latin America.

VIVO FILM

Vivo film, established in Rome at the beginning of 2004 by Gregorio Paonessa and Marta Donzelli, is an Italian independent production company with a catalogue of over 40 films, presented and awarded at the most prestigious festivals worldwide.

Vivo film's productions include works by Laura Bispuri, Andrea De Sica, Guido Chiesa, Jean-Louis Comolli, Emma Dante, Michelangelo Frammartino, Jennifer Fox, Chiara Malta, Masbedo, Pippo Mezzapesa, Susanna Nicchiarelli, Nelo Risi, Corso Salani, Daniele Vicari.

My Country by Daniele Vicari (2007), Le quattro volte by Michelangelo Frammartino (2010), Pezzi by Luca Ferrari (2012), Alberi, a cinematic installation in loop by Michelangelo Frammartino (2013), A Street in Palermo, the first film by cult theatre director Emma Dante (2013), Sangue by Pippo Delbono (2013), The Lack by Masbedo (2014), Sworn Virgin by Laura Bispuri (2015), Innocence of Memories by Grant Gee (2015), Children of the Night by Andrea De Sica (2016), Nico, 1988 by Susanna Nicchiarelli (2017), Daughter of Mine by Laura Bispuri (2018), Dafne by Federico Bondi (2019), Flesh Out by Michela Occhipinti (2019).

ARCADIA MOTION PICTURES

ARCADIA was created in 2004 by Ibon Cormenzana with the aim of producing quality feature films with international potential, supporting auteur cinema and promoting the talent of promising young filmmakers.

In 2008, Ignasi Estapé and Ángel Durández joined ARCADIA in order to promote and structure private investment funds for film production, taking advantage of the existing tax incentive model in Spain. Sandra Tapia, an executive producer at Arcadia since 2010, joins the company in 2019.

The Tree of Blood (Julio Medem, 2018) was distributed through Netflix, which acquired the rights for the whole world after its premiere in Spain; Abracadabra (Pablo Berger, 2017) premiered in the US and Latin America through Sony Pictures, in addition to reaching screens in Switzerland, Italy, Germany, or China thanks to Playtime; Project Lazarus was sold globally to NBC Universal, and Pablo Berger's "Snow White" was sold to countries around the world.



Blancanieves (Pablo Berger, 2012) won 10 Goya Awards, including Best Film, participated in festivals around the world and was selected by the Film Academy to represent Spain at the Oscars. Blackthorn (Mateo Gil, 2011), was the winner of 4 Goya awards and selected at the Tribeca Film Festival. There Will Be No Peace for the Wicked (Enrique Urbizu, 2011), it won 6 Goya awards including Best Film. Don't cry, fly (Claudia Llosa, 2014), participated in the Official Section of the Berlinale 2014. Journey to a Mother's Room (Celia Rico, 2017), won the Youth Award and the Special Mention from the jury at the San Sebastián International Film Festival, in addition to 4 nominations for the Goya Awards. And, Rodrigo Sorogoyen's Mother (feature film), participated in the Orizzonti Official Section of the Venice International Film Festival 2019 where it won the Best Leading Actress Award, in addition to 3 Goya Award nominations.

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Fernando de Montalvo 150 - CP 1427 (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
+54 11 4554-9036 // www.elcampocine.com.ar // nico@elcampocine.com.ar

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