

octopus skin

a film by Ana Cristina Barragán



Proyecto
IBERMEDIA



Film und Medien
Stiftung NRW



Instituto de Fomento
a la Creatividad y la Innovación



Ministerio
de Cultura y Patrimonio



One liner

Teen twins Iris and Ariel live isolated on a rocky island with their mother and older sister, in a sibling relationship that surpasses the limits of normal intimacy. Then Iris decides to go alone to the city for the first time.

A woman with long, dark, curly hair, seen from behind, stands on a rocky beach. She is wearing a long, white, long-sleeved dress. The ocean is in front of her, with waves crashing against the rocks. The sky is filled with numerous birds in flight, creating a sense of movement and vastness. The overall color palette is a monochromatic teal or cyan, giving the scene a dreamlike and ethereal quality.

Synopsis

Iris and Ariel are 17-year-old twins, who live with their mother and older sister in an old house in the middle of a rocky island covered with molluscs and birds. The teenagers have grown up isolated from the mainland, in a sibling relationship that surpasses the limits of normal intimacy. The abrupt absence of their mother deeply wounds the three siblings, and Iris, moved by a strong need of separating herself from her brother, decides to go alone to the city for the first time.

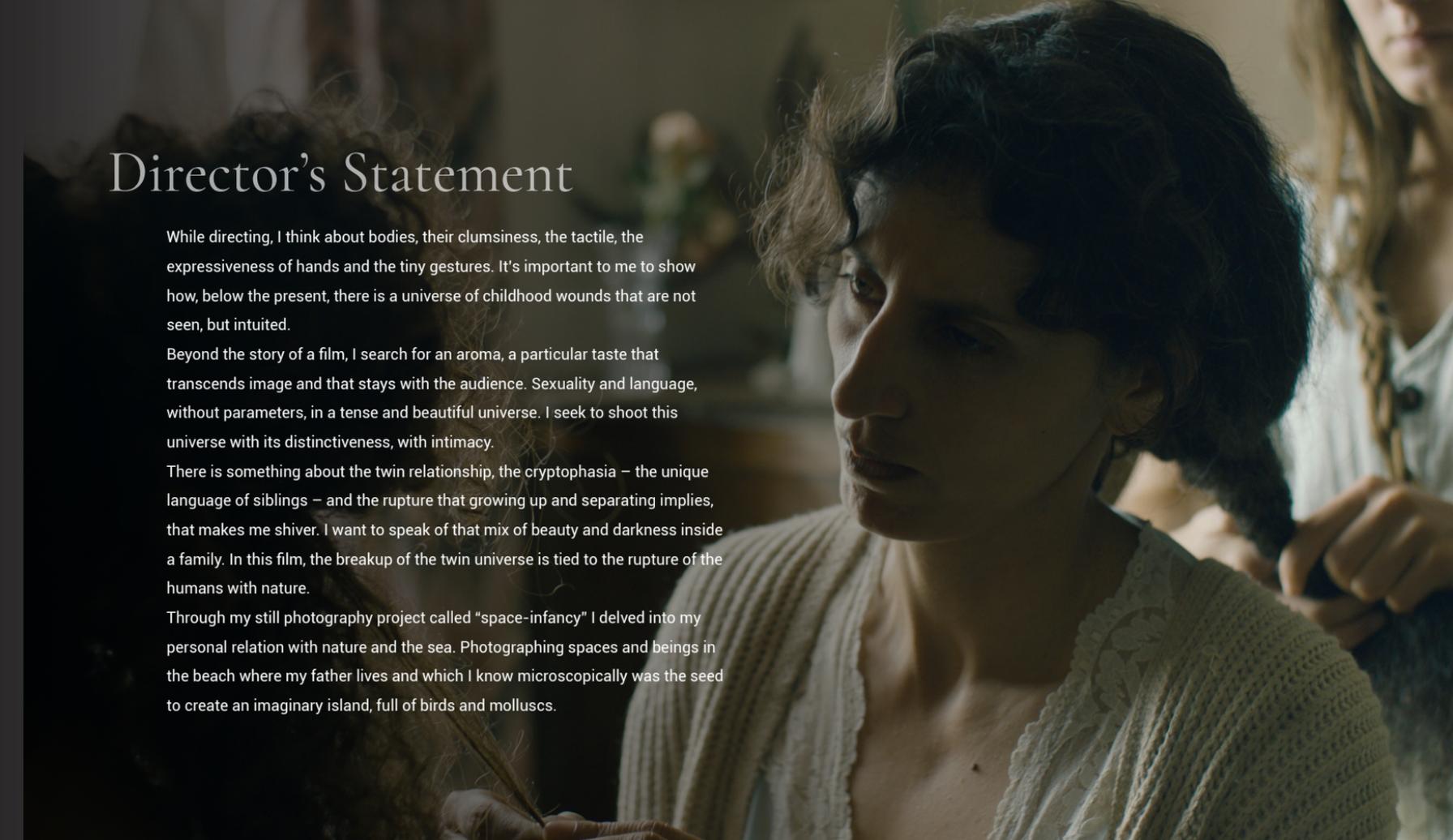


Long Synopsis

Iris and Ariel are 17 year old twins, brother and sister who live with their mother and older sister Lia in an old house in the middle of a rocky island, covered with molluscs and birds. The teenagers have grown up isolated from the mainland, in a sibling relationship that surpasses the limits of normal intimacy and with a unique connection with nature. They spend their days tickling each other, and letting the ocean wash them away.

Tourism disrupts the apparent equilibrium of their island, and the sibling's curiosity about that unknown world is awakened. The abrupt absence of the mother deeply wounds the three siblings, and Iris, moved by a strong need of separating herself from Ariel, decides to go alone to the city.

Noisy streets, shopping malls, her father's rejection and her mother's mourning, mark Iris' struggle to feel her own individuality and starts her journey towards the comprehension of brotherhood, her own nature and the need to defend their island.



Director's Statement

While directing, I think about bodies, their clumsiness, the tactile, the expressiveness of hands and the tiny gestures. It's important to me to show how, below the present, there is a universe of childhood wounds that are not seen, but intuited.

Beyond the story of a film, I search for an aroma, a particular taste that transcends image and that stays with the audience. Sexuality and language, without parameters, in a tense and beautiful universe. I seek to shoot this universe with its distinctiveness, with intimacy.

There is something about the twin relationship, the cryptophasia – the unique language of siblings – and the rupture that growing up and separating implies, that makes me shiver. I want to speak of that mix of beauty and darkness inside a family. In this film, the breakup of the twin universe is tied to the rupture of the humans with nature.

Through my still photography project called "space-infancy" I delved into my personal relation with nature and the sea. Photographing spaces and beings in the beach where my father lives and which I know microscopically was the seed to create an imaginary island, full of birds and molluscs.



Director Biography

Screenwriter and director. Alba, her first film, premiered at IFF Rotterdam, won 35 international awards in over 100 festivals, including a Special Mention in San Sebastian FF. Alba was Ecuador's representative for the Oscars and Goya and screened at the Moma in NY. Ana's second feature, *La Piel Pulpo*, premiering in San Sebastian FF, was made with the support of Cinema du Monde, World Cinema Fund, Hubert Bals +, was part of Sundance Morelia lab and won 5 awards at Guadalajara Work in Progress. Ana directed several short films, including *Domingo Violeta*, released in Locarno IFF 2010, *Anima*, *Despierta, Soñé que era piedra* and *Sopor*. She currently develops two new features, *Sopor y Ave* part of Locarno's Open Doors 2022 and *The Ivy*.

Director Filmography

A man and a woman are seen from behind, surfing on waves. The man is on the left, wearing white shorts, and the woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored bikini. They are both riding the crest of a wave, with white foam splashing around them. The background is a vast expanse of blue and white water.

Shorts:

DESPIERTA (8 min) 2008 - First Short Film / script,
direction, edition

DOMINGO VIOLETA (18 min) 2010 - Second Short Film /
script and direction.

ÁNIMA (18min) 2013 3rd short / script, direction and
co-editing.

SONE QUE ERA PIEDRA: 2022 - in postproduction process.

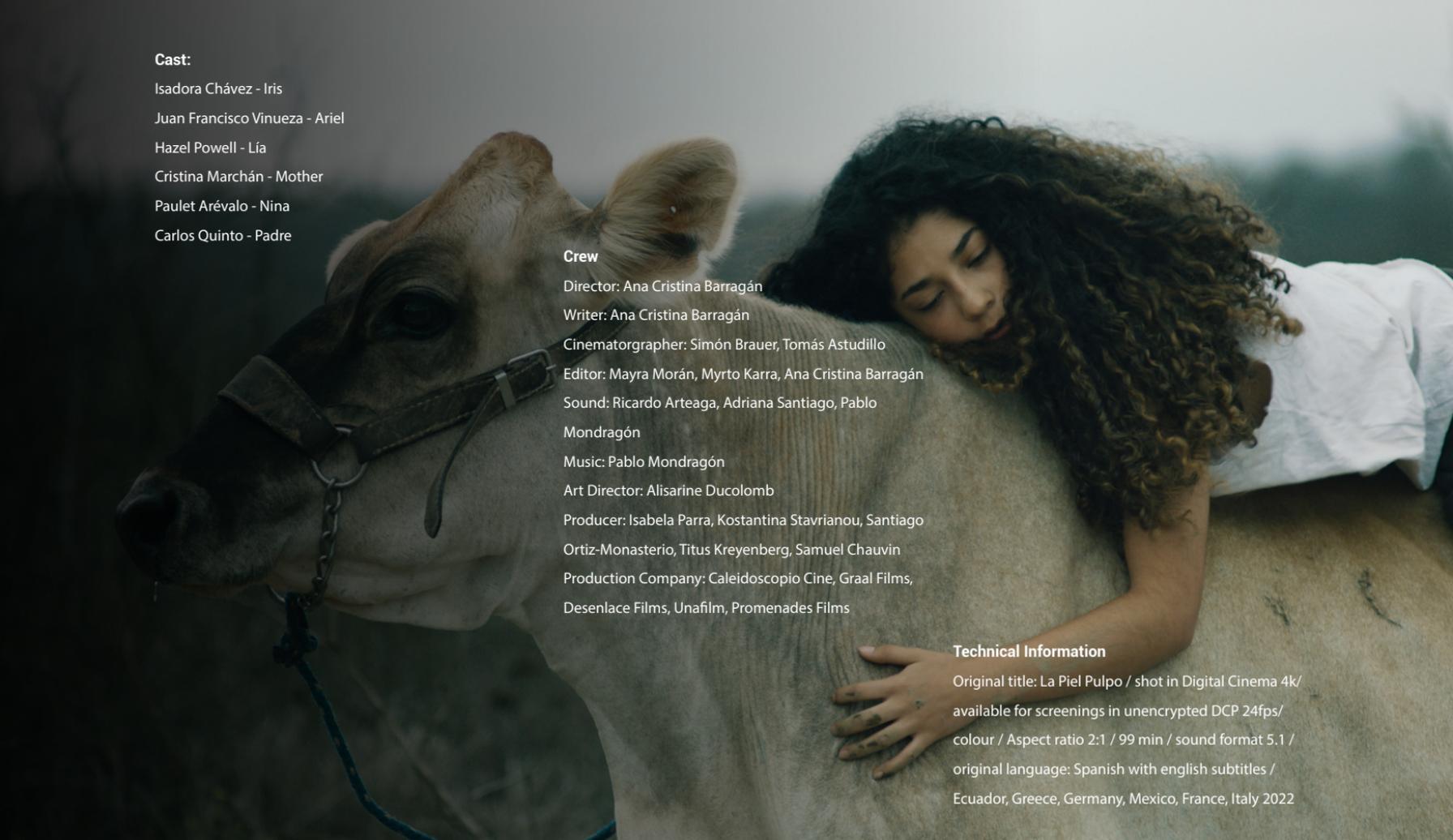
Feature:

ALBA - (90 min) 2016

OCTOPUS SKIN (98 min) 2022

HEDRA 2023 - in pre-production

SOPOR Y AVE 2024 - in development

A woman with long, curly hair is resting her head on the back of a cow. The cow is wearing a dark leather halter with a metal ring and a blue lead. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

Cast:

Isadora Chávez - Iris

Juan Francisco Vinuesa - Ariel

Hazel Powell - Lia

Cristina Marchán - Mother

Paulet Arévalo - Nina

Carlos Quinto - Padre

Crew

Director: Ana Cristina Barragán

Writer: Ana Cristina Barragán

Cinematographer: Simón Brauer, Tomás Astudillo

Editor: Mayra Morán, Myrto Karra, Ana Cristina Barragán

Sound: Ricardo Arteaga, Adriana Santiago, Pablo Mondragón

Music: Pablo Mondragón

Art Director: Alisarine Ducolomb

Producer: Isabela Parra, Kostantina Stavrianou, Santiago

Ortiz-Monasterio, Titus Kreyenberg, Samuel Chauvin

Production Company: Caleidoscopio Cine, Graal Films, Desenlace Films, Unafilm, Promenades Films

Technical Information

Original title: La Piel Pulpo / shot in Digital Cinema 4k/
available for screenings in unencrypted DCP 24fps/
colour / Aspect ratio 2:1 / 99 min / sound format 5.1 /
original language: Spanish with english subtitles /
Ecuador, Greece, Germany, Mexico, France, Italy 2022

Supported by

Cinema du monde - CNC France - Post production 2022

World Cinema Fund (Alemania) – Production support 2019

Hubert Bals Fund + Europe (Unión Europea) – Co production support 2019

Film and Audiovisual Creation Institute (Ecuador)- Development fund 2016

Film and Audiovisual Creation Institute (Ecuador)- Production fund 2018

Hubert Bals Fund (Holanda) - Development support 2016

Ibermedia Program (Ibero America) – Development support 2017

Ibermedia Program (Ibero America) – Co production support 2018

Film und Medienstiftung NRW (Germany) – Co production support 2019

European Work in Progress Cologne - K13 Studios award 2020

Churrubuzco Azteca (México) - Post Production award Guadalajara

Construye 2021

Pablo Mondragón and Full Mix Studio (México) - Sound design and music
award Guadalajara Construye 2021

Marketing Movie Runner (México) - Advertising consultancy award

Guadalajara Construye 2021

Paratí Films (Francia/Brasil) - Subtitling award Guadalajara Construye 2021



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored swimsuit, is sitting on a large, dark rock on a rocky beach. She is looking down at her smartphone. The background consists of large, layered rock formations and a body of water. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day or late afternoon.

International labs, Wip and Markets

Tres Puertos Lab 2016, Cinemart 2017, Talent Campus
Berlinale 2018, Sundance Lab Morelia 2018, Venice
Financing GAP 2021, WIP Latam San Sebastián 2021,
European Work in Progress Cologne 2020, Guadalajara
Construye 2021, Thessaloniki Goes to Cannes 2022

Caleidoscopio Cine – Ecuador

Isabela Parra

Founded in 2011, Caleidoscopio Cine is an Ecuadorian - Chilean company, focused on content development, including film production, programming for festivals and consultancy for professional training programs and research projects. Caleidoscopio Cine has developed, produced and distributed films directed by young Latin American directors with a strong interest for non-conventional narrative and strong aesthetical proposals, which have been internationally awarded and exhibited. Main productions include *Cuando me toque a mí* and *El Facilitador* by Víctor Arregui, *A secret in the box*, by Javier Izquierdo, *Alba*, by Ana Cristina Barragán and *El Río* by Juan Pablo Richter. Currently Caleidoscopio Cine works in the post production stage of *Nunkui* first film by Verence Benitez, Ana Cristina Barragan's second feature film *Octopus Skin* and the documentary *Hijos de la luz*, by Misha Vallejo.



An aerial photograph of two people floating on their backs in clear, turquoise water. The person in the upper left is a man with dark hair, wearing white shorts, with his arms and legs spread out. The person in the lower right is a woman with long dark hair, also wearing white shorts, with her arms and legs spread out. The water has a textured, rippled surface.

Graal SA – Greece

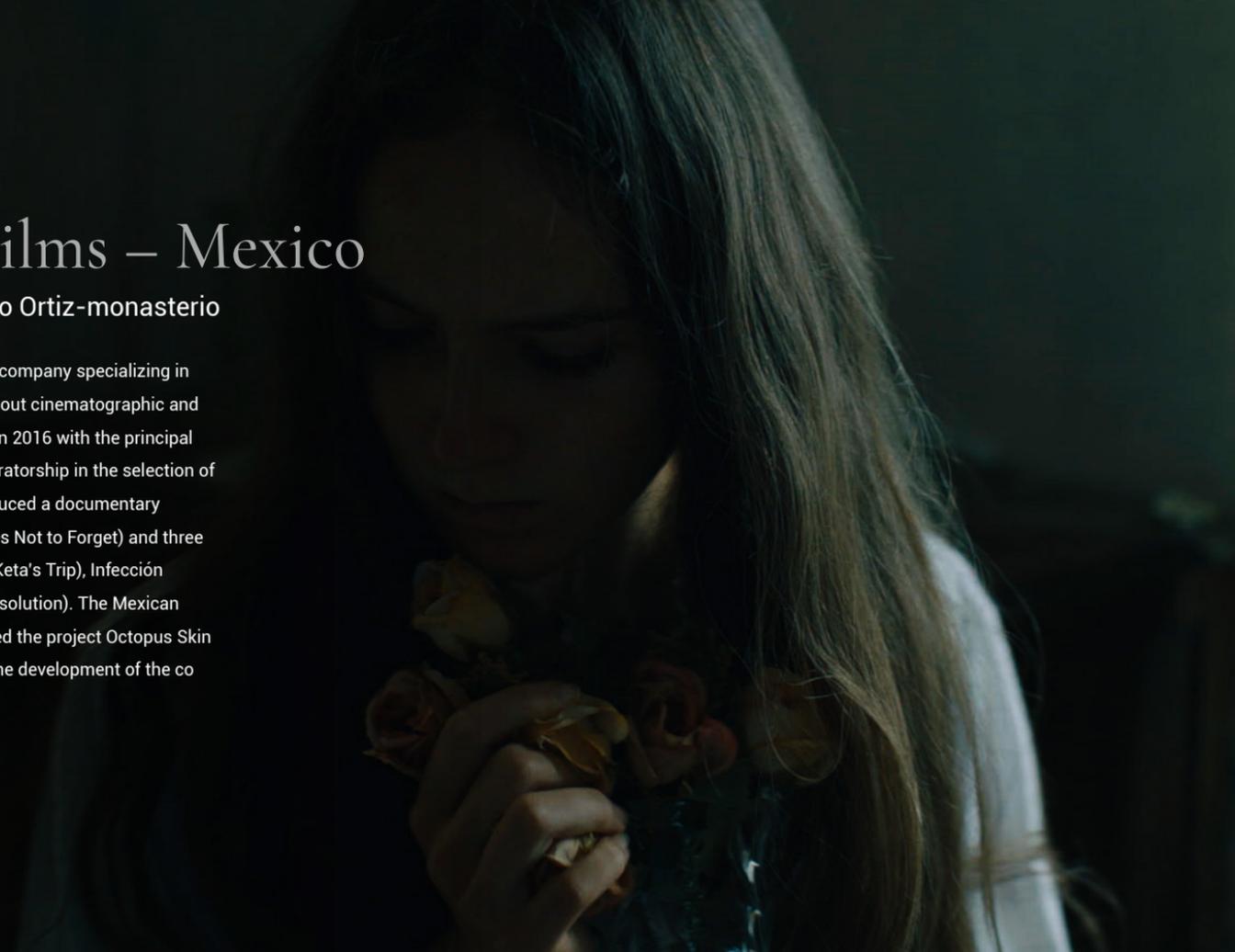
Konstantina Stavrianou

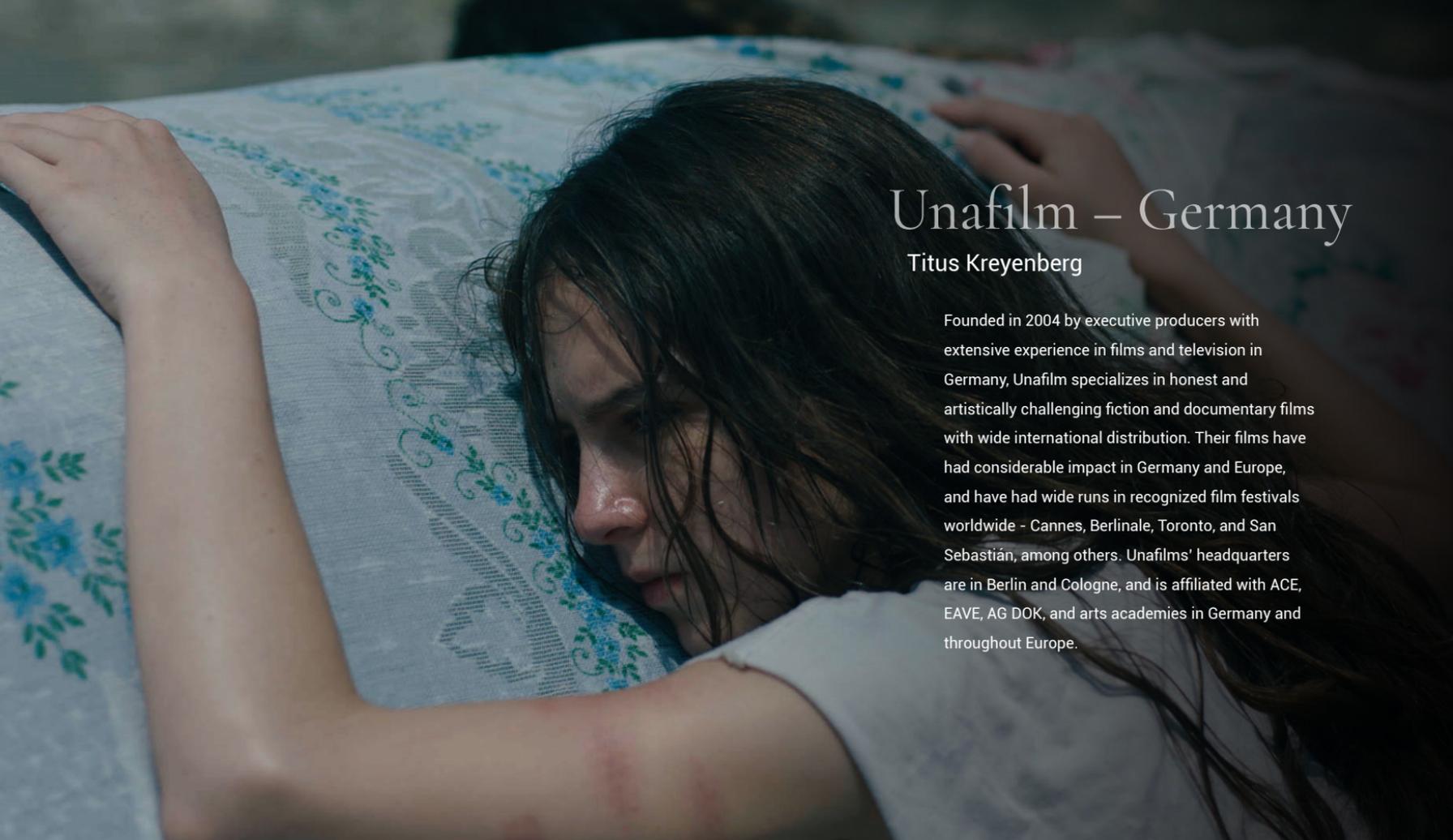
Graal S.A. is a production company and a post production facility in Greece. Currently in its 20th year of operation, the company is focused on cinema and its involvement in the cinematic process varies from the early stages of development to providing post- production services for short, feature films and documentaries. It has produced three feature films and three documentaries to date awarded in international festivals. In 2003, Graal entered international co-production and has continued with a wide selection of projects. It has a significant track record, with its films selected for Cannes, Venice, Berlinale and other international festivals. The company has co-produced 55 films to date and has a portfolio of approximately 390 titles. Since 2010, it has been the main sponsor of the Agora Film Market section of Thessaloniki IFF, offering a complete image post- production award.

Desenlace Films – Mexico

Ramiro Ruiz, Santiago Ortiz-monasterio

Desenlace is a film production company specializing in seeking, creating, and carrying out cinematographic and audiovisual content. Founded in 2016 with the principal objective of having ultimate curatorship in the selection of quality content, they have produced a documentary *Cuentos para no olvidar* (Stories Not to Forget) and three feature films: *El viaje de Keta* (Keta's Trip), *Infección* (Infection), and *Absolución* (Absolution). The Mexican producer Ramiro Ruiz has joined the project *Octopus Skin* and his experience will boost the development of the co production in Mexico.





Unafilm – Germany

Titus Kreyenberg

Founded in 2004 by executive producers with extensive experience in films and television in Germany, Unafilm specializes in honest and artistically challenging fiction and documentary films with wide international distribution. Their films have had considerable impact in Germany and Europe, and have had wide runs in recognized film festivals worldwide - Cannes, Berlinale, Toronto, and San Sebastián, among others. Unafilms' headquarters are in Berlin and Cologne, and is affiliated with ACE, EAVE, AG DOK, and arts academies in Germany and throughout Europe.

Production Company

CALEIDOSCOPIO CINE

Francisco Salazar E13-74 y Coruña

Quito - Ecuador

EC 170525

Email: isabella@caleidoscopiocine.com

Tel: +593 998357113

www.caleidoscopiocine.com

Sales/Festivals Agent

PATRA SPANOU FILM

Yorck Strasse 22

40476 Düsseldorf – Germany

Email: film@patraspanou.biz

Tel.: +49 15201987294

www.patraspanou.com

