



# Clandestine Childhood

A film by Benjamin Ávila



**Argentina, Spain, Brazil / 2012 / Drama / Spanish with English subtitles /  
110 min. /Color / Scope / Dolby 5.1**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Argentina, 1979. After years of exile, 12-year-old Juan and his family return to Argentina under fake identities. Juan's parents and his uncle Beto are Montoneros guerrillas who are fighting against the Military Junta that rules the country. Because of their political activities they are being tracked down relentlessly, and the threat of capture and even death is constant. However, Juan's daily life is also full of warmth and humor, and he quickly and easily integrates into his new environment. His friends at school and the girl he has a gigantic crush on, María, know him as Ernesto, a name he must not forget, since his family's survival is at stake. Juan accepts this and follows all of his parents' rules until one day he is told that they need to leave immediately with no explanation. This is a story about militancy, living undercover, and love.

## **FESTIVALS**

### **WINNER :**

**Havana Film Festival – Coral Award**

**Unasur Cine International Film Festival (Argentina) – Best Film Award**

**Fine Arts Film Festival (Dominican Republic/Puerto Rico) – Best Female Performance Award**

**Philadelphia Film Festival - Honorable Mention for Spanish Language Cinema**

**Huelva Ibero-American Film Festival (Spain) - Golden Columbus Award for Best Film**

### **OFFICIAL SELECTION:**

**CANNES Film Festival – Director's Fortnight**

**SAN SEBASTIÁN Int'l Film Festival**

**TORONTO Int'l Film Festival**

**FESTIVAL DO RIO (Rio de Janeiro)**

**PHILADELPHIA Film Festival**

**ABU DHABI Film Festival**

**DENVER Film Festival**

**TUCUMAN Film Festival**

**BRATISLAVA Film Festival**

**TAIPEI Golden Horse Film Festival**

## COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since the day I decided to become a director, I wanted to tell this story. My story.

I did not plan to make a biopic, but I wanted to draw upon my childhood memories to make a film about first love taking place during the last military dictatorship of Argentina, between 1976 and 1983. I also wanted to talk about militancy at that time, an unknown universe for many, where fear ran alongside joy, love and passion. Revisiting history from the point of view of my younger self and the other characters of the film, allowed me to shed a new light on this period.

My main references on this project have been films like *When Father Was Away on Business* by Emir Kusturica and *My Life as a Dog* by Lasse Hallström, because of their depiction of childhood. Ken Loach for his political use of the cinema, and Krzysztof Kieslowski for his narrative sensitivity also inspired me.

*Infancia Clandestina (Clandestine Childhood)* is my story, which I share with many other children who loved their youth at the same historical moment.

Benjamin Ávila

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY AND FIMOGRAPHY

Benjamin Ávila - Director

Benjamín Ávila has written and directed internationally award-winning short films. In 2004 he directed the documentary *Nietos* about children of "the disappeared" whose identities were recovered thanks to the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo. Benjamín is also a producer of educational television programs. *Clandestine Childhood*, his first feature film, is based on true events from his life.

### FILMOGRAPHY

- 2011 **CLANDESTINE CHILDHOOD**
- 2005 **VEO VEO** (short)  
SIGNIS Films in Progress Award – San Sebastian Int'l Film Festival
- 2004 **NIETOS ( IDENTIDAD Y MEMORIAL)** (short)  
Nominated for Best Documentary & Best Screenplay for a feature-length documentary – Argentinean Film Critics Association Awards
- 2003 **LA GOTERA** (short)  
Winner – OCIC Cinematographic Post-Production Award – Mar del Plata Int'l Film Festival

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES AND FILMOGRAPHIES

### NATALIA OREIRO (CHARO)

Natalia Marisa Oreiro Iglesias was born in 1977 in Montevideo, Uruguay and began studying theatre at the age of 8. When she was 12 she went to an audition for child actors and started a career in commercials. From then until the age of 16 she shot close to 40 commercials. At 14 she was picked out of 10,000 competitors to accompany Xuxa Meneghel on U.S. tour.

When she was 17 Natalia relocated to Argentina. In 1995 she landed the role of the protagonist's niece in the popular telenovela *Sweet Ana*. Afterwards she appeared in "90-60-90 Models" (1996) and a year later in *Rich and Famous* (1997), which got attention all over Argentina and abroad. In 1998 she starred in the movie *An Argentinian in New York* as an ambitious teenager who dreams of being a triumph in the music world. The film beat all domestic box-office records, and also kicked off her singing career.

That same year she launched her first record worldwide called "Natalia Oreiro" and performed the song "Cambio dolor," which opened the television series *Wild Angel* — the highest rated daytime show at the time. In 2000 she received the Celebrity of the Year prize given by E! Entertainment Television Network in the television category, for her outstanding career and for being the celebrity revelation of 1999.

She has since continued an incredibly successful career in television, film and music, touring expensively all over the world.

### FILMOGRAPHY (selective)

- 2003 CLEOPATRA
- 2007 A WRECKED FILMMAKER
- 2009 MÚSICA EN ESPERA  
FRANCE
- 2010 MISS TACUAREMBÓ
- 2011 MY FIRST WEDDING
- 2012 CLANDESTINE CHILDHOOD

## **CÉSAR TRONCOSO (DANIEL)**

César Troncoso was born in Uruguay and began studying drama at the end of the 1980s. During this time, he formed a comic duo with the actor Roberto Suárez. Since graduating, he has worked on stage almost non-stop, appearing in more than 30 plays. Most of these performances took place in unconventional places, such as train stations, stables, parks and sheds. He has also participated in numerous Latin American festivals (Caracas, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Santo Domingo & Porto Alegre). In 2004, the Association of Theatre Critics, Uruguay granted him the Florencio Award for Best Actor of the year. Right around that time César began his screen career, which really took off when *The Pope's Toilet* (a Film Movement release), in which he had the starring role, was selected for the Cannes Film Festival in 2007. He has continued to work in film since then, both in Argentina and his native Uruguay.

### **FILMOGRAPHY (selective)**

- 2003 SEAWARDS JOURNEY
- 2007 XXY (a Film Movement release)
  - THE POPE'S TOILET (a Film Movement release)
- 2008 MATRIOSHKA
  - SMALL COUNTRY
- 2009 BAD DAY TO GO FISHING (a Film Movement release)
  - LEO'S ROOM
  - IN YOUR NAME
- 2010 NORBERTO'S DEADLINE
- 2011 CIRCULAR
  - ADICCIONES
- 2012 FLACAS VACAS
  - CLANDESTINE CHILDHOOD

## **ERNESTO ALTERIO (UNCLE BETO)**

Ernesto Alterio (Buenos Aires, July 25, 1970) is an Argentine-born Spanish film and television actor, son of Héctor Alterio and brother of Malena Alterio. He starred in the TV cult mini-series *Vientos Del Agua* along with his father, and has twice worked with director Marcelo Piñeyro, who frequently casts his father in roles. He works both in Spain and Argentine television.

### **FILMOGRAPHY (selective)**

- 1995 MORIRÁS EN CHAFARINAS  
BELMONTE
- 1996 MI NOMBRE ES SOMBRA  
NOT LOVE, JUST FRENZY
- 1998 INSOMNIO  
LOS AÑOS BÁRBAROS
- 1999 CUARTETO DE LA HABANA  
LOS LOBOS DE WASHINGTON
- 2000 YOYES  
KASBAH
- 2001 LUNA'S GAME  
BUNUEL AND KING SOLOMON'S TABLE
- 2002 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BED  
DESIRE
- 2005 THE METHOD  
THE 2 SIDES OF THE BED
- 2008 RAIN  
RIVALES
- 2011 EL SUEÑO DE IVÁN
- 2012 CLANDESTINE CHILDHOOD

## **CREDITS**

### **CREW**

<b>Director</b>	BENJAMIN ÁVILA
<b>Producer</b>	LUIS PUENZO
<b>Production Company</b>	HISTORIAS CINEMÁTOGRAFICAS / HABITACIÓN 1520 PRODUCCIONES
<b>Co-Production Company</b>	ANTÀRTIDA PRODUCCIONES / ACADEMIA DE FILMES / RADIO Y TELEVISIÓN ARGENTINA
<b>Script</b>	BENJAMIN ÁVILA & MARCELLO MÜLLER
<b>Music</b>	PEDRO ONETTO
<b>Costumes</b>	LUDMILA FINCIC
<b>Editor</b>	GUSTAVO GIANI
<b>Director of Photography</b>	IVÁN GIERASINCHUK (ADF)
<b>Sound</b>	FERNANDO SOLDEVILLA
<b>Art Director</b>	YAMILA FONTAN

### **CAST**

<b>Ernesto / Juan</b>	TEO GUTIÉRREZ MORENO
<b>Charo / Cristina</b>	NATALIA OREIRO
<b>Daniel / Horacio</b>	CÉSAR TRONCOSO
<b>Uncle Beto</b>	ERNESTO ALTERIO
<b>Grandma Amalia</b>	CRISTINA BANEGAS