

ADVENT

a short film by Roberto F. Canuto & Xu Xiaoxi



ALMOST RED PROD. ARKADIN EDICIONES IN ASSOCIATION WITH PROD VIESQUESWOOD PRESENT "ADVENT"
DAVID SOTO GIGANTO ICI DÍAZ LIDIA MÉNDEZ BEATRIZ MERÉ DAVID BLANKA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY XU XIAOXI SOUND JAVIER IGLESIAS RQUEZ. POSTER DESIGNER SU OPPERMAN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MARILÚ CASAS
PRODUCTION JOSÉ & JAVIER GONZÁLEZ-FIERRO SANTOS NATALIA FDEZ. CANUTO BEATRIZ MERÉ
MUSIC ANDREA CENTAZZO SCRIPT ROBERTO F. CANUTO DIRECTED BY ROBERTO F. CANUTO & XU XIAOXI

TAGLINE AND STORYLINE

*"All that we see or seem is
but a dream within a dream."*

(Edgar Allan Poe, 1849)

"A dazed young unemployed man tries to discover the identity of a mysterious girl, who he spies on a secluded beach, as she reminds him of his dead mother. She runs throwing herself off a cliff, but it will not be the last time that she crosses his path."



Suso (David Soto Giganto)

SYNOPSIS & PLOT

Suso, a young unemployed man, without a future, spies and tries to talk with a peculiar young woman who, after a danger alert, runs and throws herself off of a cliff before he can do anything about it. Suso will seek answers that awaken memories of the past and even make him rethink his true identity.

Advent is a time of self-communion and changes. Suso (David Soto Giganto) is a young, confused man with no future and no job. One day, on a secluded beach, he observes a peculiar young woman, like a ghost, dressed in old clothes from another time. Her presence arouses in him memories of the past. Her name is Cova (Ici Diaz), who, after warning him about a great danger, flees from him to throw herself off of a cliff. One strange night Suso glides like a depressed shadow among the celebrations of the city, looking in vain for the support of his friend, Vicky (Lidia Méndez). Knowing he is close to confronting his innermost fear, he makes a visit to his mother's grave, which he associates with the young girl, and a new brief encounter with her occurs. His confusion is made bigger by the effects of alcohol, but that night he will have one last chance to find Cova, which accentuates his feelings of confusion and reveals a truth that confronts him with his own identity.

THE DIRECTORS

Roberto F. Canuto y Xu Xiaoxi

ROBERTO F. CANUTO
(GIJÓN, SPAIN, 1973)

Graduated in Audiovisual Communications (Image & Sound) from *Complutense University* (Madrid, Spain). Bachelor of Music studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Oviedo (Spain). In 2009 he completed a *Master in Film Direction* at the *New York Film Academy of Universal Studios* in Los Angeles. He has directed various shorts, among them the awarded *Toto Forever*. His graduation film, *Desire Street*, co-directed with Xu Xiaoxi, would be prized in Mexico and other film festivals. In 2011 he moved to China, where he founded, along with Xu Xiaoxi, the company *Almost Red Productions*, which alternates advertising with fiction works, like the awarded short films *Ni Jing: Thou shalt not steal* (2013) and *Floating Melon* (2015), the last one a Chinese-Spanish coproduction. *Advent* is his debut in Spain, and his new short-film, *Sunken Plum*, is in production.



XU XIAOXI
(CHENGDU, CHINA, 1981)

Graduated with a Fine Arts degree (Painting and Video Art) from the *Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University* (Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 2007). In 2009 he completed a *Master in Fine Arts*, at the *New York Film Academy Universal Studios Hollywood*. He has directed several short films, including *Ni Jing: Thou shalt not steal* (2013), *Mei Mei* (2009) and *The Fluxus of ID* (2006). He is a regular collaborator of Roberto F. Canuto, with whom he completed his master-graduating project, *Desire Street* (his first feature film) in late 2011. Together they have collaborated on other projects, in addition to directing work, in photography and writing, for example in *Toto Forever* (2010). His last released film, *Floating Melon* (2015), was shot in Chengdu. *Advent* is his debut in Spain and his next work, *Sunken Plum*, is in shooting process.

SHOOTING IN ASTURIAN LANGUAGE

FILM LOCATIONS:

Advent was filmed in Asturias, in the Aviles' old center and the La Carriona's historic cemetery, among scenic natural outdoor landscapes of Carreño's coast council, especially in the various beaches located between the little local villages of Perlora and Xivares.

ASTURIAN LANGUAGE:

An unusual bet in the industry is the fact that **Advent** is spoken entirely in Asturian. This is not new in their career. In their previous works, *Ni Jing: Thou shalt not steal* and *Floating Melon*, shot in China, they managed without the official mandarin language on China to use the own dialect of the province of Sichuan. In the case of **Advent**, the dialogue's monitoring was conducted by the professor and expert in Asturian language Laura Prieto Rodríguez, highlighting the fact that most of the cast was not familiar with the language, as in the case of the protagonist, David Soto Giganto, from Leones origin, but that fits perfectly.

PREPRODUCTION WORK:

Based on many limitations, not having any official subsidy, production was raised by handwork, trying to form a group of professionals with talent and dedication, to offset budget constraints. Once they formed a core working group formed by the directors, along with Jose Manuel and Francisco Javier Gonzalez-Fierro Santos, persons in charge from Arkadin Ediciones, as production managers, and Laura Prieto Rodriguez, charged with monitoring the Asturian language, focused in search of professionals who shaped the artistic team. The casting, made in the "Conseyu of Mucedá of Xixón", revealed to the authors the great talent of the Asturian interpreters, many of them arising from the ESAD (School of Dramatic Arts of Asturias). David Soto Giganto in the main title role,



Xivares was one of the scenes of the shooting



Cova (Ici Díaz)

alongside with Ici Diaz, Lidia Mendez, Beatriz Meré and David Blanka, play the main characters. They have created unique characters, but recognizable, thrilling to be built from the inside, in a very visceral way, focusing on their feelings and passions.

THE MOVIE TEAM:

In parallel with rehearsals, an excellent technical professional team was formed, including the actress Beatriz Meré, of Producciones Viesqueswood. Fundamental to filming were Natalia Fernández Canuto, responsible for make-up and costumes, Marilú Casas, assistant direction & script, and the sound and mixing technician was Javier Iglesias Rodríguez. All supported by the collaboration of family and friends. Also to highlight the advice of the filmmaker, screenwriter and producer Jose Manuel Monge, author of works such as *Malevo*, *Los días perdidos* or *Nada es lo que parece*.



Suso will face his own ghosts

Music:

A key element was the use of music in **Advent**. The author was the Italian-American composer Andrea Centazzo, a regular collaborator of directors, and one of the masters of the avant-garde music. For the soundtrack he created incidental music with experimental moments, to reflect the inner world of the main character, Suso. This, along with the more melodic themes, produced a cascade of emotions, parallel to the confusion of feelings of the protagonist.

THE MAIN TITLE:

The term "Advent" has its etymological origin in the Latin "ad-ventus" (coming advent) and was used to announce the arrival of an important character. In Spanish "adviento" is used almost exclusively in a religious context; therefore, to emphasize its origin, we separated the Latin roots of the word. In English it has two meanings, denoting the great importance of the arrival of someone from the past of the main character, which upsets and defines their existence forever.

POSTPRODUCTION:

The editing and other postproduction was done by the directors in China, while the sound design was a shared work with Asturias in Spain. At the same time important elements were created for promotion, a subject very important to the directors in all of their works, such as the main poster. This was carried out by the South African artist Susan Opperman, who designed a visceral poster with a very expressive style and vibrant colors. It mixes painting with photography, reflecting the main characters feelings and nightmarish atmosphere of the film.



Vicky (Lidia Méndez)
Suso's best friend

ROBERTO F. CANUTO & XU XIAOXI

TALK ABOUT THE PROJECT

In **Advent** we tried to portray the psychological drama that lives within the main character, Suso, who is facing the abyss due to the lack of social prospects and future, living a moment in which the ghosts of his past invade his mind. We touch an important and sensitive issue, the issue of suicide. This dramatic situation involves the past absorbing any prospect of future and the present no longer making sense. Although we try to understand the psychology of someone in these circumstances, there will almost always be many aspects that escape our reasoning. Hence, we focus on the inner experience of the character, his feelings or lack of understanding and love in their childhood, and his personal environment. We decided to approach the character from the emotional point of view rather than rational. Look through his own eyes and feelings, going in depth into his inner world.

The Asturian language was an important element in the film. It seemed logical that the story was spoken in "Asturiano", although we had doubts about the level of language that the characters would use. It is surprising that there are few films produced in Asturias using the "Llingua", probably due to a lack of incentives or subsidies from the institutions. We found the peculiarity of the variants of Asturian in the different geographical areas of Asturias. We decided it was best not to identify characters with specific geographical areas and create an atmosphere that showed a subjective universe, from the point of view of Suso. We follow the rules from ALLA (Academy of the Asturian Language) and eliminated the accent of the characters.

Despite budget constraints, we were highly rewarded by the great team with which we shot **Advent**. The actors made great performances and were completely devoted to the project. We had great professionals behind the scenes. In addition, shooting in Asturias, with those fantastic landscapes of the coast and locations of Aviles, marked an unforgettable experience.

CAST AND CREW

DAVID SOTO GIGANTO

ACTOR

(León, Castilla y Leon). A graduate from ESAD. High Arts Education Award 2010 in the interpretation category, organized by the Council of Education of the Principality of Asturias. Kevin Spacey selected him to participate with its founding in performances in New York. He has worked as an actor in companies like Teatro del Norte, Higiénico Papel Teatro, Escenapache, La Tejedora de Sueños, Compañía de Jesús Cracio S.L., and now in the National Youth Classical Theatre Company.



ICI DÍAZ

ACTRESS

(Oviedo, Asturias) interested in the arts since childhood, studied classical dance, continuing her formation until now in various disciplines (classical, jazz, contemporary and hip hop). She completed courses in theater companies as "Teatro del Norte". In 2015 she began her studies in the ESAD, supplemented with activities such as children's entertainment and making professional street performances and others with her theater group "Club del Arte Vivo". **Advent** is her first film work.



LIDIA MÉNDEZ

ACTRESS

(Gijón, Asturias). Graduated in textual interpretation by the RESAD, she has participated in various theater projects ("El país lejano" directed by Charo Amador, "Teatro Mundi" by Nuria Alkorta, "DNA" by Miguel Catarecha, "Open doors" by Felix Estaire and Richard Salamanca, "Desnudando los clásicos" by Santi Senso) and audiovisual projects (*Gusano morris* or *SOR*). A very versatile actress, has also taken courses like "La palabra es acción" or "Danza contemporánea".





BEATRIZ MERÉ
ACTRESS/PRODUCER

(Gijón, Asturias) degree in Drama from the ESAD of Asturias, has supplemented her studies of interpretation with several courses in ECAM or La factoría del guión. She participated in various theater productions ("Plauto XXI", "Teatro Noctum", "Salomé"), shorts (*Revelación* or **Advent**), cabaret ("Sexo peludo"), or web series ("Vida y milagros de sor Angustina"). Producer and director of the school of interpretation Productions Viesqueswood in Gijon (Asturias).

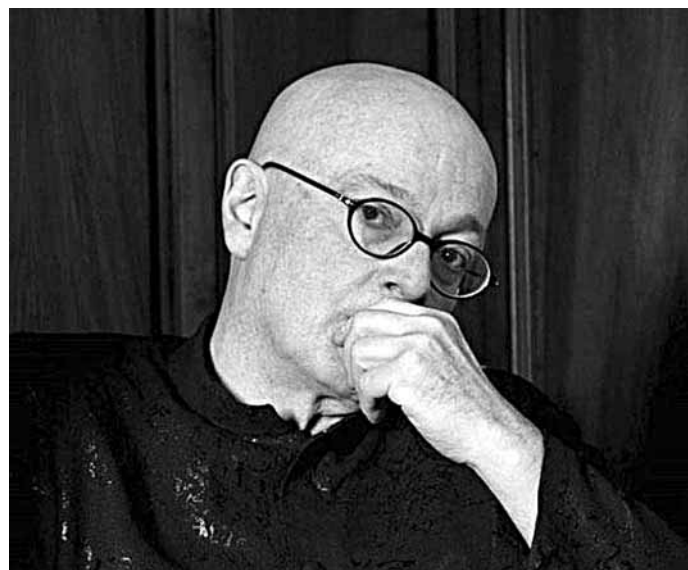
DAVID BLANKA
ACTOR

(Langreo, Asturias) Trained in the William Layton Laboratory of Madrid and the Actors Temple in London. An actor with great experience in front of the camera has worked in more than 50 short films (*Artificial*, *M Is For Miracle*, *Coordenada Zero* or *Extático*) and participated in TV series like "La que se avecina", "Doctor Mateo" or "Cuarto Milenio". Nominated for best film actor in the second edition of the Gava Awards. **Advent** is his first collaboration with the directors.



ANDREA CENTAZZO
COMPOSER

(Udine, Italy). Italian-American performer, composer and video artist, with more than a 30-year career, has become one of the international benchmarks of minimalist music. Conductor, percussionist, with more than 1,500 concerts and live performances in Europe and the United States and more than 150 published discs. Composer of multiple soundtracks in the 70s and 80s, their collaboration with filmmakers Roberto F. Canuto and Xu Xiaoxi began in 2009 with *Toto Forever* and *Mei Mei* working in all its productions to the present, **Advent**.





ALMOST RED PRODUCTIONS

Audiovisual Production Company created and run by the directors Roberto F. Canuto and Xu Xiaoxi, and settled in Chengdu (Sichuan, China). It has to its credit several short films and a feature film, and has also done works in the fields of advertising and documentary.

ARKADIN EDICIONES

Publisher and audiovisual production company with over ten years of experience dedicated to addressing issues in the field of audiovisual, has published nearly thirty books. It's run by the brothers José Manuel and Francisco Javier González-Fierro Santos (Aviles, Asturias), graduates in Audiovisual Communication from the Complutense University of Madrid. Specializing in film and television writers have worked on numerous short films. In the field of film production **Advent** is the second collaboration of Arkadin Ediciones with Almost Red Productions after working together in *Floating Melon*.

PRODUCCIONES VIESQUESWOOD

Film Production Company, Drama School and Theater Company, based in Gijón (Asturias) and directed by actress Beatriz Meré.

CREDITS

CAST

Suso	David Soto Giganto
Cova	Ici Díaz
Vicky	Lidia Méndez
Pipi	Beatriz Meré
Xuan	David Blanka
Little Girl	Leyre Fernández Castañón
Xuan's Friend	María de los Casares
Man in the Street.....	José Manuel Monge
Woman in the Street..	Ángeles Machado Alija
Whore 1	Natalia Fernández Canuto
Whore 2	Clara Isabel Menéndez Álvarez
Pub's friend	Manuel Bango Pérez
Waiter	Xuan Naveiras Paz

CREW

Directors	Roberto F. Canuto y Xu Xiaoxi
Producers	José Manuel González-Fierro Santos Francisco Javier González-Fierro Santos Natalia Fernández Canuto Beatriz Meré
Production Assistant	José Manuel Monge y Domingo Rodríguez Acebal
Assistant Direction	Marilú Casas y Francisco Javier González-Fierro Santos
Script	Marilú Casas
Asturian Language Advisor	Laura Prieto Rodríguez
Composer	Andrea Centazzo
Cinematography	Xu Xiaoxi
Sound	Javier Iglesias Rodríguez
Make-Up & Costumes	Natalia Fernandez Canuto
Editing	Roberto F. Canuto y Xu Xiaoxi
Sound design	Javier Iglesias Rodríguez y Roberto F. Canuto
Colourist	Xu Xiaoxi
Catering	Francisco Javier González-Fierro Santos y Pilar Santos Teijeiro
Stills	Kike Ruesga Vega
Poster Design	Susan Opperman



PRODUCCIONES
VIESQUESWOOD

ALMOST RED PRODUCTIONS - ARKADIN EDICIONES
in association with PRODUCCIONES VIESQUESWOOD

presents

Ad-vientu (Advent)

a short-film by Roberto F. Canuto y Xu Xiaoxi

with

David Soto Giganto

Ici Díaz Lidia Méndez

Beatriz Meré David Blanka

First Release: End of 2016

Language: Asturiano with subtitles

Runtime: 19 min 52 sec

Color, Scope 2:35.1

Contact:

Almost Red Prod: almostred.prod@gmail.com

Arkadin Ediciones: admin@arkadinediciones.es

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