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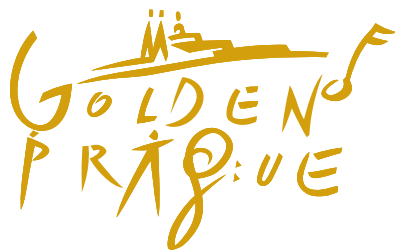
BAROK FILM

presents

Disportrait

a documentary portrait of Spanish choreographer Nacho Duato in Russia

**WINNER CZECH TV PRIZE AND GRAND PRIX
INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION FESTIVAL "GOLDEN PRAGUE" 2014**



a Denmark-Germany-Canada-USA-Kuwait coproduction

Fact Sheet ¹

Title: Disportrait

Format: HD

Duration: 52 minutes

Genre: Arts & Culture, Portrait, Biography

Languages: Spanish, English, Russian

Subtitles: English

Directors: Ulrik Wivel (Denmark) & Alejandro Alvarez (Canada/USA)

Producers: Katrin Pors, Talal Al-Muhanna, Alejandro Alvarez, Ulrik Wivel

Coproducers: Anders V. Christensen & Paul Scherzer

Production Company: Barok Film (Denmark)

Countries of coproduction:

ZDF (Germany)

Movens Pictura (USA)

Six Island Productions (Canada)

Linked Productions (Kuwait)

KG Film (Denmark)

Broadcast coproduction partner: ZDF in collaboration with ARTE

Commissioning Editor at ZDF: Dieter Schneider

Associated Broadcasters:

NTR | Netherlands (Commissioning Editor, Joost van Krieken)

YLE | Finland (Commissioning Editor, Jenny Westergård)

DRK | Denmark (Commissioning Editor, Flemming Hedegaard)

NRK | Norway (Commissioning Editor, Tore Tomter)

Supported by Tribeca Documentary Fund

Presented at International DOK Leipzig Coproduction Meeting

¹ Complete credits for the film at end of dossier

Logline

World-renowned Spanish choreographer Nacho Duato is forced to redeem himself artistically after being fired from the dance company he led for 20 years.

Short synopsis (82 words)

After transforming Madrid's Compañía Nacional de Danza into one of the most successful dance companies in the world, Spanish choreographer Nacho Duato is fired. Soon after, the international contemporary dance icon is lured to St. Petersburg by Russian billionaire Vladimir Kekhman and given the reigns over a major classical ballet company - the first foreigner to do so in over 100 years. Duato accepts the challenge of modernizing the traditionalist Russian troupe, even as it plunges him into cultural and social isolation.

Medium Synopsis (181 words)

After his controversial dismissal by the Spanish Minister of Culture from the Madrid-based dance company he directed for 20 years, Spanish choreographer Nacho Duato takes on the directorship of the Mikhailovsky Ballet in St. Petersburg, seeing it as a chance to redeem himself professionally. However, great artistic challenges lie ahead as the classical dancers of the traditional ballet troupe struggle with his contemporary vision for a new Russian ballet.

Plunged into cultural and social isolation, the new "Maestro" of the Mikhailovsky Ballet – a gay icon in his native Spain - must now face these challenges and prove his standing amongst the Russian dancers, public and critics alike.

Although he eventually finds professional success after three years in Russia, Duato's personal life reaches a dead-end, leaving him feeling alienated and alone. When he suddenly receives a surprise offer to take over the Berlin State Ballet as Artistic Director, the choreographer is presented with the promise of new creative horizons. He must now choose between honoring the lifeline he was given in St. Petersburg or uprooting himself, once again, in favor of an unforeseeable future.

Creative Team

Filmmakers' background

Prior to becoming filmmakers Ulrik Wivel was, amongst others, a dancer with the Royal Danish Ballet and New York City Ballet. He retired from performing to undertake film studies - later becoming a recognized filmmaker in his native Denmark and making 9 documentaries, one feature film and a number of commercials.

Alejandro was a dancer with Compañía Nacional de Danza in Spain under the direction of Nacho Duato. He then went on to study drama and theater in England before making short award-winning films.

Alejandro Álvarez (Co-Director | Canada-USA)

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Alejandro trained as a scriptwriter and director with Pedro Loeb, the acclaimed writer of the Oscar nominated film "Felicidades" and is a graduate of The Oxford School of Drama. Alejandro has written/directed two short films. His short film "Deep Sleep" (2010) won "Best International Short" at the London Independent Film Festival and a "Silver Award" from the California Film Awards and was selected at more than 30 film festivals. His first short "Le Trac" was personally selected by Edward James Olmos for the Los Angeles International Film Festival.

Ulrik Wivel (Co-Director, Director of Photography | Denmark)

Ulrik is a critically acclaimed and award-winning filmmaker based in his native Copenhagen. A graduate of the Super16 program of Nordisk Film, his films include the portrait films "Dancer" and "Staceyann Chin". In 2003 he directed the dance film "Urge" followed by the "This is Me Walking" and "I You Love". In 2008 he co-wrote and directed the fiction feature "Comeback" and the feature documentary "Roskilde". He also directed a portrait of the Queen of Denmark commemorating her 70th birthday, recently finished "A Different Kind of Boy" and is currently working on both fiction and documentary projects.

Directors' Statement

Conceptually, we felt that it was essential to maintain an observational approach for this film, whereby Duato never acknowledged that we were present as filmmakers. For instance, we do not interview him from off-camera or speak to him on camera either. Both for him and the audience it's as if we are not even there.

Our aim was to present a dynamic and intimate portrait of Duato as both a choreographer and as an individual, by filming a narrative that not only highlighted his passion for dance but that also brought into view his raw emotions and everyday dilemmas during his time in Russia.

At many times, he seemed like a person truly lost in translation as he tried to cope with social and cultural situations that were very far removed from his Hispanic sensibilities and the lifestyle he so cherished in Madrid. But capturing these moments and being in the 'right place, right time' required many filming trips to St. Petersburg on our part, which took place over the course of three years.

In spite of both being ex-dancers, we always felt that while this film should obviously have dance in it, it should not become a "dance film" per se. We wanted to present a portrait of Duato that had never before been attempted, a documentary that somehow also might read like a fictional narrative.

Still, we hope that Duato's mastery of dance – as seen through the onscreen rehearsal segments and performances, showing his cutting-edge choreography - can be fully appreciated and that we have captured the extraordinary journey of a man willing to start from zero to redefine his artistic place in the world, accepting loneliness and isolation in the process.

We are inspired by his relentless pursuit for perfection and hope his creative energy and dedication to excellence translates to audiences everywhere.

- Alejandro Alvarez & Ulrik Wivel

Production Executives

Talal Al-Muhanna (Producer, Linked Productions | Kuwait-USA)

Talal's interest in producing dance films began while working with William Forsythe's Ballett Frankfurt in Germany. His first dance film "Kamera 1/Kamera 2" featured dancers of the Frankfurt-based company and received a Jury Special Mention at Napolidanza in Italy. In addition to producing dance films and documentaries on the performing arts, Talal develops and produces films by Arab filmmakers internationally. He holds a BA & MA in Film and Moving Image Production from Leeds Metropolitan University in the U.K. and a Certificate in Fundraising from New York University.

Katrin Pors (Producer, Barok Film | Denmark)

Katrin Pors born in Bornholm, Denmark: graduate in production from EICTV, Cuba and the Media Business School, Spain and EAVE. She has 10 years of experience working as a producer and line producer between Europe and Latin America. In 2012 she founded the production company Blond Indian Films in Colombia with Carlos García. Blond Indian Films produce international feature films and documentaries. Currently she is producing "The Nest" by Diana Montero (filming), "Taganga" and "Birds of Summer" by Ciro Guerra (both in development) and "The Resistance" by Carlos Garcia (development) as well as coproducing Carlos Quintelas: "Benjamin or the Planetarium" and Jorge Foreros "Violence" (both postproduction).

Paul Scherzer (Co-Producer, Six Island Productions | Canada)

Founder and president of Six Island Productions, Paul has produced a host of award-winning dramatic features, documentaries and interactive projects playing festivals from Toronto to Cannes, Sundance to Dubai and selling into all markets. Theatrical documentaries include "The Manor" by Shawney Cohen, "GATE#5" by Simon El Habre, "Trouble in the Peace" and "Land" by Julian Pinder, "Anjar" by Noura Kevorkian, and "Manufactured Landscapes" by Jennifer Baichwal.

Dieter Schneider (Commissioning Editor, ZDF | Germany)

Dieter Schneider has worked as a filmmaker and commissioning editor for ZDF/Arte and since 2012 has been Head of department Theatre, pop, event at ZDF/Arte.

Anne Regitze Wivel (Managing Director, Barok Film | Denmark)

Anne Regitze Wivel is company artistic director of Barok Film - a production company that produces vivid images in the documentary genre, fiction and animation. Anne has produced and executive produced 27 films with the latest production "Svend" being 2011's most successful Danish documentary with 45,000 admissions at the box office and 1 million views on national television. The company's aim is to create films that have something at stake and that the author is really passionate about.

Film Credits

Directors

Ulrik Wivel & Alejandro Alvarez

Director of Photography

Ulrik Wivel

Editor

Nanna Frank Møller

Sound design & mix

Carlos E. Garcia

Producers

Katrin Pors, Talal Al-Muhanna, Alejandro Alvarez, Ulrik Wivel

Executive Producers

Talal Al-Muhanna & Anne Wivel

Co-Executive Producers

Katrin Pors & Muriel Rosilio

Coproducers

Anders V. Christensen & Paul Scherzer

Post-production

Kong Gulerod Film

Post-production Supervisor

Anders V. Christensen

Additional Editing

Mikael Kloster Ebbesen

Video Pilot Editors

Cathrine Ambus, Per Sandholt, Frederik Strunk, Ulrik Wivel

Color grade

Frederik Bokkenheuser

Graphics

Maria Klarlund

Assistant editors

Martin Munck Schmidt, Thomas Irving, Peter W. Lassen

Foley Artist

Julien Naudin

Foley Recordist

Patrick Ghislain

Russian Translator

Alexander Arkhipov

Production Accountant

Peter Jensen

Production assistants

Mie Thomson & Sissel Dargis

Subtitles

Dansk Video Tekst

Dubbing

Studio Hamburg

Featuring artists of the Mikhailovsky Theatre St. Petersburg**Mikhailovsky Ballet**

Irina Perren, Leonid Sarafanov & Ekaterina Borchenko (Sleeping Beauty)

Ekaterina Borchenko (Nunc Dimittis)

Mikhailovsky Orchestra

Valery Ovsyanikov, Conductor (Sleeping Beauty)

Pedro Alcalde, Conductor (Nunc Dimittis)

Mikhailovsky Chorus (Nunc Dimittis)

Principal Chorus Master: Vladimir Stolpovskikh

Soloists: Mikhail Ivanov, Anna Startseva, Alexandra Kalinina, Sergey Yavushkin

Music Credits

“The New Czar”

composed and performed by Frederik Strunk

“Nacho Duato (Night Moves)”

composed and performed by Martin Pedersen

“Nunc Dimittis”

composed by Arvo Pärt and performed by Mikhailovsky Orchestra

“Goldberg Variations Aria”

composed by J.S. Bach and performed by Alison Smith

“Dawn” & “Medieval Dance”

composed and performed David Darling, Recorded July 1993, ECM 1519

“Despedida”

composed by Rafi Álvarez-Burgos, lyrics by Virgilio Colón and performed by Tapiz

“Ballroom Scene” from the ballet Anastasia

composed by Ivan Barbotin

Conducted by Konstantin Krimetz and performed by Russian Philharmonic Orchestra

Originally commissioned by Ballet Jörgen Canada

Supported by the TFI Documentary Fund

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For further information about the film, please contact:

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Alejandro Alvarez, Co-Director | alejandro.contact@gmail.com