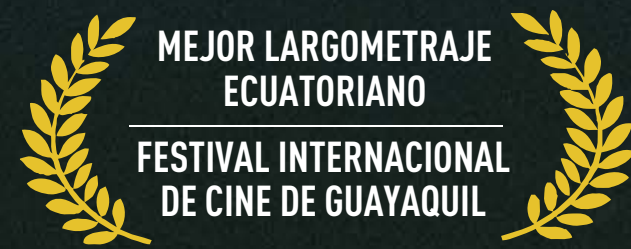


BIFF 2020

BUSAN International Film Festival



大阪アジア映画祭
**OSAKA
ASIAN
FILM
FESTIVAL
2021**

空

EMPTINESS

A FILM BY PAÚL VENEGAS



"To emigrate is like jumping into emptiness"



SYNOPSIS

LEI and WONG arrive clandestinely in Ecuador. She has only one objective, to reach New York. While he longs to bring his son from China. But their fate is in the hands of CHANG, a bipolar gangster who becomes obsessed with her and will set them at a cross roads, together they will fight for their freedom.

EMPTINESS portrays the emotional experience of the migrant in the search for their dreams, and their struggle to preserve their dignity.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Since the 80's, a new wave of Chinese immigration has been settling all over the world. Over the last decade, many arrived in Ecuador to stay, or use it as a transit point to other destinations, like the USA. Not all migrate for economic reasons, many are sent to enlarge their communities, becoming pawns of a larger structure. Others have existential motives, such as the pressure of living in modern China, the environment or just feeling overwhelmed by its population size.

It's within the Chinese community of Guayaquil that I casted the main characters of the film. These natural actors, who are immigrants themselves, explore their real emotions and experiences, their anguish and despair as immigrants that contemplate the uncertainty of the future.

I see *EMPTINESS* as a film about the subconscious in all of us, where the eyes say much more than words. An emotional journey of a woman struggling to overcome a corrupted male dominated society. I am interested to see how the viewer will perceive our main character, LEI. A woman that unwillingly is forced to use her charms and beauty to realize her independence? Or, a manipulative vile person who will do anything to achieve her objectives? While there is also a chauvinistic male that, despite his power, is a lonely soul. Their condition will challenge the audience to explore the limits of their own empathy.

The identity of the film will swing based on the audience, in China or in the West, and that's my biggest challenge as the director. I like to believe that my film won't, and cannot, be understood in a single way, and therein perhaps lies the real personality of *EMPTINESS*.



“ A pioneer film about the Chinese minority that is slowly but insistently penetrating our local cities ”

BIO-FILMOGRAPHY

Paúl Venegas - Ambato – Ecuador
Director - Producer - Screenwriter.

After almost a decade living in between Manila and Beijing while working in finance, he founded Xanadu Films in Ecuador. His filmmaking career is self-tough, evolving from the creator-screenwriter and producer of the documentary series - "Journey to Xanadu" shot in Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and China- to becoming the director and screenwriter of the documentary "Alberto Spencer, Ecuadorian of Peñarol" and "EMPTINESS", his opera prima in fiction. He internationally co-produced the features "On the line" 2012 , "All about my mate herb" 2013, "With the eyes wide open" 2012, "Defensa 1464" 2011, "When my time comes" 2008. Presently is developing his second film as director, "The sound of silence" and the fiction series "The age of ambition" and "Latin America Imaginary".





BIO-FILMOGRAPHY

Esteban Schroeder - Montevideo, Uruguay
Co - producer

Founder and Director in 1981 of CEMA (Centre for Audio-Visual Media). and since then he was part of the emergence of the Uruguayan audiovisual expression, participating in different productions alternating the roles of photographer, writer, producer and director. Since CEMA was producer The Almost True Story of Pepita the holster, a work of Beatriz Flores Silva and the film Patron film, directed by Jorge Rocca in co-production with INCAA, Argentina, in 1992. Director and producer of El Viñedo (The Vineyard , 2000), a thriller inspired by a real event, which was well received by critics and audiences. In 2002 he moved to Chile alternating his television career with with the teaching at various film schools in Chile. In 2004 he was appointed director of the School of Cinema of the Arcis University, position he held until May 2006, when begin the filming of Matar a todos (Kill them all). In 2008 was the released of Kill them all, a political thriller about Condor Operation which won awards at prestigious international festivals. In 2009 returns to Uruguay and founded La Suma (www.lasumacinetv.com) a production company from which continues the development of their projects. In 2012 debut as executive producer of the animated feature film, Selkirk, the real Robinson Crusoe, directed by Walter Tournier.



CASTING

LEI Fu Jing
WONG Lidan Zhu
CHANG Meng Day Min
VICTOR Ricardo Velasteguí

MR. LU Yin Baode
PING Meizhen Deng
CHOW Chen Jia Ji

CREDITS

DIRECTOR

Paúl Venegas

SCRIPT

Paúl Venegas y Carlos Terán Vargas

PRODUCER

Paúl Venegas

CO-PRODUCERS

Esteban Schroeder (Uruguay)

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Isabel Pazmiño, Calé Rodríguez, Lexie Zhao, Fu Jing, Meng Day Min, Jeff Karram, Adolfo Novak, Camilo Torres.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

Isabella Parra, Cristina Elizarzu, Tommie Curran, Anshelo Velasco. Universidad Católica Santiago de Guayaquil, Universidad de las Artes, Ecuavisa, Levector.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Simón Brauer

EDITOR

Felipe Guerrero

MUSIC

Víctor Andrade

CASTING

Raúl Teba

DIRECT SOUND

Nicolás Fernández

SOUND DESIGN

Federico Moreira y Alejandro Grillo

PRODUCTION DESIGN

Carla Santillán

LINE PRODUCER

Jessica Sedgwick y Calé Rodríguez

TECHNICAL INFO

YEAR: 2020
LENGTH: 92 min
LANGUAGE: Mandarin, Spanish, English
GENDER: Drama – Suspense
LOCATIONS: Guayaquil - Montevideo
COUNTRY: Ecuador – Uruguay
PRODUCTION COMPANIES: Xanadu Films, La Suma CineTV
FILM FORMAT: 4K
FILM RATIO: 2:1
SOUND: 5.1 mix
EXHIBITION FORMAT: 2K DCP
SALES AGENT: Helderland Films



CONTACT

paulvenegas@xanadufilms.com.ec

📞 +593 9 99705915

SALES

Helderland Films

Helder DaCosta

helderdac@gmail.com

📞 +31 6 22314121

📘 @vaciolapelicula

📷 @vaciolapelicula

🐦 @PelículaVacio

Xanadu
f i l m s



Programa
IBERMEDIA

LA SUMA™

📻 **lamayorcine**



INSTITUTO DE CINE
Y CREACIÓN AUDIOVISUAL

www.vaciolapelicula.com