

WHERE FRIENDSHIP & LOVE INTERSECT

Santa Fe &
Esmeralda

- CrossRoads -

Christel Veraart

Vignette I

EPK



DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Christel Veraart makes her directorial debut with ***Santa Fe & Esmeralda - Crossroads***, the first vignette in a series of shorts. She previously co-produced the award-winning film "Merope," for which she also composed the music, earning the titles "**Best Composer of the Future**" by the Cannes World Film Festival and "**Best Soundtrack**" by Los Angeles' 10th Music Film Festival. Additionally, she co-produced the films "Dreaming of Whales" and "The Return of the Salmon," for which she also wrote the music.

An award-winning composer, singer, and lyricist, Christel transcends geographical and genre across various art disciplines. With ten albums to her name, she has continually redefined her creative identity through extensive global travels. Originally from the Netherlands, she received classical music training in Maastricht, London, Paris, Buenos Aires and the US.

Her film, ***Santa Fe & Esmeralda - Crossroads***, reflects on her time in Argentina, a place she once called home. The film is based on the first chapter of her debut book ***Santa Fe & Esmeralda***, which she narrates, and features music from her upcoming album "Nostalgia". Now residing in the US, Christel continues to explore and express the confluence of her diverse experiences through her multifaceted artistry.



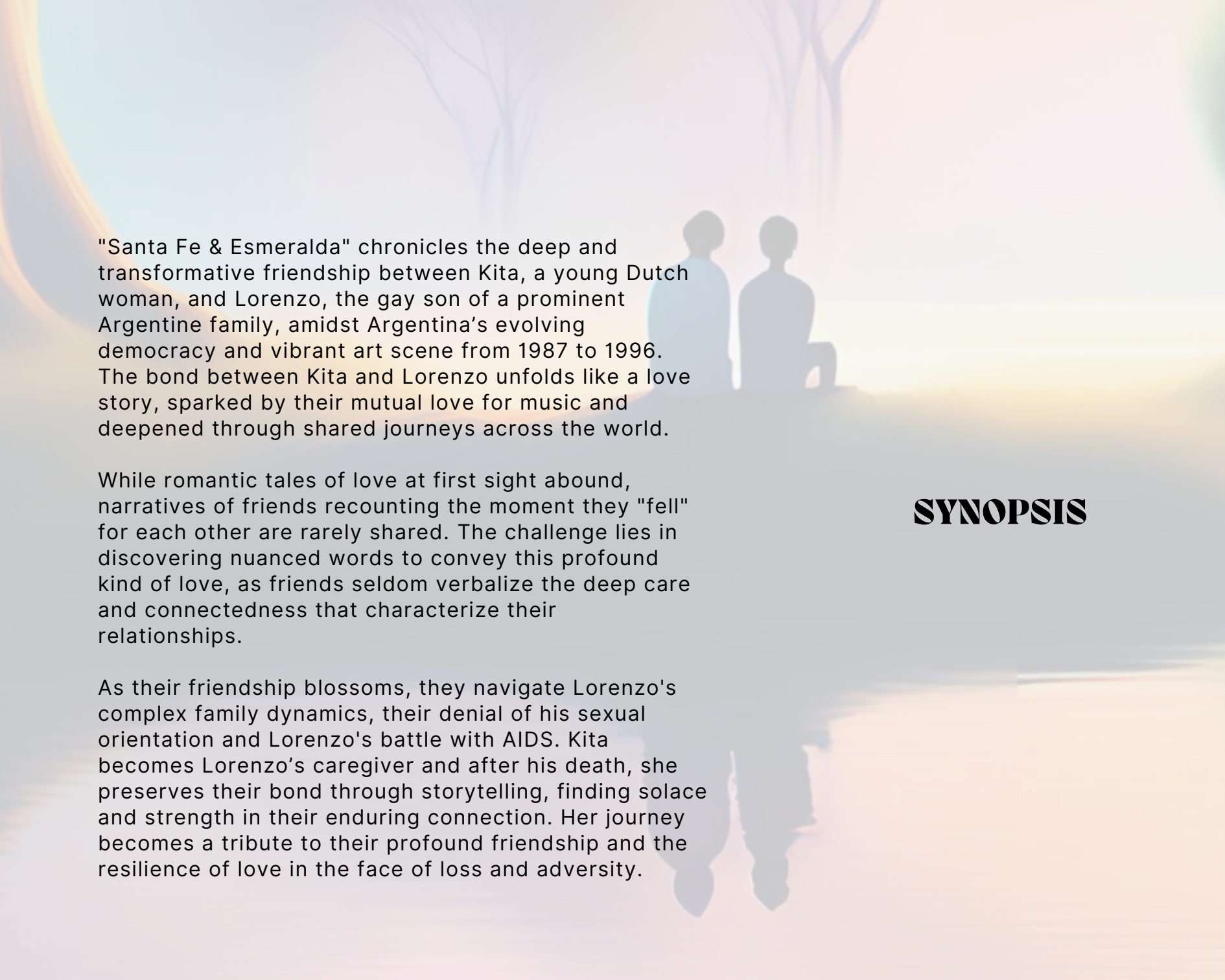
LOGLINE

In the transformative backdrop of Argentina's evolving democracy and vibrant art scene from 1987 to 1996, "Santa Fe & Esmeralda - CrossRoads" chronicles the profound and enduring friendship between Kita, a young Dutch woman, and Lorenzo, the gay son of a prominent Argentine family.

United by their love for music, they navigate complex family dynamics and the harsh realities of AIDS, with Kita becoming Lorenzo's caregiver and preserving their bond through storytelling after his death, celebrating a love that transcends boundaries.

Disclaimers:

This film is a work of fiction.
Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead,
or actual events, is purely coincidental.

The background of the slide features a soft, warm sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient from light blue to yellow. In the center, there are silhouettes of two people sitting on a grassy hill, looking towards the horizon. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

"Santa Fe & Esmeralda" chronicles the deep and transformative friendship between Kita, a young Dutch woman, and Lorenzo, the gay son of a prominent Argentine family, amidst Argentina's evolving democracy and vibrant art scene from 1987 to 1996. The bond between Kita and Lorenzo unfolds like a love story, sparked by their mutual love for music and deepened through shared journeys across the world.

While romantic tales of love at first sight abound, narratives of friends recounting the moment they "fell" for each other are rarely shared. The challenge lies in discovering nuanced words to convey this profound kind of love, as friends seldom verbalize the deep care and connectedness that characterize their relationships.

As their friendship blossoms, they navigate Lorenzo's complex family dynamics, their denial of his sexual orientation and Lorenzo's battle with AIDS. Kita becomes Lorenzo's caregiver and after his death, she preserves their bond through storytelling, finding solace and strength in their enduring connection. Her journey becomes a tribute to their profound friendship and the resilience of love in the face of loss and adversity.

SYNOPSIS

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Santa Fe & Esmeralda, a love story about two artists from opposite sides of the world, was born after completing my latest album ***Nostalgia***. As an artist and world traveler, different locations evoke different associations for me. When I pondered which place I associated with nostalgia, I was transported straight back to Argentina, a country I once called home.

Set against the vibrant art scene of Buenos Aires in the 1980s and 90s, amidst Argentina's transition to democracy, ***Santa Fe & Esmeralda***—where friendship and love intersect—was conceived. The narrative takes an unexpected turn when one of the friends contracts AIDS, and the protagonist becomes both caregiver and advocate, defying social stigmas. Their journey is a testament to the resilience of human connections and the transformative power of love.





When my book ***Santa Fe & Esmeralda*** and album ***Nostalgia*** met, they felt like they belonged together. However, they sought visuals to complement their narratives, leading to ***Santa Fe & Esmeralda***'s first chapter, ***CrossRoads***, being transformed into a film. This film is the first in a series of vignettes that capture the atmosphere of my music and book, bringing to life the rich tapestry of emotions and experiences that define them.

Santa Fe & Esmeralda - Crossroads marks my directorial debut, a project deeply personal and reflective of my artistic journey. It is an homage to a time and place that profoundly shaped me, and a celebration of the enduring bonds we form. I invite you to join me on this visual and auditory exploration, as we delve into a world where past and present converge, and where every moment is imbued with the essence of nostalgia.

Stay tuned for more...!



POSTER

CrossRoads is the First Chapter of the book
Santa Fe & Esmeralda by Christel Veraart



IMAGES

GENERAL INFO

Running Time 16:06 min
Director Christel Veraart
Producer Christel Veraart
Production Designer Christel Veraart
Editor Christel Veraart

Music Composer Christel Veraart
Music Performer Christel Veraart

- *Excerpts from the album "Nostalgia", composed by Christel Veraart*
- *Excerpt from M. Ravel's piano concerto in G, performed by Christel Veraart*
- *Excerpt from "Still, Still, Still", performed by Christel Veraart*

Sound Master Peter Ratner

Film Format Timecode, Apple ProRes 422 HQ, Linear PCM / Color

Story Christel Veraart
Narration Christel Veraart

Title Design Christel Veraart
Graphic Design Christel Veraart

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