



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION
LA CINEF

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
SPIKE LEE

T A L K M E .

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
JOECAR HANNA

PRODUCERS MAI BATALLA, MARÍA BELÉN PONCIO, JOECAR HANNA CO-PRODUCERS PATRICIA PICAZO, CARLOS PÉREZ
DOP SAM MOTAMEDI SOUND DESIGN DAVID DOUBTFIRE HAIR & MAKEUP ARTIST FATIMA AIROUI PRODUCTION DESIGN MANU FERRER, ALENA MESAROSOVA
CASTING DIRECTOR KARMEN LÓPEZ FRANCO COSTUME DESIGNER JUAN ALCAIDE COLOR GRADING COMPANY THREE, PATRICK DEVINE

Project Type:

Short Film

Genres: Country of Origin:

Drama, dark comedy, social Spain / United States

Estimate Runtime: Language:

19:58 Spanish, Catalan, Valencian

Frame rate: Cantonese, Fang

24 fp

Shooting Format:

Digital, ARRI Alexa 35

Aspect Ratio:

2:1

Film Color:

Color



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LOGLINE

In a world where words replace intimacy, a local outsider in a Spanish village must choose between a loveless marriage and the promise of true connection with a kindred stranger.





In a world where casual sex is routine and genuine conversation is taboo, Pedro, a mixed-race outsider trapped in a passionless marriage, secretly escapes through music. When he meets Kira, another outsider who shares his yearning for true intimacy, they begin a risky conversational affair.

SHORT SYNOPSIS







ARTISTIC STATEMENT

In this film, I've created an alternate reality with flipped rules around intimacy and communication, not just as a narrative experiment, but to highlight how certain emotional and societal issues remain constant. Framing the story as a metaphorical fable lets viewers engage openly without feeling judged, encouraging deep personal reflection.

Much of my work explores what I call "little cages": the invisible constraints, emotional barriers, and rigid beliefs we build unconsciously to protect ourselves from loneliness, fear, or rejection. These can appear as toxic relationships mistaken for comfort, oppressive cultural expectations, or even love itself when it restricts instead of freeing us. A rarely depicted prison is the experience of being mixed-race—living between cultures, subtly accepted but constantly reminded of difference, creating a quiet, persistent feeling of displacement.



Returning to my hometown of Valencia to tell this story was personally and creatively meaningful. Growing up mixed-race there wasn't all negative—I have many fond memories and deep connections—but I also experienced firsthand this cultural ambiguity, always somewhat included but never fully belonging. This perspective continues to shape how I portray characters navigating complex identities and subtle alienation.

The film blends familiar romantic storytelling with visual experimentation, using limited dialogue to emphasize the meaning and weight of each word. It balances humor and absurdity with deeper melancholy to explore multicultural identity, definitions of intimacy, and emotional repression. I hope viewers will empathize with Pedro and Kira and reflect on their own personal prisons within the safe, open space uniquely offered by metaphor and fable.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Since my previous short film *Deliver Me* (SXSW 2023), I set myself the goal of taking world-building and exploration to the next level. Without abandoning the use of metaphor as my primary tool, this time I wanted to focus on telling a story in the form of a fable. In *Deliver Me*, I created a separate world by reimagining areas of New York set in the near future, intentionally distancing myself from typical futuristic stereotypes. In *Talk Me*, I aimed to explore the present, blending realism and surrealism as closely as possible without making the audience feel as though they've completely departed to another reality.

Creating alternate worlds, I continue betting on what is becoming my signature style: characters who flow both externally and internally, in language and identity, presenting themselves to a world that neither judges nor fully embraces them. I always enjoy playing with human contradictions and the arbitrary nature of social norms. I like highlighting that norms are conventions, which depend solely on where we draw the line or build a border. In one place, being queer might be completely normal, while cultural differences provoke rejection; elsewhere in the world, cultural mixing might be the norm, yet radical gender concepts remain controversial.





Experimentation is a key characteristic in my projects. Addressing subtle, invisible pains—those not directly and overtly threatening, like human contradiction or third culture complexities—is challenging. Elevating these experiences requires high doses of exploration, creativity, trial and error. Thanks to the support of New York University, where I pursued my master's program, I've had the resources and an unbeatable team, both international and local, to bring NYU's fleet to my hometown, Valencia, to recreate a story as surreal as it is personal, marking a turning point in my career and personal journey as a filmmaker.

I am also grateful to Spike Lee, who as Executive Producer, believed in my vision from the moment he saw my previous work and who wanted to help bring this small bit of madness into reality—a reality that, as an immense honor for both me and the entire team who made *Talk Me* possible, is now premiering at Cannes.





BTS















JOECAR HANNA DIRECTOR / WRITER / ACTOR / EDITOR / PRODUCER

JoeCAR Hanna, a Chinese-Lebanese filmmaker, was raised in Valencia, Spain, and recently finished his studies in the Graduate Film MFA program at NYU. In Spain, JoeCAR edited six feature films and a TV show, including *El Desentierro*, a film featuring renowned Almodóvar actors, and *Bikes, The Movie*, nominated for a Goya, Spain's Academy Awards. At 25, he directed *La Otra Educación*, a documentary fiction film which he co-directed, edited, and wrote with Carmen Pellicer Iborra, a notable Spanish educational figure within the academic sphere.

His writing and directing work at NYU, won him the Black Family Prize for his short film script. *Deliver Me*, his debut narrative short film, premiered at **SXSW 2023** in the Main Shorts Competition and was sold to Canal+, earning him the Ang Lee Scholarship Award. JoeCAR was also selected as one of five writer/director fellows for the **Marcie Bloom Fellowship (Sony Picture Classics)** in 2022-2023. After acting in his own film, JoeCAR starred in and edited *Lump*, a feature film by Alexandre Rockwell, winner of the Special Mention Award at the **Warsaw Film Festival 2024**.

Lastly, he is currently working on his first feature film, set to begin production in the US for 2025, while distributing his new film, *Talk Me*, that premiered at Cannes in 2025, with **Spike Lee** attached as the Executive Producer.

SPIKE LEE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



Academy Award® winner Spike Lee is a visionary filmmaker, writer, producer, and director whose influential storytelling has left an indelible mark on cinema and television. With a career spanning over three decades, Lee gained prominence with his debut feature, *She's Gotta Have It*, receiving acclaim at Cannes. His landmark film, *Do the Right Thing*, earned Oscar nominations for Best Original Screenplay and Best Film. Lee's powerful biopic *Malcolm X* also garnered two Academy Award nominations.

More recently, Lee directed and co-wrote *Da 5 Bloods* for Netflix and won the Academy Award® for Best Adapted Screenplay for the critically acclaimed *BlacKkKlansman*, which also earned nominations for Best Picture and Best Director. His diverse filmography includes influential films such as *Mo' Better Blues*, *Jungle Fever*, *Crooklyn*, *Clockers*, *He Got Game*, *Inside Man*, *25th Hour*, *Chi-Raq*, and David Byrne's *American Utopia*.

In documentaries, Lee's work includes the Emmy-winning and Academy-nominated *4 Little Girls*, the double Emmy Award-winning *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*, and its sequel *If God Is Willing and Da Creek Don't Rise*, which also won two Emmys. He earned a Peabody Award for *A Huey P Newton Story*.

Lee's contributions extend beyond film to iconic commercials, notably Nike's Air Jordan campaigns, leading to the founding of his innovative advertising agency, Spike DDB. Additionally, he directed music videos for artists like Michael Jackson, Prince, and Miles Davis. Lee received an Honorary Oscar in 2015 for lifetime achievement. He is a tenured professor and Artistic Director at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and continues to produce work through his Brooklyn-based company, 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks.

This project is supported and funded by the Spike Lee Production Fund.

MARÍA BELÉN PONCIO PRODUCER

María Belén is a writer, director and editor from Cordoba, Argentina. She directed and co-wrote the short VR film *4 Feet: Blind Date*, supported by the Sundance Institute and by the Biennale di Venezia College Cinema VR. It screened at the Biennale di Venezia 2018, Sundance 2019 and SXSW 2019, winning SXSW's Best VR Narrative award. *4 Feet: Blind Date* also won awards at Dok Leipzig and the Guanajuato Film Festival. Patricia later directed and co-wrote the fictional cross platform miniseries *4 Feet High*, produced by Arte France TV, which screened at the Biennale di Venezia 2020, Sundance 2021, BFI 2021, and TIFF Next Wave, and won the Jury and Audience Awards at SXSW 2021. She's currently selected to develop her first feature film at the 2025 Torino Lab.



SAM MOTAMEDI CINEMATOGRAPHER

Born and raised in Tehran, Iran, Sam immigrated to the US in the late 90's. After graduating from the NYU Graduate Film Program, Sam worked on commercial (NYC Ballet, Vogue China etc) and narrative productions, which have screened on CNN, ESPN, and many other local and nationwide stations. A finalist for ARRI's Volker Bahnemann award, Sam's film credits include Alexandre Rockwell's Lump (Warsaw 2024) and *The Projectionist* (Upcoming); Joecar Hanna's *Deliver Me* (SXSW 2023) and *Talk Me* (Cannes 2025); and Rashad Frett's Directing Award-winning *Ricky* (Sundance 2025), produced by Cary Fukunaga.



PATRICIA PICAZO CO-PRODUCER

Patricia is a production director and location manager based in Valencia with 20 years of experience in the industry. She is the founder of Film Works Spain, her main production and scouting company.

Her latest projects as a production director and location manager include the series La Ruta for Netflix and several projects from production companies Bambú, Suica Films, and Caballo Films, such as El Agua (Director's Fortnight 2022). She has also worked on the latest projects by Rodrigo Sorogoyen, including El Reino, The Beasts (Cannes 2023), Antidisturbios, and his new series Los Años Nuevos.



CREDITS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Spike Lee

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

Joecar Hanna

PRODUCER

Mai batalla, María Belén Poncio,
Joecar Hanna

CO-PRODUCER

Patricia Picazo, Carlos Pérez

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Sam Motamedi

EDITOR

Joecar Hanna

SOUND DESIGNER

David Doubtfire

INTIMACY COORDINATOR

Marta Casielles

BACKGROUND COORDINATOR

Mariela Marquisio

CASTING DIRECTOR

Karmen López Franco

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Manu Ferrer, Alena Mesarsova

COSTUME DESIGNER

Juan Alcaide

HAIR&MAKEUP

Fátima Arioui

MUSIC

Joecar Hanna

SUBTITLES

BBO, Tom Jackson

COLOR

Company 3, Patrick Devine



CAST

Joecar Hanna
Melanie Smith
Carlos Gorbe
Albert Carbó



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