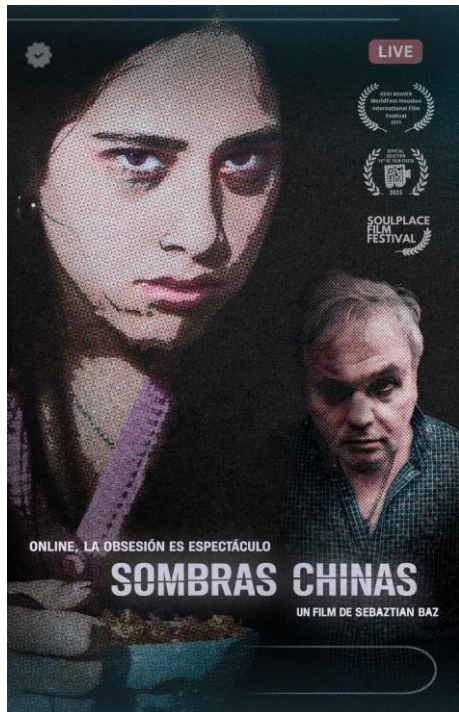


SOMBRAS CHINAS



1. Cover Page.

Debut feature by Sebastian Baz.

Premiered at Gaumont Cinema on Thursday, September 25. The first vertical (9:16) feature film to achieve a commercial theatrical release in Argentina. An independent, self-managed, and cooperative production.

2. Synopsis.

Short (Logline):

An influencer addicted to social media finds an unexpected ally in a mysterious driver to win back her ex's attention—unaware that she's entering a dangerous game of manipulation, in a story that unfolds through the visual language of social media.

Extended Synopsis:

Cande, a young influencer obsessed with the perfect image and absolute control of her virtual life, tries to win back the attention of Ramiro, her ex. In this attempt, she crosses paths with El Polaco, an older taxi driver who is oblivious to the digital world. What starts as an improvised alliance turns into a spiral of obsession, manipulation, and danger.

Told through the visual language of social media, Sombras Chinas (Chinese Shadows) combines comedy and thriller to satirize the price of obsession and betrayal in the age of digital validation.

3. Release Data.

- Commercial Release: September 25th, 2025 – Cine Gaumont (CABA, Argentina) □ Press Screening: 4/9 – D.A.C. (CABA, Argentina).
- Running Time: 94 minutes.

4. Technical Specifications.

- Direction / Screenplay: Sebaztian Baz
- Production: Sebaztian Baz & Gerónimo Stewart
- Cast: Pablo Alarcón, Giannina Giunta, Candela Del Zotto, Carlos Benincasa
- Genre: Comedy / Thriller
- Running Time: 92 minutes
- Country: Argentina
- Year: 2025
- Format: 100% vertical
- Official Trailer Link: <https://youtu.be/SNGoebr1Z0o>

5. About the Director.

Sebaztian Baz is a multidisciplinary artist who has explored music, sculpture, photography, drawing, and painting before ultimately finding his true vocation in cinema.

His debut feature film Sombras Chinas received recognition at multiple international film festivals and marked a milestone by becoming the first vertical feature film in the history of cinema to receive a theatrical release. The film premiered on September 25, 2025, at the historic Cine Gaumont in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

He is currently developing his next feature film, Camaldoli.

6. Director's Statement.

“Sombras Chinas was born from a desire to explore how we construct edited versions of ourselves on social media while neglecting the reality we hide behind the screen. Choosing to shoot vertically was both an aesthetic and narrative decision: I wanted the audience to feel as if they were inside a gigantic smartphone, experiencing intimacy, satire, and discomfort through a frame that mirrors our daily digital lives.

The film deliberately recreates the visual language of social media feeds as a cinematic device, allowing the audience to experience a feature-length story through a format that normally belongs to everyday digital interaction.

The movie invites viewers to laugh, question themselves, and confront their own relationship with technology.”

7. Vertical Format in Cinema.

Sombras Chinas was conceived entirely in a vertical 9:16 format designed specifically for the big screen. Rather than simply adopting a phone aesthetic, the film transforms the vertical frame into a narrative device that intensifies proximity, emotional tension, and the subjective world of its characters.

The format operates as a satirical mirror of our era, where life is filtered through screens. By expanding the smartphone frame to theatrical scale, the film turns the cinema itself into a “giant phone,” inviting the audience to experience intimacy, distortion, and discomfort in a way that only a movie theater can provide.

This vertical approach was created specifically for the theatrical experience, challenging the idea that vertical images belong solely to mobile devices. Sombras Chinas embraces verticality not as a gimmick, but as a cinematic language.

8. Production Context.

- Budget: USD 18,000 (approx. 14% of the average cost of an Argentine feature film).
- Production Model: Independent theatrical feature produced through an ultraefficient workflow optimized for low-budget cinema.
- Crew Size: A compact 12-person core team handling directing, cinematography, sound, production, art, makeup, color, editing, and music.
- Additional specialized collaborators joined selectively for specific shooting days depending on scene requirements.
- Shooting Schedule: 30 shooting days, filmed entirely on real locations across Buenos Aires.
- Locations: San Telmo, Barracas, Microcentro, Palermo, LaFerrere.
- Aesthetic Approach: A fluid, choreography-driven camera style—prioritizing intimacy, emotional tension, and performance—combined with naturalistic lighting and real environments to preserve the film’s raw, immediate tone.
- Vertical Format Execution: The film was conceived specifically for vertical cinema, treating the 9:16 frame as both a narrative tool and a thematic commentary on digital-era storytelling.

9. Cast.

- **Candela Del Zotto – Lead Role**
Protagonist. Fresh new talent in Argentine cinema.
- **Carlos Benincasa – Lead Role**
Independent film actor with a solid trajectory in Argentine cinema.
- **Pablo Alarcón – Featured Role**

Acclaimed Argentine actor with an extensive career in film, theatre and television.

- **Giannina Giunta – Supporting Role**
Actress with a recognized trajectory in Argentina cinema, theatre and television.

10. Media Listings & Industry Databases.

- **ROTTEN TOMATOES**
https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/sombras_chinas_2025
- **IMDB**
https://www.imdb.com/es-es/title/tt35603016/?ref=ext_shr_lnk
- **LETTERBOXD**
<https://letterboxd.com/film/sombras-chinas/>
- **THE MOVIE DATABASE**
<https://www.themoviedb.org/movie/1425703-sombras-chinas>
- **FILMAFINITY**
<https://www.filmaffinity.com/ar/film622835.html>

11. Press Coverage.

- Highlight Review (USA):

- **FILM THREAT** (Review by Michael Talbot-Haynes with 7.5/10)
<https://filmthreat.com/reviews/sombras-chinas-thriller-review/>
- **NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEW** (Review by Lapacazo Sandoval)
<https://www.amnewscurtainraiser.com/2026/08/sombras-chinas-sebaztian-baz-turns916.html>
- **SCREEN CRITIX** (Review by Carlos Burgess) <https://screencritix.com/sombras-chinas-review/>

- Major National Press (Argentina):

- **TN Noticias** (The most important news outlet in Argentina)
<https://youtu.be/w3H1q53mwGM>

- **Tiempo Argentino** https://www.tiempoar.com.ar/ta_article/agenda-de-espectaculos-176/
- **La Nación** <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/cartelera-de-cine/pelicula/sombras-chinas-pe19739>
- **Ámbito** <https://www.ambito.com/espectaculos/cine-tres-propuestas-rioplatenses-no-dejarpasar-n6195470>
- **El Día** <https://www.eldia.com/nota/2025-10-18-3-12-22-sombras-chinasobsesiontraicion-y-engano-en-una-telarana-digital-espectaculos>

- Industry/Film-Specific Media (Argentina):

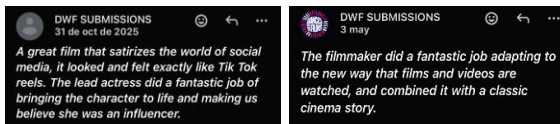
- **Escribiendo Cine** <https://www.escribiendocine.com/noticias/2025/09/25/20541critica-de-sombraschinas-cine-en-vertical-entre-redes-y-realidades>
- **Anime Argentina** <https://animeargentina.net/sombras-chinas/>
- **Artemetrage** https://artemetrage.com/2025/09/06/sombras-chinas/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBEa2E1dUd2S3N3Z0VxdklyVAEem-Q2K1BL2ZsncYsyBhNUhVC1gZr68yaCsQdbxgnUTxwKKsNpwfM24NNk2aM_aem_qhZl0A-wEyRqleFiuzG9cA
- **CIC (Centro de Investigación Cinematográfica)** <https://www.cic.edu.ar/post/unegresado-del-cic-hace-historia-con-el-primerlargometraje-vertical-del-cine-nacional>
- **AIMAFF** <https://www.aimaff.eu/reviews-1/5gt3sf3tm6fy9ls-jawc9-l46kp-xx7a7-658zdp284afpnd-5eyjh-gh9sk-mjts6-7tcmr-h87cj-f2tkc-xpzw2-786pf-lc8gt-ryp4b>

- Radio / Podcast / Additional Media (Argentina):

- **BCN Radio** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0uYfgQnrQQ>
- **Agencia DAF** <https://www.agenciadaf.com.ar/2025/09/sombras-chinas-estrena-en-cines.html>

12. Awards and Festivals.

- Official Selection and Gold REMI Award Winner (Experimental Feature) – **58th WorldFest Houston IFF 2025.**
- Official Selection of **17th OCFF (Orange County Film Fiesta).**
- Official Selection and Best Narrative Feature – **Soulplace Film Festival (Castielle) 2025.**
- Reviews from **Dances With Films** - New York & Los Angeles



- Recognized at multiple international film festivals.

Contact.

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