

PIRET

Directed by Julián De La Chica

Some memories
never leave.
Some never arrive.



Logline

A Soviet Estonian immigrant in 1970s New York struggles with solitude, motherhood, and the threat of a mysterious woman who seems determined to uncover her past.



Synopsis

After leaving Soviet—occupied Estonia under difficult circumstances, Piret arrives in 1970s New York with her newborn daughter, Anneli, in search of a better life. With the help of her friend Zinaida, whom she met while making her way out of the Soviet Union, she finds refuge at the Convent of Saint Agatha, a residence for young single mothers run by the strict Sister Catalina.

In exchange for room and board, Piret sews, cleans churches, and takes on domestic work while quietly holding onto her dream of becoming a Broadway actress. As she begins to establish a fragile routine for herself and Anneli, the presence of a mysterious woman who seems to be following her begins to disturb her.

What first appears to be a chance encounter soon becomes an unsettling presence in Piret's daily life. The woman seems determined to uncover something connected to the past Piret has left behind, forcing her to confront a secret she has carefully tried to keep hidden.

Julían De La Chica by Anyelo Troya
KODAK Hasselblad 500 CM

Praised for his "meditative simplicity" [The New Yorker], described as "an extraordinarily deep thinker... able to take a listener into mysterious byways using very slender means" [Music Trust], and noted for his "spare and pensive" music [NewSounds], Julián De La Chica is an award—winning Colombian multidisciplinary artist and author (AWA), based in Brooklyn, NY. His influences range from minimalism and post—minimalism to the alternative electronic scene. With a discography that includes six solo albums and over eighteen collaborative projects (between singles and albums), De La Chica's music has been recorded and performed by artists worldwide and has been featured on Spotify's Classical New Releases playlist. His work has also premiered at prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Berliner Philharmoniker, and the Real Academia de Bellas Artes in Madrid.

Team

DIRECTOR

Team

DIRECTOR

Julián De La Chica by Anyelo Troya
KODAK Hasselblad 500 CM

In 2020, Julián De La Chica gained recognition with Agatha, his debut film as a director and writer. Premiering at the visionary Bogotá Film Festival, during its 37th edition, Agatha received a Special Mention and won Best International Film. Since its premiere, the film has been selected by over thirty international film festivals and has won eighteen awards, including Best Picture, Best LGBTQ Film, Best Cinematography, Best Composer, and Best Actor. The Rome Prisma Film Awards described Agatha as “an elegant, original, poetic film that touches us with delicacy,” and hailed De La Chica as “an author to follow.”

Liliet Reyes | Self-portrait
Yashica Mat-124G | Kodak 400

Liliet Rosa Reyes is a Cuban-born cinematographer and visual storyteller based in New York City. Her work is grounded in lived experience, drawing from her upbringing in eastern Cuba and her ongoing engagement with immigrant and diasporic communities in the U.S. Since 2013, she has developed a practice rooted in documentary ethics while working across narrative and experimental forms. As a Director of Photography, Reyes prioritizes trust, intimacy, and authenticity, creating images that honor the complexity of human experience.

Team

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Team

CINEMATOGRAPHER



Anyelo Troya by Anni Jürgenson
LEICA M3

Anyelo Troya is a Cuban cinematographer and photographer based in New York. With a deep passion for storytelling through light, he specializes in 16mm film and has worked across music videos, films, commercials, and advertising. Troya gained international recognition for filming the Cuban segments of *Patria y Vida*, the Grammy-winning song that became an anthem for political change in Cuba.

During the historic July 2021 protests, he was arrested on charges of "public disorder." After emigrating to the U.S. in 2022, he has collaborated with renowned artists including Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara, Chabuco, Juanes, Kodak Black, DJ Khaled, Jencarlos Canela, Jhayco, José Parlá, Nicky Jam, Sebastián Yatra, Buena Vista Social Club, Yotuel, William Parker, Juan Carlos Alom and Lauryn Hill.

His commercial work includes projects with Air Jordan, Saucony, Puma, Boiler Room, ACBC, Oakley, and Luar. Troya's work has been featured in major publications such as *Rolling Stone*, *Bold Journey Magazine*, *Trickster Magazine*, *Rialta*, and *El Estornudo*.



Genre & Tone

Psychological Drama | Introspective, restrained, tragic.

A narrative shaped by silence, psychological tension, repetition, and raw human vulnerability.

Main Character

PIRET

Anni by Anyelo troya
KODAK Hasselblad 500 CM

Piret

A young immigrant woman suspended between
endurance and disappearance.

Themes

- The weight of silence
- Inherited trauma
- Emotional displacement
- Motherhood and fear of failure
- Survival without belonging
- The cost of endurance



Visual Style

- Black-and-white 16mm imagery with pronounced contrast, shaped by natural and available light
- Static compositions and close framing that reinforce isolation and psychological tension
- Textural interiors, film grain, and restrained camera movement
- Everyday objects and recurring visual details as anchors of memory and repetition
- An expressive score interwoven with extended silences and sparse sound
- Repetition and visual fragmentation that blur the boundaries between memory, perception, and reality

Production Info

Produced by: IGM

Estimated Runtime: **30 minutes**

Language: Estonian (with Spanish and English elements)

FILM PROCESSING

Negativeland — Brooklyn, New York

SHOT ON

Kodak Double-X 7222 / Super 16mm

FILMED IN

New York

WRITTEN, DIRECTED & EDITED BY
Julián De La Chica

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Liliet Reyes & Anyelo Troya

MUSIC COMPOSED BY
Julián De La Chica

SOUND DESIGN & RE-RECORDING MIX
Kevin Yang

COLOR
Ignacio Cabrera / Aliwen Color

VFX
Fausto Díaz

FILM PROCESSING
Negativeland — Brooklyn, New York

SHOT ON
Kodak Double-X 7222 / Super 16mm

FILMED IN
New York

Creative Team



Cast

Anni Jürgenson as Piret

Susana Yasan as The Seer's Assistant

Chico Raro as Maestra Gertrudis

Iлона Miller as Zinaida

Liliet Reyes as Woman at the Audition

Jenni Elliott as Sister Catalina

Featuring the voices of

Maritza Oliva-Pérez as Haydeé (Radio)

Alejandro FG as Cándido (Radio)

Featuring the hands of

Xolo Cantillo (Male)

Alina Grubnyak (Female)

FESTIVAL CIRCUIT

SELECTED RECOGNITION

IndieFEST Film Awards
Award of Recognition — Actress: Leading
Anni Jürgenson

Award of Recognition — Sound Editing / Sound Mixing
Kevin Yang

New Cinema Amsterdam
Best Short Film

PIRET is currently making its way through the international festival circuit.

MUSIC IN PIRET

The Sound of Hopelessness

Although Julián De La Chica originally composed a score for *PIRET*, the film's musical direction changed unexpectedly during production. While shooting the film, De La Chica was simultaneously reviewing the newly recorded String Quartets, Op. 7, performed by the **Kahlo Quartet**. The two projects, initially conceived as separate works, gradually began to intersect.

It was a comment by **Kahlo Quartet** founding member and violinist Manuela Romero that altered the course of the film. After recording the Cycle V of *String Quartet* No. 1, *Hypnagogia*, Romero described the music in terms of a profound sense of hopelessness. The word stayed with De La Chica. He placed the passage against the images of *PIRET* and discovered that its emotional weight belonged naturally to the film.



KAHLO QUARTET

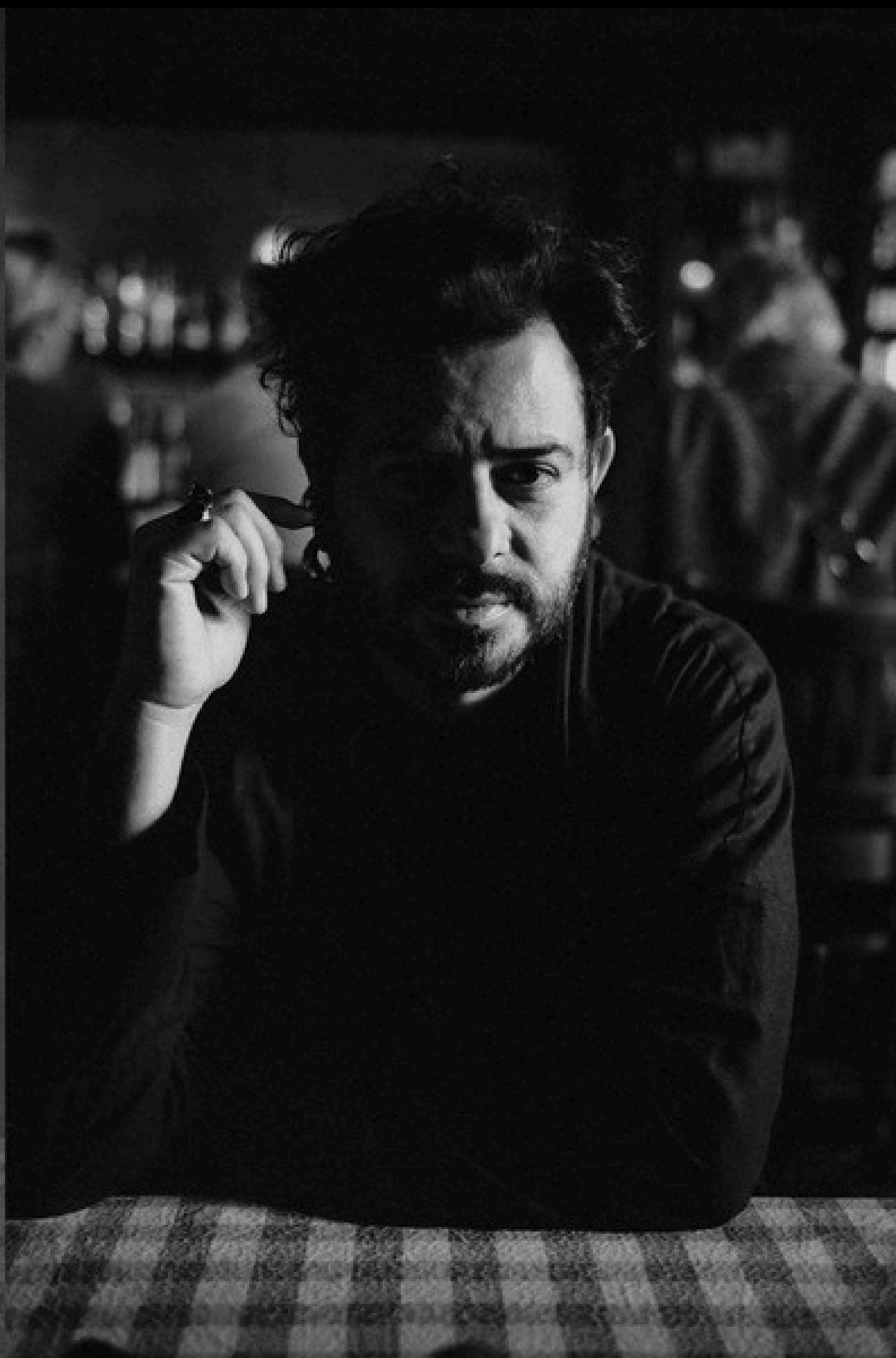
Kahlo Quartet. Photo by Julián De La Chica

Kahlo Quartet. Photo by Julián De La Chica



De La Chica's String Quartet No. 1, *Hypnagogia*, was first performed at Carnegie Hall in 2016 by the Grammy Award-winning Scorchio Quartet. A decade later, the work returns as part of Julián De La Chica: *Complete String Quartets, Op. 7*, a new recording of the complete cycle by the **Kahlo Quartet**, scheduled for release in fall 2026. The final movement of *Hypnagogia* is also featured in **PIRET**, extending the relationship between De La Chica's concert music and his cinematic work.

Lavinia Meijer. Photo by Stephan Vanfleteren & Julián De La Chica. Photo by Anyelo Troya



PIRET also features ***FADO***, a work by De La Chica originally composed for piano in 2014. For the film, internationally acclaimed Korean-born Dutch harpist and Sony Classical artist **Lavinia Meijer** recorded a new rendition for solo harp. Widely regarded as one of the leading harpists of her generation, Meijer is known for expanding the instrument's contemporary repertoire through interpretations and collaborations spanning classical music, minimalism, and experimental music.

The new recording of ***FADO*** appears in the closing sequence of ***PIRET*** and will be released in fall 2026. It will also be featured in the film's second official trailer.

Throughout ***PIRET***, music is used sparingly and deliberately, emerging at specific points in the narrative rather than functioning as continuous accompaniment. This restrained approach places music and silence in direct dialogue, making each musical appearance an integral part of the film's dramatic structure.

PRESS & INDUSTRY

- Press kit
- Production stills
- Behind-the-scenes material
- Interview requests
- Festival & screening inquiries

CONTACT

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