

Francisca
(...which side are you on?)

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www.francisca-movie.com

Synopsis

(The story is set in Mexico between 1971 and 1974)

Escaping from his country, Helmut Busch, a former informant for the secret police in East Germany, the Stasi, lands in Mexico under a false identity.

His wish is to start a new life far from Europe and where he is less likely to be found. Nevertheless, he is immediately identified by the Mexican secret services lead by Díaz, who with the threat of sending him back to Germany as a deserter coerces him to work for him. Díaz, asks him to infiltrate a group of politically militant students. To achieve this objective, Helmut Busch adopts his new identity as Bruno Müller, a historian and visiting professor in the University of Mexico. He will deliver a series of conferences regarding Paris' May 68 student riots.

Bruno's mission is made difficult when a love affair with Adela, one of the members of the group, starts getting serious.

Obliged by the situation and under severe pressure, Bruno does his job trying to maintain as far away from any compromising situation as possible in order to inform nothing important.

However, things get complicated and Bruno's conflict grows when he finds out that the young woman with whom he has fallen in love with is part of one of the politically militant groups that Díaz is interested in. This situation reaches an unbearable point when Díaz asks him to kill José, the young leader of a cell composed by Adela, Lucía, Luis and Serna, a young journalist.

Francisca (in this movie not the name of a woman but of a pistol) narrates the impossible struggle of a man seeking his freedom. The more Bruno attempts to escape from his past, the more he becomes a puppet of his destiny; the more he tries to break his chains, the more the trap closes in on himself and on the people he loves.

Credits

México, Germany, Spain - 2002
Color, 35mm, 85 min, 1:1,85-Dolby Digital

Director	Eva López-Sánchez
Script	Eva López-Sánchez and Jorge Goldenberg in colaboración with Mayra Segura y Pierre Salvadori
Producer	Laura Imperiale y Eva López-Sánchez
Executive Prodcuer	Laura Imperiale, Yvonne Ruocco and José María Lara
Coproducer	Yvonne Ruocco, Detlef Ziegert and José María Lara
Associate Producers	Carlos Peralta Quintero Ekehardt von Damm
Director of Photography	Javier Morón
Art Director	Sandra Cabreada
Set Decorator	Darío Ramos
Editing	Santiago Torre - Sigfrido Barjau
Music	Jacobo Liebermann Leo Heiblum
Sound Design	Carlos Faruolo - Mario Martinez - Nerio Barberis
Sound	Pedro Mejía
Costume Designer	Leticia Palacios
Make up	Jorge Siller
in coproducción with	Producciones Odeon (Mexico) SUR Films (Germany) José María Lara P.C. (Spain) IMCINE (Mexico) Fundación Ingeniero Alejo Peralta y Díaz Ceballos I.B.P (Mexico) FOPROCINE (Mexico) Videocine (Mexico) via digital (Spain) Resonancia Madrid (Spain)
associate producer	
supported by	Filmstiftung NRW (Germany) BIA:Bremer Innovations-Agentur (Germany) Fondo Ibermedia Estado de Veracruz-Llave

Eva López-Sánchez

(México) She studied as a film director at the Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica, 1986-92, in Mexico City.

Filmography (as scriptwriter and director):

1988 - Don't be astonished, Sargent, fiction, 7 min.; 1989 - The Revenge, fiction, 7 min. ;1990 - Yapo Galeana, documentary, 17 min. (Jury Commendation, Nimes Film Festival, France) ; 1990 - A Sunday to Remember, fiction, 27 min. ;1991 - Objetos Perdidos (Lost & Found) - Fiction, 31 min. (Awarded several prizes for Best Short Film: - 1991 Ariel given by the Mexican Academy of Sciences and Cinematographic Arts. - 1992 Pitirre, San Juan Film Festival, Puerto Rico. -1992 Unicorn, Festival International du Film d'Amiens, France.- Finalist 1992 Student Academy Awards, Hollywood, USA. - 1993 FIPA d'Argent, Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels, Cannes, France; 1993 - Dama de Noche (Lady by Night) - Fiction Feature Film, 93 min.

This film was the winner of the following prizes: -1992 Opera Prima Contest of the Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica. -Second prize in the 4th Fecimex Competition, Mexico. Nominated for -1993 Heraldo for Best First Feature, Best Screenplay, Best Actor, Best Actress and -1993 Ariel Awards for Best First Feature, Best Supporting Actress, Best Original Score

1999 - Carlos Salinas de Gortari "El hombre que quiso ser rey" ("The man who wanted to be king") Documentary, 46 min. "Francisca" (...which side are you on?) cinema fiction, 2002. World-Premiere at International Filmfestival Berlin 2002.

Eva López-Sánchez is an honorary member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences and Cinematographic Arts.

Cast

BRUNO	Ulrich Noethen
ADELA	Fabiola Campomanes
JOSÉ	Juan Ríos
LUCIA	Arcelia Ramírez
SERNA	Julio Bracho
LUIS	Gustavo Sánchez Parra
BURRO PRUDENCIO	Rafael Martín
MATIAS	Carlos Lucas
GABRIEL NIÑO	Giovanni Florido
GABRIEL ADOLESCENTE	Mickey Santana Arellano
SCHLOSS	Juan Carlos Colombo
DIAZ	Héctor Ortega
SICARIO	Eligio Meléndez
POLICIA 1	Pedro Altamirano

Germany

Awards

1997	Bayerischer Filmpreis Goldener Löwe
1998	Deutscher Filmpreis Bayerischer Filmpreis
2002	Bayerischer Filmpreis

...numbers among the most versatile talents of the young generation of actors in Germany. Born in Munich in 1959, he completed drama studies at the College of Music and the Performing Arts in Stuttgart. His debut on the screen was in "Comedian Harmonists" in 1997. Ulrich Noethen has been a major stage actor for years now: first engagement at the Städtische Bühnen in Freiburg i. Br. (1985-1987), founding member of Birach tent ensemble(1987-88). From 1988 to 1993 he initially worked at the Schauspiel Köln and beginning in 1990 at the Staatliche Schauspielbühnen in Berlin.

In 1993 he was "discovered" by television. He first worked with Jan Hinter for the ARD series "Die Partner" (1994/95), before Dominik Graf engaged him for his TV films "Frau Bu lacht" and "Sperling". This was followed in 1996 by "Der Ausbruch" (R: Mark Schlichter), "Busenfreunde" (R: Thomas Berger), "Der Skorpion" (also directed by Dominik Graf) and in 1997 by "Mein ist die Rache" (R: Thomas Jauch).

In the same year he was engaged by Joseph Vilsmaier, at the suggestion of An-Dorte Braker, for the main role of Harry Frommeman in "Comedian Harmonists". Then he worked in front of the camera for Thomas Berger in "Dicke Freunde". In autumn 1997 he was awarded the Golden Lion and the Bavarian Film Award in quick succession. In 1998 he again received the Bavarian Film Award and after that the German Film Award. This was followed by the cinema films "Viehjud Levi" (R: Didi Danquart), "Grüne Wüste" (R: Anno Saul) and "Beresina oder die letzten Tage der Schweiz" (R: Daniel Schmid). In the year 2000 Ulrich Noethen appeared before the camera for the productions of "Bonhoffer – Die letzte Stunde" (R: Eric Till), "Heirate mir!" (R: Douglas Wolfspurger), "Gripsholm" (R: Xavier Koller) and "Vera Brühne" (2001, R: Hark Bohm). The successful comedy "Das Sams" followed in 2001 and in 2002 "Francisca" (R: Eva Lopez Sanchez). In spring 2002 he was again awarded the Bavarian Film Award. He now lives in Berlin.

Cinema (selected):

- 1994/95 DIE PARTNER
TV series, ARD, Colonia Media
Director: Joseph Rusnak, Daniel Helfer,
Thomas Jauch, Samir
- 1995 TATORT - FRAU BU LACHT
TV movie, ARD
Director: Dominik Graf
- SPERLING
TV movie, ZDF, Polyphon
Director: Dominik Graf
- 1996 LAUTLOSE SCHRITTE
TV movie, ZDF, UFA
Director: Christian von Castelberg
- 1996 BUSENFREUNDE
TV movie, Olga Film
Director: Thomas Berger
- DER AUSBRUCH
TV movie, ZDF, Ufa-Berlin
Director: Mark Schlichter
Goldener Löwe 1997
- DER SKORPION
TV movie, ZDF, MTM
Director: Dominik Graf
- 1997 COMEDIAN HARMONISTS
Cinema movie, Perathon Film
Director: Joseph Vilsmair
- DICKE FREUNDE
TV movie, Olga Film, PRO 7
Director: Thomas Berger
- 1998 VIEHJUD LEVI
Cinema movie, Zero Film
Director: Didi Danquart

Ulrich Noethen

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1998

GRÜNE WÜSTE
Cinema movie, Objektiv Film

Director: Anno Saul

BERESINA
Cinema movie, T&C Film
Director: Daniel Schmid

1999

BONHOEFFER
Cinema movie, NFP
Director: Eric Till

MEINE POLNISCHE JUNGFRAU
Cinema movie, Zuta Film
Director: Douglas Wolfspurger

GRIPSHOLM
Cinema movie, Wilkening
Filmproduktion
Director: Xavier Koller

2000

VERA BRÜHNE
TV series , Constantin Film
Director: Hark Bohm

DAS SAMS
Cinema movie, Kinowelt
Director: Ben Verbong

2002

FRANCISCA
Cinema movie
Director: Eva López-Sánchez

Fabiola Campomanes

(México) Graduate of the Centro de Educación Artística de Televisa (1993 – 1996).
Began her professional career in the theatre. This was soon followed by jobs for television and cinema.

Theatre

"El protagonista"
"A oscuras me da risa"
"Celos dije"
"Quietos están todos detenidos"

Cinema

Cortometrajes:
"Cococobana" dir. Andrés León y Javier Soler. Año producción 1997

Largometrajes:
"Francisca"

Television

"Imperio de cristal" (1994)
"Prisionera de amor"
"Los parientes pobre"
"Seré quien tu quieras"
"Retrato de familia" (1995)
"Los hijos de nadie"
"Azul Tequila" (1998)
"Agua y Aceite" (2001)

Arcelia Ramírez

(México) Distrito Federal 1967.

Filmographical notes (selected)

Cinema

PERFUME DE VIOLETAS , Dir. María Sistach y José Buil (2000)
ASI ES LA VIDA, Dir. Arturo Ripstein (1999)
JUEGOS BAJO LA LUNA, Dir. Mauricio Wallerstein (1999)
CRONICA DE UN DESAYUNO, Dir. Benjamin Cann (1999)
EN UN CLAROSCURO DE LA LUNA, Dir. Sergio Olhovich (1998)
EL COMETA, Dir. María Sistach y José Buil (1997)
EL RIZO, Dir. Julio Sosa Pietri (1996)
ULTIMA LLAMADA, Dir. Carlos García Agraz (1996)
CILANTRO Y PEREJIL, Dir. Rafael Montero
EL TESORO DE CLEOTILDE, Dir. Julián Pastor (1993)
COMO AGUA PARA CHOCOLATE, Dir. Alfonso Arau (1991)

and others:

SERPIENTES ESCALERAS
EL SECRETO DE ROSALIA
LA MUJER DE BENJAMIN

Television

MUJER, CASOS DE LA VIDA REAL
LO QUE CALLAN LAS MUJERES
HORA MARCADA
COSA JUZGADA
LA CALLE DE LAS NOVIAS
LA JAULA DE ORO
PUEBLO CHICO, INFIERNO GRANDE
MÁS ALLÁ DEL PUENTE
DE FRENTE AL SOL

Theatre (more than 12)

EL REHÉN
EL CABALLERO DE OLMEDO
HISTORIAS PARA SER CONTADAS
TODOS SOMOS MARCOS

Julio Bracho

Mexico

CINEMA

DANCING IN THE DARK
DIRECTOR MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER, USA 2000

BLIND LOVE
DIRECTOR ADOLFO MARTINEZ SOLARES, USA TEXMEX PRODUCCIONS 2000

LA PALOMA DE MARSELLA
DIRECTOR CARLOS GARCIA AGRAZ
FESTIVAL HUELVA ESPAÑA 1998; XVI MUESTRA DE GUADALAJARA

NO EXISTEN DIFERENCIAS
DIRECTOR ARIEL GORDON, CORTOMETRAJE 35 MM, 1998

BONITA
DIRECTOR RAUL ARAIZA

EL AMOR DE TU VIDA, S.A.
DIRECTOR LETICIA BENZOR

ME MIRABAS
DIRECTOR JOSE ANTONIO LENDO, CORTOMETRAJE 16 MM

EL PESQUIN
DIRECTOR JOSE SULAIMAN, MEDIO METRAJE

THEATRE

LA NOCHE SIN ALMA, DIRECTOR CARLOS MUJICA, MONOLOGO

DON GIOVANNI (MOZART)
1997 BELLAS ARTES, XXV FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL CERVANTINO

DRACULA OPERA ROCK; EL MAL DE LA JUVENTUD (FERDINAND BRUCKNER); LAS
MUCHACHAS DEL TALON (TEMPORADA 2° FUNCIONES; LOS ANGELES)

TELEVISION

- INFIERNO EN EL PARAISO (PREMIO HERALDO REVELACION MASCULINA TV)
- LA MENTIRA (1998)
- MI PEQUEÑA TRAVIESA (1998)
- PUEBLO CHICO INFIERNO GRANDE (1997)
- AZUL (1996)
- RETRATO DE FAMILIA (1996)
- AGUJETAS DE COLOR DE ROSA (1995)
- CANCION DE AMOR (1996)
- LA ANTORCHA ENCENDIDA (1996)

Rafael Martín Morante

(Spain) Madrid 1949. He completed drama school education with distinction at the Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático in Madrid in 1972.

Cinema

FRANCISCA. Director: Eva López-Sánchez. Méjico. 2002.
VISIONARIOS. 2000. Director: Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón.
X. 2000. Director: Luis Marías.
LA HORA DE LOS VALIENTES. 1998. Director: Antonio Mercero.
LINEA PIRATA. 1995. Director: Roberto Francisco.
FIESTA. 1994. Director: Pierre Boutron.
LA LEYENDA DE UN HOMBRE MALO. 1994. Director: Myriam Ballesteros.
EL OJO DEL FOTOGRAFO. 1992. Director: Iñaki Dorronsoro.
ALAS DE MARIPOSA. 1991. Director: Juanma Bajo Ulloa.
TERRANOVA. 1990. Director: Ferrán Llagostera.
EL CURA DE SANTA CRUZ. 1990. Director: José M. Tuduri.
AZPIKO GIZONA. 1987. Director: Pello Varela.
EL PERRO. 1976. Director: Antonio Isasi.

Television

MANOS A LA OBRA. 2001. Antena 3. Capítulo 129.
MATAR MOSCAS... 2001. Tv-Movie. FORTA. Director: Pedro Costa.
EL COMISARIO. 2001. TELE 5. Capítulo 40 y 51.
LA HABITACION BLANCA. 1999. TVE. Director: Antonio Mercero.
EL FLORIDO PENSIL. LA VIDA ES PURO TEATRO. 1999. TVE 2
EL COMISARIO. 1999. TELE 5. Capítulo II.
MAITÉ. 1998. ETB2. Personaje Jefe Policía Martínez.
HERMANAS. 1998. TELE 5. Capítulo VII.
BI ETA BAT. 1993. ETB 2. Colaboración en un capítulo.
TODOS SOMOS DE CASA. 1990. ETB 2. Programa especial de Nochevieja.
TERRANOVA. 1990. ETB-TV 3-TVG. Serie de cuatro capítulos.
EL VENGADOR ENMASCARADO. 1989. TVE-PAIS VASCO. Pilot.
EL RAYO COLGADO. 1981. TVE 1. Theatre at TV.
LA LOCURA DE DON JUAN. 1974. TVE 2. Theatre at TVE 2.
ASI FUE: HOTEL PALACE. 1974. TVE 1.
HOY TAMBIEN ES FIESTA. 1971. TVE 1. Childrens Program.

It is the story of a man who cannot flee from himself.
Of someone who is no longer entitled to choose for he once choose "wrong".

The story is set in 1971 during the cold war...
Where does the thin line between "right" and "wrong" stand? The same reason that makes you a traitor makes you a better human being. You betray you country with the same decision that you maintain loyalty to a friend.

This choice will condemn Bruno for the rest of his life.

He doubts his government and protects his friend, this turns him into a deserter, an outlaw and this is where his tragedy begins. He flees as far away as he possibly can, thinking that he can reach a better place, only to discover that he is faced with the same alternative.

This is a film about ethics, principles... about loyalty and being true to oneself.

Our liberty is exercised by choice and the things we choose to do, or not, will always be our responsibility.

Fugitive Bruno, flees from his country and arrives in Mexico feeling entitled to a new life. However, as he lands in the "New World", he is confronted by the Mexican secret services who force him to make a decision: freedom and submission or been returned to East Germany.

This decision also turns against him. No System seems to recognize loyalty to a friend. However, both are ready to persecute him for "betrayal" turning him into an outlaw.

Bruno decides to live... and takes a false identity.

The film talks about the impossible struggle of a man seeking his freedom. The more Bruno attempts to escape from his past, the more he becomes a puppet of his destiny; the more he tries to break his chains, the more the trap closes in on itself, on Bruno and on the people around him.

Alternating quest and failure, hope and despair, love and rejection, belief and deceit, life and death the main character walks inexorably toward his (fatal) destiny.

Idealism is faced with deceit... the force of indignation against the blackness of fatalism.

I was interested in talking about the importance of facing the consequences of ones actions: we cannot hide from our past. Like the saint, Lazarus, we may be given life after death but, the truth is, that this second life does not undo the first and it is futile and pointless to try to shake its responsibilities as they will, without doubt, catch up with you in due time.

To talk, at the same time, of injustice and the struggle that is fought against it by the most brave amongst us, and on the other, of the fragility of ideals; also, of the force of men in revolt and the impotence and cowardliness inside their solitude.

...which side are you on? is not always an easy decision...