

EL PATIO DE MI CÁRCEL
(a.k.a. MY PRISON YARD)

**A co-production between
EL DESEO and
WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT ESPAÑA S.L.**

CREW

DIRECTOR

BELÉN MACÍAS

SCRIPT

BELÉN MACÍAS
ARANCHÁ CUESTA
ELENA CÁNOVAS

with the special collaboration of

PRODUCERS

AGUSTÍN ALMODÓVAR
ESTHER GARCÍA

LINE PRODUCER

NICO TAPIA

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

JOAQUÍN MANCHADO A.E.C.

COMPOSER

JUAN PABLO COMPAIRED

ART DIRECTORS

SOLEDAD SESEÑA
JAIME ANDUIZA

EDITOR

ALEJANDRO LÁZARO

SOUND

JUAN DIBARBOURE

SOUND EDITING

PELAYO GUTIERREZ

COSTUME DESIGNER

TATIANA HERNÁNDEZ

MAKE-UP ARTIST

KARMELE SOLER

HAIR-STYLIST

PACO RODRÍGUEZ

CAST

MAR	CANDELA PEÑA
ISA	VERÓNICA ECHEGUI
DOLORES	ANA WAGENER
ROSA	VIOLETA PÉREZ
AJO	NATALIA MATEO
MAIKA	MARIA PAU PIGEM
LUISA	TATIANA ASTENGO
PILAR	LEDICIA SOLA
CRISTINA	BLANCA APILÁNEZ
JULIA	SUSI SÁNCHEZ

With the special participation of BLANCA PORTILLO as ADELA

And PATRICIA REYES SPÍNDOLA as AURORA

SYNOPSIS

“My Prison Yard” is a story about women. Women who are prisoners, excluded. It’s the story of Isa, a bank robber, caustic and generous, incapable of adapting to life outside prison. And of her group of friends: Dolores, a blonde gypsy who killed her husband; Rosa, a fragile, warm hearted prostitute; Ajo, a girl in love with Pilar, a love that will take her to the very limits of what is bearable; Luisa, an innocent Colombian caught up in surroundings she doesn’t understand...

When Mar, a prison official who doesn’t accept the rules of the institution, arrives, it is the start of a flight towards freedom for these women. With the help of Adela, the prison warden, they create Unit 4, the theater group that will give them the strength to face the hard luck with which they came into the world.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

“My prison”, as everyone who took part in the film called it, is now ready for the spectator to enjoy. The process has taken almost two years since the beginning, when I decided to tell this story based on the prisoners who formed the theatre group Yeses. Shooting the film has been a wonderful and also very complex experience for me. The mise-en-scène, with so many characters, following their lives in complicated situations at an emotional and physical level, the staging of the theatre performances... was a difficult task for a first film. But, from the start, there was great harmony between the whole team: Esther García and Nico Tapia in production; the assistant director David Pareja; the director of photography Joaquín Manchado; make-up and hair styles by Karnele Soler and Paco Rodríguez ; the art directors Soledad Seseña and Jaime Anduiza; Tatiana Hernández in wardrobe; Alejandro Lázaro in editing; Pelayo Gutiérrez in the sound editing... Marvellous professionals. They all gave their very best and protected me so that I could feel at ease. And having a committed and funny technical and artistic crew meant that shooting went smoothly and we could all enjoy our work.

The actresses immediately closed ranks, supporting each other in creating their characters. Many of them spent all day with their characters on their backs. So much that, at times, you had to point it out to them and tell them to come back to the real world a little. But I understood them perfectly because the characters they played were far removed from their everyday world. They needed great concentration so as not to lose the tone, the accent, the cadence of their characters... One of the things of which I'm most proud in this film is precisely the work of my actresses. Verónica Echegui, Isa, the moving protagonist, has done an excellent job. Precise, full of nuances, giving the character a tenderness that enriches her far beyond what I had imagined. Her emotional journey, her solidity when it came to creating and her absolute discipline at work helped strengthen the fictional Isa and filled me with enthusiasm for an actress who has a dazzling future. Candela Peña is a surprising actress who gets involved all the way in developing her character. An excellent companion who made the shoot easy with her good humour and great experience. Ana Wagener is an actress whom I admire greatly, and her creation of the gypsy woman Dolores, amazing in its precision and full of charm in the result, only affirms what has always been said about her, but which she hadn't had the occasion to display in all its splendour. Violeta Pérez and her likable Rosa, a warm hearted, vulnerable prostitute whom Violeta has filled with humanity and truth. And a long list of magnificent actresses who play the characters in this story: Blanca Portillo, Leticia Sola, Tatiana Astengo, Blanca Apilánez, Natalia Mateo, Maria Pau Pigem, Patricia Reyes Spíndola, Nuria Mencía, Susi Sánchez, Adriana Ugarte... For all of them I have only got words of appreciation for their involvement, their enthusiasm and their precision when it came to giving soul to the characters in this story.

Belén Macías

DIRECTOR, BELÉN MACÍAS

Belén Macías was born in Tarragona and completed her higher education studies in Madrid. She graduated in Information Sciences from the Complutense University and got her diploma from the Real Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático (RESAD). After winning the Casa de America Award for the TVE program “Versión Española”, she studied a course on film script writing at the Film and TV School in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba.

She has worked as script writer for various television programs and series (“La casa de los líos”, “Al salir de clase”, “La ley y la vida”). She has directed theatre, commercials and television, such as the TV series “Un lugar en el mundo” or the TV movies “La Atlántida” and “El monstruo del pozo”.

For cinema, she wrote the feature film “The Mule” based on a novel by Juan Eslava Galán. She wrote and directed the short films “El Puzzle” and “Mala Espina”, which received over seventy national and international awards, as well as nominations for the Goya for Best Short Film.

FILM, THEATRE AND TELEVISION (Director)

EL MONSTRUO DEL POZO (TV movie)

LA ATLÁNTIDA (TV movie)

UN LUGAR EN EL MUNDO (TV series)

MALA ESPINA (short-film)

Winner of more than forty awards in international and domestic film festivals.

EL PUZZLE (short-film)

Winner of more than thirty awards in international and domestic film festivals.

Nominated to the Best Short Film at the Goya Awards.

EL MONJE NEGRO, LA BODA Y EL ANIVERSARIO (show based on Chéjov’s writings).

THE BALCONY (theatre, by Jean Genet)

THE BALD SOPRANO (theatre, by E. Ionesco, with the company Yllana).

FILM, THEATRE AND TELEVISION (Writer)

THE MULE (feature film, based on Juan Eslava Galán’s novel)

MALA ESPINA (short-film)

LA LEY Y LA VIDA (TV series)

EL PUZZLE (short-film)

AMOR MÍO (TV series)

LA MÁQUINA METEOROLÓGICA (Video-game. Creator and writer)

MEGARAM (Cartoon. Creator and writer)

AL SALIR DE CLASE (TV series)

LA CASA DE LOS LÍOS (TV series)

CAST - FILMOGRAPHIES

CANDELA PEÑA (MAR)

LOS AÑOS DESNUDOS. CLASIFICADA “S”, by Dúnia Ayaso & Félix Sabroso
PRINCESSES, by Fernando León de Aranoa

Best Actress at the Goya Awards

TAKE MY EYES, by Icíar Bollaín

Best Supporting Actress at the Goya Awards

TORREMOLINOS 73, by Pablo Berger

Best Actress at Toulouse Film Festival

Best Actress at the Miami Film Festival

CHILL OUT!, by Dunia Ayaso & Félix Sabroso

ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER, by Pedro Almodóvar

SLEEPLESS IN MADRID, by Chus Gutiérrez

HI, ARE YOU ALONE?, by Icíar Bollaín

RUNNING OUT OF TIME, by Imanol Uribe

VERÓNICA ECHEGUI (ISA)

LA CASA DE MI PADRE, by Gorka Merchant

8 CITAS, by Peris Romano & Rodrigo Sorogoyen

TOUCH THE SKY, by Marcos Carnevale

EL MENOR DE LOS MALES, by Antonio Hernández

Best Supporting Actress at the Malaga Film Festival

YO SOY LA JUANI, by Bigas Luna

ANA WAGENER (DOLORES)

LOS AÑOS DESNUDOS. CLASIFICADA “S”, by Dúnia Ayaso & Félix Sabroso

TOUCH THE SKY, by Marcos Carnevale

8 CITAS, by Peris Romano and Rodrigo Sorogoyen

SCANDALOUS, by Álvaro Begines

DOGHEAD, by Santi Amodeo

DARKBLUEALMOSTBLACK, by Daniel Sánchez Arévalo

LIFE IN COLOUR, by Santiago Tabernero

7 VIRGINS, by Alberto Rodríguez

THE SEVENTH DAY, by Carlos Saura

HOURS OF LIGHT, by Manuel Matji

VOICES IN THE NIGHT, by Salvador García Ruiz

SLEEPING LUCK, by Ángeles González-Sinde

TORREMOLINOS 73, by Pablo Berger

PELLET, by Achero Mañas

PLENILUNE, by Imanol Uribe

VIOLETA PÉREZ (ROSA)

THE NAUTICAL CHART, by Imanol Uribe

PRINCESSES, by Fernando León de Aranoa

NATALIA MATEO (AJO)

LA VERGÜENZA, by David Planell

DARKBLUEALMOSTBLACK, by Daniel Sánchez Arévalo

MARÍA PAU PIGEM (MAIKA)

LO MEJOR DE MÍ, by Roser Aguilar

THE TOTENWACKERS, by Ibón Cormenzana

53 WINTER DAYS, by Judith Colell

A TIRO LIMPIO, by Rosa Vergés and Sergi Casamitjana

TATIANA ASTENGO (LUISA)

7 MINUTES, by Daniela Fejerman

ANIMALES DE COMPAÑÍA, by Nicolás Muñoz

FIESTAPATRIA, by Luis R. Vera

PROMEDIO ROJO, by Nicolás López

PAPER DOVE, by Fabricio Aguilar

WHAT THEY EYE DOESN'T SEE, by Francisco Lombardi

DESTINY HAS NO FAVOURITES, by Álvaro Velarde

RED INK, by Francisco Lombardi

CAPTAIN PANTOJA AND THE SPECIAL SERVICES, by Francisco Lombardi

LEDICIA SOLA (PILAR)

HOTEL TÍVOLI, by Antón Reixa

SUSI SÁNCHEZ (JULIA)

CARMEN, by Vicente Aranda

SWINDLED, by Miguel Bardem

I'M NOT SCARED, by Gabrielle Salvatores

LIFE MARKS, by Enrique Urbizu

NOBODY'S LIFE, by Eduard Cortés

STONES, by Ramón Salazar

MAD LOVE, by Vicente Aranda

CASCABEL, by Daniel Cebrián

WHAT YOU NEVER KNEW, by Juan Vicente Córdoba

LA MIRADA DEL OTRO, by Vicente Aranda

THE RATS, by Antonio Giménez Rico

MALENA ES UN NOMBRE DE TANGO, by Gerardo Herrero

BLANCA APILÁNEZ (CRISTINA)

COWARDS, by José Corbacho & Juan Cruz

MUJERES EN EL PARQUE, by Felipe Vega

TAPAS, by José Corbacho & Juan Cruz

KILLING WORDS, by Laura Mañá

BETWEEN YOUR LEGS, by Manuel Gómez Pereira

THE NAKES EYE, by Vicente Aranda

FREEDOMFIGHTERS, by Vicente Aranda

NOBODY WILL SPEAK OF US WHEN WE ARE DEAD, by Agustín Díaz Yanes

TURKISH PASSION, by Vicente Aranda

THE BILINGUAL LOVER, by Vicente Aranda

LUTE II, by Vicente Aranda

TIME OF SILENCE, by Vicente Aranda

BLANCA PORTILLO (ADELA)

BROKEN EMBRACES, by Pedro Almodóvar

SIETE MESAS DE BILLAR FRANCÉS, by Gracia Querejeta

Best Actress at the San Sebastián Film Festival

GOYA'S GHOSTS, by Milos Forman

ALATRISTE, by Agustín Díaz Yañez

VOLVER, by Pedro Almodóvar

Best Actress (exaequo) at the Cannes Film Festival

ELSA Y FRED, by Marco Carnevale

MINE ALONE, by Javier Balaguer

THE COLOUR OF THE CLOUDS, by Mario C  mus

PATRICIA REYES SPINDOLA (AURORA)

EL CARNAVAL DE SODOMA, by Arturo Ripstein

THE VIRGIN OF LUST, by Arturo Ripstein

FRIDA, by Julie Taymor

THE RUINATION OF MEN, by Arturo Ripstein

SUCH IS LIFE, by Arturo Ripstein

BEFORE NIGHT FALLS, by Julian Schnabel

NO ONE WRITES TO THE COLONEL, by Arturo Ripstein

DIVINE, by Arturo Ripstein

THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT, by Arturo Ripstein

Best Actress at the Ariel Awards

WOMAN OF THE PORT, by Arturo Ripstein

LOS MOTIVOS DE LUZ, by Felipe Cazals

Best Actress at the Ariel Awards

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

EL DESEO

- 2008 BROKEN EMBRACES, by Pedro Almodóvar
EL ÚLTIMO VERANO DE LA BOYITA, by Julia Solomonoff
HISTORIAS DE LAS MONTAÑAS DE LA BRUMA, by Larry Levene
(documentary)
EL SEÑOR DE SIPÁN, by José Manuel Novoa (documentary)
THE HEADLESS WOMAN, by Lucrecia Martel
- 2007 COBRADOR. IN GOD WE TRUST, by Paul Leduc
- 2006 VOLVER, by Pedro Almodóvar
MUJERES, by Dunia Ayaso and Félix Sabroso (TV series)
- 2005 CÉSAR Y ZAÍN, by Larry Levene (documentary)
CARAVANA, by Gerardo Olivares (documentary)
THE SECRET LIFE OF WORDS, by Isabel Coixet
- 2004 THE HOLY GIRL, by Lucrecia Martel
LOS SIN TIERRA, by Miguel Barros (documentary)
BAD EDUCATION, by Pedro Almodóvar
- 2003 CHILL OUT!, by Dunia Ayaso and Félix Sabroso
EYENGUI, EL DIOS DEL SUEÑO, by José Manuel Novoa (documentary)
MY LIFE WITHOUT ME, by Isabel Coixet.
- 2002 TALK TO HER, by Pedro Almodóvar
- 2001 THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE, by Guillermo del Toro
LOCO FEVER, by Andrés Wood
- 1999 ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER, by Pedro Almodóvar
- 1998 ¡A TRABAJAR!, by Alain Guesnier
- 1997 LIVE FLESH, by Pedro Almodóvar
- 1996 PASSAGES, by Daniel Calparsoro
TENGO UNA CASA, by Mónica Laguna
- 1995 THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET, by Pedro Almodóvar
- 1993 KIKA, by Pedro Almodóvar
- 1992 MUTANT ACTION, by Alex de la Iglesia
TIERRA FRIA, by Antonio Campos
- 1991 HIGH HEELS, by Pedro Almodóvar
- 1989 TIE ME UP, TIE ME DOWN, by Pedro Almodóvar
- 1988 WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN, by Pedro Almodóvar
- 1987 LAW OF DESIRE, by Pedro Almodóvar

WARNER BROS ESPAÑA

FILMOGRAPHY IN SPAIN

PRODUCTION / FINANCING

- 2008 SEXYKILLER, by Miguel Martí
OXFORD MURDERS, by Álex de la Iglesia
- 2007 THE ORPHANAGE, by J.A. Bayona
THIEVES, by Jaime Marqués
MIGUEL AND WILLIAM, by Inés París
- 2006 REMAKE, by Roger Gual
- 2005 THE HIDDEN, by Antonio Hernández
QUEENS, by Manuel Gómez Pereira
HABANA BLUES, by Benito Zambrano
- 2003 ATÚN Y CHOCOLATE, by Pablo Carbonell

DISTRIBUTION

- 2008 SEXYKILLER, by Miguel Martí
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA, by Woody Allen
CHEF'S SPECIAL, by Nacho García Velilla
OXFORD MURDERS, by Álex de la Iglesia
- 2007 NO DIGAS NADA, by Felipe Jiménez Luna
LA TORRE DE SUSO, by Tom Fernández
THE ORPHANAGE, by José Antonio Bayona
THIEVES, by Jaime Marqués
MIGUEL AND WILLIAM, by Inés París
- 2006 PAN'S LABYRINTH, by Guillermo del Toro
SALVADOR, by Manuel Hueriga
VOLVER, by Pedro Almodóvar
REMAKE, by Roger Gual
- 2005 THE SECRET LIFE OF WORDS, by Isabel Coixet
THE HIDDEN, by Antonio Hernández
QUEENS, by Manuel Gómez Pereira
HABANA BLUES, by Benito Zambrano
- 2004 BAD EDUCATION, by Pedro Almodóvar
- 2003 CHILL OUT!, by Dunia Ayaso & Félix Sabroso
MY LIFE WITHOUT ME, by Isabel Coixet
ATÚN Y CHOCOLATE, by Pablo Carbonell