



#### Technical Information

**Working title:** Salamandra

**Director:** Pablo Agüero

**Screenplay by:** Pablo Agüero

**Nationality:** Argentine

**Format:** 35 mm

**Length:** 90 mins

**Shooting location:** Patagonia

## SALAMANDRA

A film by Pablo Agüero



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

#### Pablo Agüero

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# SALAMANDRA

A film by Pablo Agüero

#### Director information & filmography

Pablo Agüero, born in 1977, shot all his films in the town of Patagonia where he grew up.

**Más allá de las puertas** (directed at age of 15). First Price, *Biennale of Patagonic Art*.

**Lejos del Sol**. Best Short Film, *Buenos Aires International Festival*. Award of the *Cork Festival*.

**Primera nieve** (adaptation of a scene from **Salamandra**). Now showing in the *Short Film Compétition Officielle* at the *Festival de Cannes* 2006.

**Salamandra** received the support of: Festival d'Amiens, Centre d'Écritures Cinématographiques, Casa de América, Festival de Biarritz, Festival de Guadalajara, Produire au Sud and Festival International de Scénaristes.

#### Résidence du Festival Festival de Cannes

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence provides each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or even first

feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.



**Cinéfondation**  
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### Synopsis

Inti is six years old. He is living at his grandmother's when Alba comes back and drags him, hitch-hiking, to a legendary valley in Patagonia.

In the center of the town, renegades from four corners of the world live at the late Dr. Schulz's, among his equipment, his insect collections and a crowd of animals.

### Synopsis

*Inti a six ans. Il vit chez sa grand-mère lorsque Alba revient et le traîne en auto-stop jusqu'à une vallée mythique de la Patagonie.*

*Au centre du village, des renégats des quatre coins du monde vivent chez le défunt Dr Schulz, entre ses instruments, ses collections d'insectes et une foule d'animaux.*

Yet outside, in the shantytown, the neglected children have fun making fire, destroying an unfinished school building or attacking, at night, the newcomers' houses.

In these two impossible worlds, Alba tries to bring up Inti. At any price. Armed with just her daydreams.

*Aux alentours, dans le bidonville, des enfants délaissés jouent à faire du feu, à démolir une école en construction ou à attaquer, la nuit, les maisons des nouveaux venus.*

*Dans ces deux mondes impossibles, Alba tente d'élever Inti. À tout prix. Armée seulement de sa rêverie.*

### Director's statement

Institutions are dead: God, government, family, ideology, even the hippy illusion. Tragic is comical, hell is a party, music is noise, adults are children... And vice versa.

### Note d'intention

*Toute institution est révolue : Dieu, l'état, la famille, l'idéologie, même l'illusion hippie. Le tragique est comique, l'enfer est une fête, la musique est un bruit, les adultes sont des enfants... Et vice-versa.*

The most typical Argentinean *gaucho* – the one who picks up all the hitch-hikers in his tractor to which two lambs are attached, the one who sings tango using wine bottles as pipes – is an English drug dealer who chews pieces of glass to seduce teenagers.

*Le plus typique gaucho argentin – celui qui prend les auto-stoppeurs sur son tracteur avec deux agneaux attachés et qui chante du tango avec une bouteille de vin en guise de flûte de pan – est un dealer anglais qui mâche du verre pour séduire des pubères.*

My town is a land of fugitives: of beautiful monsters, cosmopolitan and disoriented, clinging onto their reveries. For them, just like for blind people, sound flourishes and the most important sense is touch. By touching, they feel their way around, but more than

*Mon village est une terre de fugitifs. De beaux monstres, cosmopolites et débous-solés, agrippés à leurs délires. Pour eux, comme pour les aveugles, l'espace sonore est surchargé et le toucher devient un sens privilégié. Ils tâtent, mais surtout, ils sont*

that, they feel “touched”: invasive rain, tadpoles in the puddles, insects in the food, steaming blood of lambs, melted wax from candles, beds covered with bread dough...

*« touchés » : pluie envahissante, têtards dans les flaques, insectes dans la nourriture, sang vaporeux des agneaux, cire fondue des bougies, lits enduits de pâte à pain...*