



GIGANTE

Directed by Adrián Biniez

“Impeccable...[with] inherent charm.”
- Deborah Young, The Hollywood Reporter



**Uruguay / 2008 / Drama /
In Spanish with English subtitles / 84 min.
1:1.85/Dolby Digital**

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SYNOPSIS

Jara is a shy and lonely 35 year-old man who works as a supermarket security guard in a suburb of Montevideo. It's his job to keep an eye on the security cameras installed throughout the building, but he doesn't have a great deal to do because he works the graveyard shift when the store is like a ghost town. And so his life continues—until one day Jara discovers Julia, a 25-year-old cleaning woman, through one of the cameras and is immediately attracted to her. At first he spends hour after hour in front of the security monitors watching her, but, before long, he begins to follow her after work: to the cinema, the beach and even on a date with another man. Jara's life becomes a series of routines and rituals around Julia, but eventually he finds himself at a crossroad and must decide whether to give up his obsession or confront it.

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

WINNER – Best First Feature Film, Grand Jury Prize Silver Bear & Alfred Bauer Prize – **Berlin Int'l FF**

WINNER – Critic's Award, Best Actor & Best Script – **Gramado FF**

Official Selection –

BAFICI (Buenos Aires FF)
Karlovy Vary Int'l Film Festival
Copenhagen Film Festival
Brisbane Int'l Film Festival
Toronto Int'l Film Festival
Calgary Int'l Film festival
Vancouver Int'l Film Festival
San Sebastian Film Festival
Helsinki Int'l Film Festival
Haifa Int'l Film Festival
Mumbai Int'l Film Festival
Chicago Int'l Film Festival
Hawaii Int'l Film Festival
Telluride Film Festival
San Sebastian Film Festival

DIRECTOR'S AND PRODUCER'S STATEMENTS

Adrián Biniez

What interests me the most about "Gigante" is that it walks the boundary between falling in love and obsession. It shows how someone in love can turn into an obsessive and absent-minded human being. Jara's life goes by monotonously until, on one of the very same surveillance monitors he watches every day, he is captured by an image that perfectly fits a desire he was not even aware of. At first, since Jara is a heavily-built and threatening looking guy whose job has to do with surveillance, the audience might see him as a potential danger to the cleaning woman- especially considering the way in which he tries to approach her. However, this idea starts progressively fading while the audience realizes that Jara has simply fallen in love with Julia, and does not represent any danger to her. Actually, he is the scared one. Jara soon starts to change and to feel overwhelmed by this feeling: he starts behaving like a voyeur and a stalker, something completely unexpected to him. I always thought of "Gigante" as a subversion of the classic patterns of romantic comedy. "Gigante", unlike the latter, shows the process of just one of these people: of how he discovers the other one, how he is captured and blinded by the other's image, how he becomes aware of his condition, and how he finally dares to get into real contact with the other and not only with her image. This film is not about the beginning of a relationship, but about what precedes it. It is about the process that any human being in love has to face before taking action, at a stage where he has to deal with his feelings and his deepest fears. A stage where what he knows about her is little more than an image: a big question mark he wishes to decipher.

Fernando Epstein

GIGANTE is also an example of the continuous collaboration between the production houses of Control Z Films (Montevideo), Rizoma Films (Buenos Aires) and Pandora Film (Cologne). "Whisky", by Pablo Stoll and Juan Pablo Rebella, premiered in Certain Regard Cannes 2004 and later won a lot of important international awards, among others a Spanish Goya (Spain's Academy Awards) and the two main prizes at Tokyo International Film Festival. The debut "El Custodio", by Rodrigo Moreno, was awarded with the Alfred Bauer Prize in the Berlinale competition in 2006, as well as many other international prizes. This year we will continue with the new films by Pablo Stoll ("3") and Rodrigo Moreno ("Un mundo misterioso"). Both projects have just been successfully presented at the CineMart in the Rotterdam Film Festival. Partners in our films have been among others ARTE, Filmstiftung NRW and the sales company The Match Factory. Besides these films, our focus remains on producing together debuts from Argentina and Uruguay. We will soon start shooting "Medianeras", by Gustavo Taretto, whose short film by the same title was shown, and awarded, worldwide.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY & FILMOGRAPHY

Adrián Biniez

Adrián Biniez was born on 28 August 1974 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In the nineties, he was a singer and composer for the Argentinean indie pop band Reverb. He recorded two albums with the band and was frequently on tour. In 2003, he played a small role as a karaoke musician in the film WHISKY. Later he moved to Montevideo where he lives today. The musician worked on the side for the production company Taxi Films as a scriptwriter, where he worked on the award-winning TV series "El Fin del Mundo" (FONA-Award 2005). In April 2005, he participated in the Talent Campus at the Universidad del Cine in Buenos Aires. From October to November 2005, he participated in the III Curso de Proyectos Cinematograficos Latinoamericanos in Madrid, Spain. "Gigante" is his first feature length film, which he wrote and directed.

2009 **Gigante** (Director + Writer)

WINNER—Berlin Film Festival

Silver Berlin Bear

Best Debut Film

Alfred Bauer Award

Official Selection—Toronto Int'l Film Festival

2008 **Total Disponibilidad (short)** (Director + Writer)

2006 **8 Horas (short)** (Director + Writer)

SELECT ACTOR'S BIOGRAPHIES

Horacio Camandule

Argentinean born Horacio Camandule makes his feature film debut in "GIGANTE" as Jara. Horacio landed this role after his performance in Adrián Biniez's short "Total Disponibilidad." With his subtle and honest portrayal of Jara in "GIGANTE", Horacio establishes himself as a strong South American actor.

Leonor Svarcas

In the fourth film of her career, Leonor steps into the spotlight as Julia, the object of Jara's admiration. Her long-standing friendship with Director Adrián Biniez began on the set of "Whiskey" in 2004 where they shared the screen as actors. Adrián then used her in his first short, "8 Horas," and brought her on as a writer and an actress for his follow-up, "Total disponibilidad." She holds her own in "GIGANTE," and will hopefully continue to bring sensitivity to Adrián's films.

CREDITS

Crew

Director: Adrián Biniez
Writer: Adrián Biniez
Executive Producers: Agustina Chiarino, Fernando Epstein
Co-producers: Natacha Cervi, Christoph Friedel, Hernán Musaluppi,
Frans van Gestel
Associate Producer: Stefano Segre
Line Producer: Agustina Chiarino
Cinematographer: Arauco Hernández
Editor: Fernando Epstein
Art Direction by: Alejandro Castiglioni
Post-Production Supervisor: Vera Jennes
Production Supervisor: Laurette Schillings
Foley Artist: Federico Billordo
Sound: Daniel Yafalián
Costume and Wardrobe Department: Emilia Carlevaro

Cast

Jara: Horacio Camandule
Julia: Leonor Svarcas
Julio: Fernando Alonso
Omar: Diego Artucio
Jaras Chef: Ariel Caldarelli
Mariela: Fabiana Charlo
Fidel: Andrés Gallo
Matías: Federico García
Tomás: Néstor Guzzini
Gustavo: Esteban Lago
Danilo: Ernesto Liotti
Kennedy: Carlos Lissardy
Miguel: Nacho Mendy
Rojas: Augusto Peloso
Roquero: Rafael Sosa Zeballos