



Director

Rodrigo Plá

Selected filmography "Desierto Adentro" (2008) (In postproduction)
"El ojo en la nuca" (2000) Short. Starring Gael García Bernal and Daniel Hedler
"Novia mía" (1995). Short

Awards 2003 Participant: Sundance Workshop – "Desierto Adentro"
2002 Winner: IMCINE – Screenplay: "Desierto Adentro"
2001 Winner: OSCAR® for the Best Short Foreign Film:
"El Ojo en la Nuca"
2001 Winner: Ariel Award for the Best Short Film: "El Ojo en la Nuca"
2001 Winner: First place in the 2nd Latin American Spanish-language
Short Film Competition – SGAE, TVE España
2000 Participates in seminars run by the Antorchas Foundations, Hubert Bals
Fund and Gottenburg Film Festival: "Desierto Adentro"
1999 Winner: IMCINE grant to write "Desierto Adentro"
1996 Winner: Gold Sun Award for the Best Short Film, Biarritz Festival
1996 Winner: Best Short Film, Guadalajara Mexican Film Festival

Screenwriter

Laura Santullo

Selected filmography "Un ángel para Saúl" (1998).
"Desierto adentro" (1999/2005). Directed by Rodrigo Plá
"Bizbirije" (2001-2003).

Awards 2003 Participant: Sundance Workshop – "Desierto Adentro"
2002 Winner: IMCINE – Screenplay: "Desierto Adentro"



Cast

Daniel
DANIEL GIMÉNEZ CACHO

Mariana
MARIBEL VERDÚ

Gerardo
CARLOS BARDEM

Alejandro
DANIEL TOVAR

Miguel
ALAN CHÁVEZ

Comandante Rigoberto
MARIO ZARAGOZA

Andrea
MARINA DE TAVIRA

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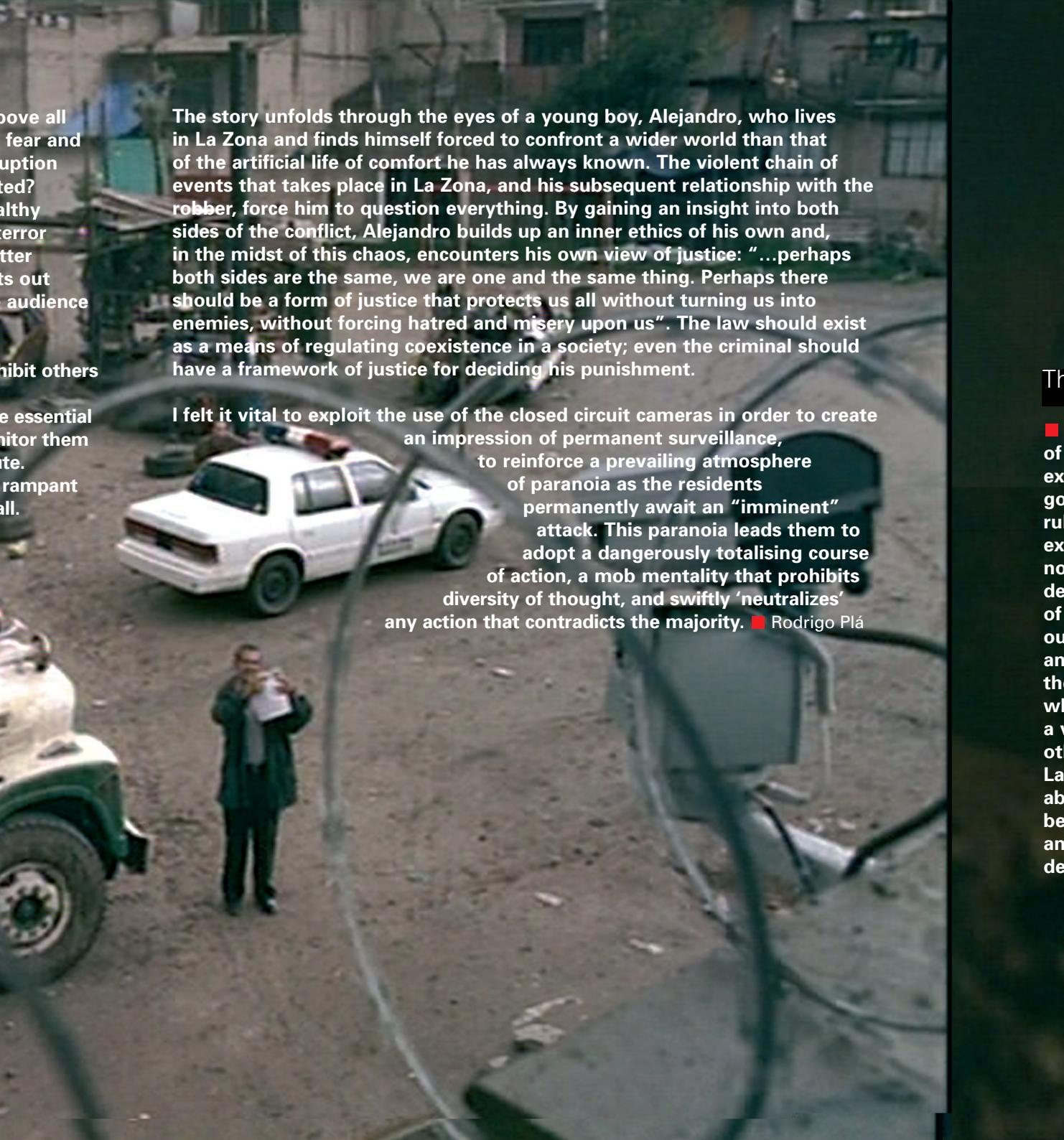
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LA
ZONA

A MORENA FILMS and BUENAVENTURA PRODUCCIONES Production · Co-produced by FIDECINE · ESTRATEGIA · JAEO FILMS · GRUP JOAN ANDREU · VACA FILMS and ORIO PRODUKZIOAK · In Association with WILD BUNCH · CINEPANTERA · "LA ZONA" · DANIEL GIMÉNEZ CACHO · CARLOS BARDEM · DANIEL TOVAR · ALAN CHÁVEZ, MARINA DE TAVIRA · MARIO ZARAGOZA · With the Special Collaboration of MARIBEL VERDÚ · Sound Designer CHARLY SCHMUKLER · Sound Recordist LICIO MARCOS DE OLIVEIRA · Wardrobe MALENA DE LA RIVA · ADELA CORTÁZAR · Production Designer ANTONIO MUÑOHIERRO Music FERNANDO VELÁZQUEZ · Editors BERNAT VILAPLANA · ANA GARCÍA With the Collaboration of NACHO RUIZ CAPILLAS · Director of Photography EMILIANO VILLANUEVA · Executive producers ALVARO LONGORIA · PILAR BENITO · Co-producers RODRIGO PLÁ · RICARDO FERNÁNDEZ-DEU · CHRISTIAN VALDELIEVRE · Written by LAURA SANTULLO based on her tale · Produced by ALVARO LONGORIA · Directed by RODRIGO PLÁ





Message from the director

■ *La Zona* is the story of an armed robbery and a manhunt, but above all the story of a broken, divided society made up of two worlds that fear and hate each other. What can be done when the inefficiency and corruption of someone whose duty it is to deal out justice leave us unprotected? What can be done in a world where a minority is shamelessly wealthy and the majority, desperately poor? What can be done about the terror of the person who isolates himself behind a wall and about the bitter frustration of the person who lives on the other side? *La Zona* sets out to issue a warning about the shape of things to come, to alert the audience to a way of life that is drawing ever closer.

By surrounding themselves with walls, the residents of *La Zona* prohibit others from entering, without realising that the wall symbolises their own imprisonment. For the sake of protecting themselves, they forfeit the essential right to privacy, a privacy sacrificed to the closed circuit TV that monitor them all. It's too high a price to pay for a security that can never be absolute. However big the fortress, however high the wall, as long as there is rampant inequality, there will always be someone who will climb over the wall.

I felt it vital to exploit the use of the closed circuit cameras in order to create an impression of permanent surveillance, to reinforce a prevailing atmosphere of paranoia as the residents permanently await an "imminent" attack. This paranoia leads them to adopt a dangerously totalising course of action, a mob mentality that prohibits diversity of thought, and swiftly 'neutralizes' any action that contradicts the majority. ■ Rodrigo Plá

The location

■ *La Zona* is a character in itself, the main character of the story. I am interested in delving deeper into exactly what goes on inside those closed universes governed by fear, which end up inventing their own rules regardless of the law that governs others, and examining the way in which moral standards - basic notions of respect and coexistence - gradually degenerate into a primitive and dehumanised form of behaviour, where "the other", the robber, the outsider, is no longer seen as a person but simply as an enemy to be destroyed. My intention was to make the structure of the film work like a choral song, where each character finds a voice in the score, a voice that, by confronting or accompanying the others, contributes to the polyphony that constitutes *La Zona*. An organic whole which, in its self-absorption, through its inability to look out and beyond, to recognise its own particular contradictions and failings, sows the seed of its own self-destruction. ■ Rodrigo Plá