

TORNASOL FILMS
PRESENTS



BALADA TRISTE

THE LAST CIRCUS



A FILM BY
ALEX DE LA IGLESIA

TORNASOL FILMS
PRESENTS



tiff. toronto
international
film festival
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2010

BALADA TRISTE

— THE LAST CIRCUS —

A FILM BY
ALEX DE LA IGLESIA

★ ★ ★

Spain-France / 2010 / 108' / Color
SCOPE 2:35 / DOLBY 5.1 SRD

World Sales:  ED
FILMS DISTRIBUTION

34, rue du Louvre | 75001 PARIS | Tel: +33 1 53 10 33 99 | Fax : +33 1 53 10 33 98
info@filmsdistribution.com | www.filmsdistribution.com

International Press: RENDEZ-VOUS

Viviana Andriani | Aurélie Dard
Tel/fax: +33 1 42 66 36 35 | In Venice : +39 348 331 6681 | +39 347 3842590
viviana@rv-press.com

Download Photos: www.filmsdistribution.com/download/baladatriste

SYNOPSIS

The circus monkeys scream wildly inside their cage while, outside, men kill and die in another circus: The Spanish Civil War. The Stupid Clown, recruited forcefully by the Militia, ends up carrying out a bloodbath with a machete against the National soldiers while still wearing his clown costume.

Many years later, during Franco's time, Javier, son of the clown in the Militia, finds work as the Sad Clown in a circus where he meets an outlandish cast of strange characters such as the Human Cannonball, the Elephant Tamer or a quarrelsome couple of dog trainers. Here he also crosses paths for the first time with Sergio.

This is the beginning of the story in which Javier and Sergio, two terrifyingly disfigured clowns, pushed by rage, desperation and lust, battle to the death hoping to win the love of the most beautiful and cruel woman in the circus.





DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I'm making this film to exorcise a pain in my soul that just won't go away, like oil stains. I wash my clothes with movies. I feel ridiculed, horribly mutilated by a marvelous and sad past, as if I were drowning in nostalgia for something that never happened, a huge nightmare that won't allow me to be happy.

I want to annihilate the rage and the pain with a grotesque joke that will make others laugh and cry at the same time.

I am two people, maybe more. I can make out a spoilt child, cowardly and cruel, who enjoys hurting and pinching the cheeks of those weaker than him. I

know he hates me and wants to destroy me, but the only way for him to stop torturing me is to let him out. He needs to enjoy himself, laugh uproariously, vomit all over the celluloid.

There's also a bitter elderly woman, aware of her age and of her ignorance, but mostly of her guilt. She would like to love passionately, but knows that's not possible. She wants to be liked, she wishes with all her might to make others happy even if she doesn't know how to enjoy life.

Perhaps these two strange creatures define this film. Their struggle is a summary of my life, of what I've seen around me, a confusing and

absurd display, both grotesque and disappointing, but also incredibly touching within its own stupidity.

I want the film to take place in 1973, when I was eight years old. I remember that time as a dream, a nightmare that made no sense.

Perhaps that was the year in which reality was most like a dream. "El Lute", the death of Carrero Blanco, the TV clowns... They all come together in my memory. I'm not sure who the clown was and who the child was in that strange hallucination.

Alex de la Iglesia

ALEX DE LA IGLESIA

/// Director's biofilmography

He was born in Bilbao in 1965. At ten he was drawing comics and he acknowledges Alex Raymond, Stan Lee and Vázquez as his spiritual fathers.

Wishing to further widen his horizons, he studied at Deusto University where, according to him, he spent most of the time at the bar and in the film society.

Determined to join the world of show business, he worked as a decorator for TV and was Art Director in Enrique Urbizu's film **"Todo por la Pasta"**. From then on, things happened very quickly. The call of film direction knocked on his door.

His first and only short film as co-writer and director, **'Mirindas asesinas' (1991)**, won prizes at many festivals plus it served to convince Pedro Almodovar, through his producing company, El Deseo, to sponsor his first feature film, **'Acción Mutante' (1993) (Mutant Action)**. This malicious science fiction comedy with a revolutionary message was awarded two prizes at the Montreal Fantasia Film Festival and it also achieved three Spanish Academy Awards (Goya awards), turning the director into the most promising film maker of the year.

His second film, **'El Día de la Bestia' (1995) (The day of the Beast)**, won six Spanish Academy Awards (amongst them, Best Director). It also received prizes at the Gérardmer and Brussels festivals, and it obtained the unanimous praise of both the critics and the public at the Venice, Toronto and Sitges Festivals. And, it went on to become one of the season's top box office hits.

'Perdita Durango' (1997) (Dance with the devil) was his third feature film, the second to be produced by Andrés Vicente Gómez after the overwhelming success of **'El Día de la Bestia'**.

'Muertos de Risa' (1999) (Dying of Laughter) and the accumulator of Goya prizes **'La Comunidad' (2000) (Common Wealth)** were a turning point in his meteoric career. From then on he became his own producer, beginning with **'800 balas' (2002) (800 Bullets)** through the Pánico Films company. He embarked upon this unprecedented basque-style western, shot in Almeria, starring an iconic Sancho Gracia.

'Crimen perfecto' (2004) (Ferpect Crime) is Alex de la Iglesia's return to the black humour.

During 2007 Alex writes and directs **'The Oxford Murders'**, starred by Elijah Wood, John Hurt and Leonor Watling. The film raises a domestic box office of 8.2 Mill. Euros.

'El plutón B-R-B Nero' in 2008 is the premiere of Alex de la Iglesia as Director and producer of a TV Serie. The serie is being broadcasted by La 2 of TVE.



CAST

Javier	✧	Carlos Areces
Sergio	✧	Antonio De La Torre
Natalia	✧	Carolina Bang
Colonel Salcedo	✧	Sancho Gracia
Ring Master	✧	Juan Luis Galiardo
Andres	✧	Enrique Villén
Ramiro	✧	Manuel Tafalle
Master of Ceremonies	✧	Manuel Tejada
Sonsoles	✧	Gracia Olayo
Father Stupid Clown	✧	Santiago Segura
Militian Captain	✧	Roberto Alamo
Clown Clever	✧	Fofito
Javier (Child 1937)	✧	Sasha Di Benedetto
Javier (Young 1943)	✧	Jorge Clemente
Children's Mother	✧	Juana Cordero
Manuel	✧	Luis Varela
Dolores	✧	Terele Pavez
National Soldier	✧	Fran Perea

CREW

Director	✧	Alex De La Iglesia
Screenwriter	✧	Alex De La Iglesia
Line Producer	✧	Yousaf Bokhari
Casting Director	✧	Camilla-Valentina Isola
Director of Photography	✧	Kiko De La Rica
Editor	✧	Alejandro Lazaro
Production Designer	✧	Eduardo Hidalgo
Costume Designer	✧	Paco Delgado
Make-Up	✧	Jose Quetglas
Costume Designer	✧	Nieves Sanchez
Composer	✧	Roque Baños
Producers	✧	Gerardo Herrero, Mariela Besuievsky
Co-Producers	✧	Franck Ribiere, Verane Frediani
Production companies	✧	Tornasol Films (Spain)
	✧	Castafiore Films (Spain)
	✧	La Fabrique 2 (France)
In association with	✧	Mikado Film, U Fund and u Film
	✧	Backup Films, Sofica Coficup
With the participation of	✧	TVE, Canal +, Estudios Ciudad de la Luz /
	✧	Generalitat Valenciana
and the support of	✧	ICAA, ICO

