



AlbaSotorra miramemira
Cinema Productions

ZUZÚ CINEMA AMORAMBRE FILMS

Sica AIE Alba Sotorra by Filmmarket Fund

SICA

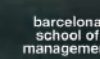
A film by Carla Subirana

2023 | Spain | Drama, Coming-of-age
Galician - Catalan | 90'

With the support of



Co-funded by the Creative Europe MEDIA Programme of the European Union



"The sea always returns what doesn't belong to it"



SYNOPSIS

Sica (14) is obsessed that the sea will return her father's body after a shipwreck on the Costa da Morte (Coast of Death), Galicia. While she walks the cliffs she meets a boy, Suso (15), the Storm Chaser, as weird as she is, who is waiting for the arrival of Ofelia, the mother of all storms. Sica investigates the circumstances that led to her father's death and sets out on a painful journey of discovery. For her, the fishing town where she has grown up, marked by the brutality of its ocean and the growing imbalance of Nature, will never be the same again.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Sica **Thais García Blanco**
Carmen **Núria Prims**
Suso **Marco Antonio Florido Añón**
Leda **María Villaverde Ameijeiras**
The Portuguese **Lois Soaxe**

CREATIVE TEAM

Direction and script **Carla Subirana**
Production companies **Alba Sotorra, Miramemira, ZuZú Cinema, Amorambre Films, Filmmarket fund**
Produced by **Alba Sotorra, Andrea Vázquez, Xavi Font**
Executive producers **Alba Sotorra, Andrea Vázquez**
Line producer **Aleix Castellón**
DOP **Mauro Herce**
2nd unit DOP **Anna Molins**
Production designer **Anna Chwaliszewska**
Art director **Andrea Pozo**
Editor **Juliana Montañés (AMMAC)**
Composer **Xavi Font**
Sound **Amanda Villavieja**
Sound design **Alejandra Molina, Fernando Novillo**
Sound mix **Fernando Novillo**
1st AD **Cristina García**
Casting **Conchi Iglesias**
Costume design **Anna Chwaliszewska**
Makeup and hair **Sonia García**
SFX technical chief **SFX Oriol Tarrida**
VFX director **Pablo Lamosa**

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Carla Subirana

Barcelona, 1972

Carla Subirana, a director and screenwriter, also lectures in film in the Faculty of Media studies in Blaquerna-URL and teaches Masters in various universities.

Her cinema rides the line between the documentary and fiction, as can be seen in her debut, **Nadar** (2008), an autobiographical film about historical and personal memory. The award-winning film has screened at several international festivals and is the object of study in such universities as Harvard, UMass and Cardiff University, among others.

Her second film, **Volar** (2012), premiered at SEFF. It was nominated for the Gaudí Awards and achieved the historic milestone of being **the first documentary ever filmed in a Spanish military academy**.

Kanimambo (2012), which garnered the Special Jury Mention at the Malaga Film Festival, and **Atma** (2016) with dancer NÚRIA GUIU, constitute her first foray both into short film and into fiction. **Atma** received the National Dance Award at 2017's Fiver.

Subirana has been a project evaluator for Proimágenes Colombia as well as a jury member at several national and international festivals, and has participated in the ICEC Short Film Commission (2018). She has also directed and written television documentaries for TVE, TV3 and BTV. Subirana recently taught **creativity workshops** for film students at UDK University of the Arts in Berlin and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, among others.

The figure of woman is central to her work as a filmmaker. As such, Subirana has participated in multiple round tables focused on cinema and gender, and she is a **founding partner of the association "Dones Visuals" (Visual Women)**, working to **achieve parity in the film industry**. In 2018, she designed and directed the **Acció Viver** program for women filmmakers, accompanying cinematographic features and documentary films from script to direction and production.



DIRECTOR'S INTERVIEW

Carla Subirana

How would you describe *Sica*?

It is a coming-of-age film shot in 16mm on the Costa da Morte, Galicia, one of the places in the world where there have been most shipwrecks. It tells of the search by Sica, a 14 year old girl obsessed that the sea will return her father's body after he was lost in one of those shipwrecks. While she walks the cliffs she meets Suso (15), a Storm Chaser, who is waiting for the arrival of Ofelia, the mother of all storms. Sica investigates the circumstances that led to her father's death and sets out on a painful journey of discovery. For her, the fishing town where she has grown up, marked by the brutality of its ocean and the growing imbalance of Nature, will never be the same again.

Why did you choose the Costa da Morte to tell *Sica's* story?

Six years ago as I was walking the *O camiño dos Faros* (The Lighthouse Way) I arrived at a little town on the Costa da Morte, Galicia –in NW Spain–, and I was fascinated by the wild beauty of its landscapes and by the stories about the shipwrecks. At that moment I decided to make a film.

Costa da Morte lies where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Bay of Biscay, where the sea currents are lethal. Over 600 shipwrecks have been recorded in this area, making it the most dangerous coast in the world. The sea's fury turns it into a gigantic grave and, according to legend, the souls of the sailors can still be heard through the cracks in the earth. Sica searches obsessively for her father's voice in an enormous hole, the *Furna das Grallas*.

Costa da Morte, this corner of the world, sounds a warning in this film which reflects both our fears and our hopes of reversing the situation, along with the desire to leave a healthy planet for our children, placing that great protagonist, Nature, in the center of the shot.

“*Sica* is a cry for help in the face of the climate crisis”



What role does Nature and climate change play in the film?

Nature is, as I was saying, the other protagonist in *Sica*. The wind, the sea, the waves... show us their mood, with the singular temperament that the ocean has along this coast. The characters are small when faced with its immensity, and fearful at the arrival of Hurricane Ofelia, which at the same time is the only thing capable of restoring harmony to Sica's life. As Suso, the Storm Chaser, says, Ofelia is the mother of all storms, but it is only a warning; more will come after it, different from the ones before. *Sica* is a cry for help in the face of the climate crisis.



Your career so far has been in documentary cinema, how have you tackled your first fiction feature film?

As a narrator, with *Sica* I have rediscovered that you can't escape from your obsessions and that personal experience leaves a profound mark that inevitably slips through the cracks in the creative process. *Nadar* (2008), my first film, revolves around a family of women marked by the male absence. In this film I understood that the ghosts are like bars of soap that end up slipping away, while the female figures, my mother and grandmother, are like stone sculptures, immovable, unconditional. The wind sculpts them and wears them away but they remain.

Something similar happens to *Sica*: she idealizes her seagoing father and chases after a ghost, and in that search she sheds her childhood and opens the way to the inevitable disenchantment of the adult world. Finally, after a painful journey, *Sica* realizes that her mother has always been there, at her side. Immovable, unconditional.

Women of 50 have many stories to tell. For a woman it is very difficult to direct her first film but it is even more complicated to have continuity in her film career.

What other element make this film special?

Almost the entire cast is made up of non-professional actors, except for the character of the mother (**Núria Prims**) and The Portuguese (**Lois Soaxe**). The three adolescent protagonists (**Thais García Blanco, Marco Antonio Florido** and **María Villaverde**) are from Costa da Morte, selected after an intense, extensive casting among over 600 young people from the area, and the other secondary characters are played by fishermen and other local residents.

The film is **shot in Galician**, the language spoken by people in this area, and in Catalan, the language of *Sica's* mother. It is one of the few films (or the only one) shot in Galician and Catalan, and the two minority but official languages in Spain co-exist quite naturally.

Another particularity about *Sica* is that it's a film shot with a majority of **women** heading the crews: executive production, direction and script, editing, sound, sound design, art direction, costumes, make-up...



AlbaSotorra

Cinema Productions

Production company based in Barcelona, specialized in the production of feature films for cinema, television and VOD platforms at an international level. With a team of women, we tell stories committed to the social and political reality of today with a gender perspective. We have produced the feature films **The Return: life after ISIS** (2021, SXSW, HotDocs, Sheffield and DocsBarcelona), nominated to the EMMY, GOYA, Rose d'Or, RTS and Focal Awards, winner of the Gaudí Award for Best Documentary and the Broadcast Digital Awards, Special Jury Mention in Warsaw, Audience Award and Reteena Award at DocsBarcelona; **Commander Arian** (2018, HotDocs, Shanghai, Karlovy Vary, Sheffield); **The end will be spectacular** (2020, Rotterdam, Kolkata), distributed in cinemas in Spain, Germany, France, Switzerland, Korea, Japan and LatAm; **My emptiness and I** (2022, Rotterdam, Cleveland, San Sebastián), Special Jury Award at Málaga, Maguey Award at Guadalajara; **Francesca & Love** (2022, Málaga, FICFUSA, Festivalito La Palma), Best documentary at SomCinema, selected as a candidate for the Goya Awards; and **Kobanê** (2022, Goa). We have experience in international co-productions, as we have worked with Germany, France, Qatar, China, Syria-Kurdistan, Iraq, The Netherlands, Austria and Poland. We have a solid relationship with Catalan, Spanish and EU film funds—we have been beneficiaries of ICEC, ICAA, MEDIA Creative Europe and Eurimages—and regional (TVC), national (RTVE and Movistar+) and international (Sky TV, NPO, CBC, among others) broadcasters. We are about to release **Sica**, a fiction film by Carla Subirana, selected for Berlinale (Generations 14plus).

We are currently producing **Sima's Song**, a fiction by Roya Sadat; **Rock Bottom**, an animation by María Trénor; and **Respira, Mama**, a documentary by Meri Collazos and Joan Lopez. We are developing **Bongoland**, by Adrián Silvestre; **Salen las lobas**, by Claudia Estrada; **Abdelazia: The Moorish Queen**, by Alba Sotorra; and the documentary **Read my breasts**, by Anja Salomonowitz.



PRODUCTION COMPANIES

miramemira

Miramemira is a film production company based in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) founded by producer Andrea Vázquez and filmmaker Damián Varela. Since 2016, producer Analía G. Alonso and producer and musician Xavi Font have been collaborating with the company on a regular basis. In 2018 they co-produced with Spain, France and Luxembourg the feature film **O que arde** (Fire Will Come), directed by Óliver Laxe, with which they won awards at **Cannes, San Sebastián, Mar del Plata** and several **Goya Awards**.

Miramemira is currently immersed in the production of **Sica**, first fiction feature film by Carla Subirana, which will have its world premiere at the **Berlinale** (Generations 14 Plus) and is scheduled for release in the spring of 2023; **O Corno** (The Rye Horn), second feature film by Jaione Camborda, scheduled for release in mid-2023; **San Simón**, by Miguel A. Delgado, in the financing phase, with a planned release in the second half of 2024. In development are the projects **Gasoya**, a fiction feature film directed by Óliver Laxe; **Vivir un grito**, a fiction feature film directed by Diana Toucedo; **Strange Fruit**, a fiction feature film directed by Mauro Herce, and **Ana e mais nós**, documentary feature film directed by María Yáñez.



ZUZÚ C I N E M A

Recently created production company founded by Xavi Font, with an extensive background as a musician for cinema and series and as producer of films such as **O que arde** (Fire Will Come), by Óliver Laxe (2018), **Ons**, by Alfonso Zarauza (2020), or **After** by Óliver Laxe (in pre-production). Based in Galicia and Catalonia, aimed at European co-productions, ZuZú Cinema is also developing **Strange River**, by Jaume Claret Muxart, in co-production with Germany, scheduled to shoot in 2024, and the series **Ugeres**, by Carlos Amaral, in co-production with Portugal.





Newly created film production company founded by Andrea Vázquez, producer and executive producer of Óliver Laxe's ***O que arde*** (Fire will come). An international co-production between Spain, France and Luxemburg, it had its international premiere in the Official Selection - Un Certain Regard - at the Cannes Film Festival 2019, where it got the **Jury Award**, and its national premiere at the San Sebastian Film Festival in the prestigious Perlak section. It was part of the official section of the Toronto International Film Festival and the Mar del Plata International Film Festival, where it won the award for Best Film. Winner of two Goya Awards (Best New Actress and Best Cinematography), a Gaudí Award for Best European Film and six Mestre Mateo Awards, including Best Film.

She has also been the executive producer of Carla Subirana's ***Sica***, together with producer Alba Sotorra; Jaione Camborda's ***O Corno*** (The Rye Horn), a co-production between Spain, Portugal and Belgium in post-production phase that counts, among other supports, with the support of the Eurimages and Ibermedia programs. And ***San Simón***, by Miguel A. Delgado, a co-production between Spain and France, in production.



Filmmarket Fund

Filmmarket Fund is a fund that invests in the development of audiovisual projects at all stages of the process. It provides financing and co-produces with European production companies, acquires intellectual property and develops projects, carries out Services in Spain and participates in companies with a multitude of interests in the sector.

The fund is a public and private equity fund whose team has participated, invested, financed and structured films such as ***Fast and Furious VI***, ***Palmeras en la nieve***, ***The Gunman***, documentary series, live shows, among others.

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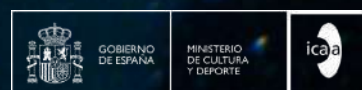
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FILMS

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With the support of



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