

the fisherman's daughter

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY:
EDGAR DE LUQUE JÁCOME

PRODUCED BY:



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JECT

A man with a mustache, wearing a dark blue shirt, stands in a rustic kitchen, looking towards a woman in a white dress who is seen from the back. The kitchen has wooden shelves with various jars and a woven basket hanging on the wall.

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Logline:

When a fisherman's daughter goes back to her father's home, they will need to confront their past and present to move on.

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Synopsis:

Samuel, the last freediving fisherman of grouper, lives isolated on an island. One day, he unexpectedly receives a visit from his son, now called Priscila, a transgender prostitute looking for a place to hide. He allows her to stay despite his constant rejection. The area's fishermen observe everything with strangeness and one of them extorts Priscila because he knows why she's hiding. After suffering an accident, Samuel must accept the care of his daughter, and this brings them closer together. They take the opportunity to dive together in life to heal a broken past and to accept each other in the depth of the sea; like groupers, who can change sex when they reach maturity.

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Project Information:

ORIGINAL TITLE: *La estrategia del mero*

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY: *Edgar de Luque Jácome*

PRODUCED BY:

Jorge Andrés Botero - Séptima Films (Colombia)

Annabelle Mullen - Belle Films (Puerto Rico)

Rodrigo Letier - Kromaki (Brasil)

Tatiana Leite - Bubbles Project (Brasil)

Elsa Turull de Alma - Larimar Films (República)

YEAR: 2023

DURATION: *80 min.*

GENRE: *LGBT Fiction, Drama*

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: *Spanish*

SHOOTING FORMAT: *3424 x 2202 y RAW R3D*

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: *Rafael González*

EDITED BY: *Karen Akerman, Ricardo Pretti*

PRINCIPAL TALENTS:

Nathalia Rincón (Priscila), Roamir Pineda (Samuel),

Henry Barrios (Grimaldo), Jesús Romero (Miguelito),

Modesto Lacén (Rula), Roosevelt González (Ruperto),

Carlos Hernández (Macacio).



The Fisherman's Daughter

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Director:

Edgar de Luque Jácome

He studied Film at the Universidad del Magdalena.

He made the short film “Sin Regreso” in 2007, which was selected in the festivals of Biarritz and Santiago. He studied a master’s degree in Communications at the Universidad del Norte and was assistant director in films such as “Ruido Rosa” by Roberto Flores and “Ella” by Libia S. Gómez. He has won the FDC's screenwriting stimulus with three of his screenplays. He has been a professor at the Universidad del Magdalena for several years. “The Fisherman’s Daughter” (La estrategia del mero) is his first feature film.

Our Director, Edgar de Luque Jácome, talks about “La estrategia del mero” (The Fisherman’s Daughter)

How was the idea of this film born?

The idea of making this film came to me when I heard that the last representative of the traditional grouper fishermen divers from my city, Santa Marta, had died. Unlike the rest of the fishermen, he refused to leave his island where he had always lived. Economic dynamics such as tourism and port activity left Santa Marta, a Caribbean city, without fishermen. Later, while making a documentary about the city’s LGBTIQ community, I found that transsexuals were thrown out of the tourist area of the city, just like the fishermen. So, I decided to link these two characters from each community through the metaphor of the grouper, a fish that has the ability to change its sex for reproductive purposes.

Why did you want to make this film?

I always wanted to make a film about the sea, mainly the Caribbean Sea, but not from the paradisiacal and tourist point of view with which this part of the world has always been linked. The Caribbean and its people have special dynamics that have been overshadowed by the stereotypes and exoticization to which we have historically fallen prey; but the truth is that the Caribbean, within its diversity, is also hostile, changing and faces the same problems as in other parts of the world. If for many a beach in the Caribbean is the perfect place to escape from problems, for those of us who live here, that beach can be the toughest battlefield.

What is this film about?

This film is about the relationship between a father and a daughter in the macho and hostile context of the Colombian Caribbean. For those of us born in front of the Caribbean Sea, for a child to learn to swim is almost as important as learning to walk, and the mission to teach the child this skill belongs to the father or whoever embodies this paternal figure. The past and homophobia have separated Samuel from his daughter, which has meant that this important moment of teaching his daughter to swim has never happened; so I would dare to say that this film is about a father who has the last chance to teach his daughter to swim in his sea.

How did you construct the characters of this film?

For the creation of the characters I started from two people I met, the last grouper fisherman in Santa Marta, an almost mythological man about whom a lot of stories were created such as that he could last more than an hour under water and a representative of the transsexual community of the city who opened the doors of her house and her family. From these two people who, at the end of the night happened to be at the last beach for fishermen in the city, a place forgotten enough so that both fishermen and transsexuals could not be bothered, I began the process of building characters with the actors, Roamir Pineda (Samuel) and Nathalia Rincón (Priscila). They changed my perception of how I thought the characters should be, bringing to it their own life experiences and personalities, resulting in the Samuel and Priscila of the film.

Producers:

Jorge Andrés Botero – Séptima Films (Colombia)

Creative director and producer. He is also a social communicator with an emphasis in the audiovisual industry. In 2006, he founded Séptima Films, from which he has produced, among others, “LA PLAYA D.C” (Cannes 2012) and “X500” (TIFF 2016) by Juan Andrés Arango. He co-produced “NN” (Roma 2014) by Héctor Gálvez and was associate producer of “GENTE DE BIEN” (Directors' Fortnight 2014) by Franco Lolli. He recently premiered “DESPUÉS DE NORMA”, his debut feature and “LAS IGUANAS”, his first fiction series in HBOMax, directed by Frank Benítez. He has taught at several universities and audiovisual programs. He is a member of ACE Europe.

Annabelle Mullen - Belle Films (Puerto Rico)

Belle Films is an audiovisual production company founded by producer and attorney Annabelle Mullen Pacheco. Based in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Galicia, Spain it is dedicated to the development and production of handcrafted films, both fiction and documentary. In 2016, it opened offices in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and in 2018 in Galicia, Spain. Among its latest productions are short and feature films such as “Anatomía dunha serea” (ES, 2022), “O Sonda balea” (ES, 2021), “SATOS” (PR, 2020), “DESEMPACANDO” (PR, 2019), “ESTA ES TU CUBA” (USA, PR, 2019), “EL CHATA” (PR, 2018) and “EL HOMBRE QUE CUIDA” (PR, DR, BR, 2017). Belle Films' mission is to make content by women, about women or for women.

www.abellefilm.com | IG: @abellefilm | FB: /Belle Films

Tatiana Leite - Bubbles Project (Brasil)

Tatiana Leite is a producer and programmer dedicated to arthouse cinema. She founded the production company Bubbles Project, based in Rio de Janeiro, through which Tatiana produced and co produced feature films like Benzinho (Loving) by Gustavo Pizzi and Familia Sumergida (A Family Submerged) by Maria Alché, among others, that premiered at festivals such as Sundance, Berlin and Rotterdam. Last year, she produced Rule 34, by Julia Murat, winner of the Golden Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival. This year she will present Puán, by Maria Alché and Benjamin Naishtat at San Sebastian International Film Festival Competition and Fisherman's Daughter by Edgar Deluque at Tallin Film Festival International Competition. She served as an expert at Berlinale Talents, Locarno Open Doors, Rotterdam Lab, EAVE – Puentes Italia, Full Circle Lab and BrLab.

Rodrigo Letier - Kromaki (Brasil)

Brazilian producer with 20 years of experience in the film industry, Rodrigo Letier founded his new production company - Kromaki - in 2018. Previously, he produced successful films such as “Confessions of a Brazilian Call Girl,” “Gabriel and the Mountain,” and “Loving,” as well as series like the Emmy-nominated “Eu Sou Assim”. Even though Kromaki is still relatively young, it has already been involved in projects across various media and platforms. These include documentaries like “Isabella: The Nardoni Case” (Netflix), “The Other World of Sofia” (GNT), and “Endless June” (Canal Curta!), narrated by the award-winning actress at Cannes, Fernanda Torres. There are also series like “My Friend Bussunda” (Globoplay) and “Law of the Jungle” (Canal Brasil). Additionally, there's the comedy “Juntos e Enrolados,” starring Rafael Portugal and Cacau Protásio, and the short film “Food, Funk & Favela” (WaterBear). Upcoming productions from Kromaki include the fiction series “Candelária” (Netflix) and the documentary series “Romário, The Guy” (HBO Max) and “Nelson Times Four” (Canal Brasil), as well as the feature films “Herança,” in co-production with Bubbles Project, and “In Search of Martina,” starring Mercedes Morán, in co-production with the production company Ipanema Filmes.

Elsa Turull de Alma - Larimar Films (República Dominicana)

Marks her first step into the film industry as Executive VP at Larimar Films SRL (2010), a film production company established in her country. Her movies have received many national and international awards and achievements, such as candidate for the final Oscar selection representing her country. Through her work she gained the respect from home-based and experienced producers and being recognized as one of the most influential women in the local film industry, being awarded “Honorary Recipients Award” this year for her indelible contributions to the local industry.

Some of our Producers talk about

“La estrategia del mero”:

Elsa Turull de Alma, Larimar Films:

“I said ‘Yes’, to a story that deeply moved me from the first moment it was presented to me. In ‘The fisherman's daughter’s’, many will experience the differences that a family can carry and how love is the most important part in the midst of a sea of problems toward a beautiful future together.

Working this co-production with my international colleagues has opened a new beginning for me and Larimar Films making all of our cultures and work ethic a beautiful experience that will justify the enormous opportunity for our film after eight years in the making.”

Tatiana Leite, Bubbles Project:

What moves me more in ‘Fisherman's Daughter’ is the honesty the film has towards its characters and its universe, and I believe this makes it poetic, but also straightforward.

Jorge Andrés Botero, Séptima Films:

“Participating in ‘The Fisherman’s daughter’ in the midst of the pandemic was a huge challenge, a film in which all the partners put their efforts and we managed to pull it off. Working with Edgar was a pleasure.

In relation to the story, for me it is a story that talks about the father-daughter relationship beyond the LGBTI+ context. I like how the family drama is addressed and how it talks a bit about the traumas that we resolve inside that small cabin.”

Annabelle Mullen Pacheco, Belle Films:

“I first met our Director, Edgar de Luque, in Puerto Rico’s first edition of the script workshop, Insulab. After hearing his pitch and reading the project, it was evident that this was a necessary film. It is a gripping story about a father–daughter relationship. They are forced to confront their past, and as a result, love overcomes their identities.

The film takes a new meaning for me after the recent and unexpected death of my sea-loving father. As I wish, I could swim one last time with him in the sea. Two countries that share the Caribbean sea, Puerto Rico and Colombia, came together to produce a film about gender identity, family and loneliness. Later, Larimar Films from the Dominican Republic and Kromaki and Bubbles Project from Brazil joined to make this film a reality. It has taken 8 years to finish the film.”

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La estrategia del mero

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