

MONTE BRAVO

A SHORT FILM BY
NOELIA MARÍA MUÑO GONZÁLEZ

Spain | 13 min | Historical drama



LOGLINE

Paula is a girl who lives in a Spanish village after the Civil War. One day, while playing with her brother Pablo, she sees a werewolf in the forest. But, is it real or just the child's imagination? Through the siblings quest to find the werewolf, we deepen into a relationship, full of loneliness, joy and fear.





GALICIA: A DARK, MAGIC LAND

Monte Bravo is a story about a situation that defined my whole childhood: being in charge, as a ten-year-old girl, of my older brother with Down Syndrome. Caring for him was a challenge, of course, but at the same time we shared so many beautiful moments, and so much love. However, I soon noticed how far my experience was from so many others who rarely got in contact with people with disabilities. Therefore, sharing this experience has been vital to me for a long time.

For that purpose, I decided to place the story in my homeland and right after the Civil War, a time when Galicia was a rather poor and dark place. Under a dictatorship, daily life in this region seemed to exist somewhere between hard realities and magical stories.

‘Monte Bravo’ creates a sensorial experience filled with the textures, the flavors, and the smells of a place lost in time.

Shooting this movie was extremely challenging, but we were lucky to have the support of so many locals. The cast is comprised entirely of non-actors, real neighbors of the region. Thus, we are not only translating our traditional stories into a film, but also involving our community in its making.

PRODUCTION VALUES

Monte Bravo is a short filmed in the director's home village. That was vital in order to put in value the Galician rural culture, their traditions, uses and history. This, united to an international projection achieved thanks to the director's network, constitutes a unique product with personality, that will attract a great interest from the public with a desire to see an original piece of work.

Since a big part of the story circles around a character with a disability, this project is oriented to provide a representation of how disabilities are treated historically. Featuring an actor with Down Syndrome, we intend to keep contact with different collectives that support disabled people and their families.

Added to that, this project is written, directed and produced by the award winner director Noelia Muíño. She is the recipient of *La Caixa bank merit* scholarship, also given to recognized filmmakers such as Carla Simón (*Summer 1993*) and Carlos Marqués Marcet (*10.000km*), both of them presented by Spain for the run of the Oscars.

This project was produced within the Film Directing Master program at *New York University*. Its alumni include names such as Martin Scorsesse, Rachel Morrison, and Kevin Wilson, winner of the Student Academy Awards and nominated at the Oscars.

Finally, we should mention that this is a project with a 50% of crew members who are women, and with both a female director and cinematographer. Since our industry still struggles to achieve equality, supporting female filmmakers who look after this equality in their projects becomes fundamental to achieve parity in the art world.





FEATURING AN ACTOR WITH DOWN SYNDROME

The cast for Monte Bravo is fully composed by non-professional actors, neighbours of my village, where I shot the film. This was important to me as a director since I wanted to prioritize the naturality, and to make this project in close connection to the people living in the rural area where I grew up.

Paula is my neighbour and she studies theatre at school. Her dream is to become an actress, but the lack of opportunities in our region don't allow her family to support her as much as they would like to.

On the other hand, Pablo is member of the Down Association funded by my mother. His mother was worried that he might not be able to deliver what I needed for the project, so she ended up very pleased to see how much Pablo could do when encouraged. Pablo proved that working with Down Syndrom kids is not only possible, but necessary to break with the assumptions we all have, even their closest family members.

CASTING PAULA AND PABLO

From the first moment when I thought of this story, I had always clear that I wanted to shoot with a Down Syndrom kid. Even though it was hard to believe we could do it, my family and my own experiences with the subject were vital for this film to be done keeping its original idea and spirit.

Shooting with non-actor children requires from extra time, effort and patience, but I knew first hand how amazing are Down Syndrome kids in the use of their body and facial expression, and I saw a lot of potential in channeling that through an acting experience.

Therefore, this project will provide the result of featuring a person with a disability in a film. Hopefully this will raise awareness about their participation not only in our daily lives and our work environments, but also in our films. Because, in the end, if we intend depict the world we live in through our stories, we all should play our role on it.



NOELIA M. MUÍÑO GONZÁLEZ

Writer, director & producer

Noelia Muíño (Galicia, 1992) is a former editor for “The New York Times”, and is a rising 3rd year student at the Master in Film Directing from New York University (USA). Noelia is a writer, producer, director and editor both of short films and documentaries. Her films were selected by different film festivals in Spain, and she won several prizes, among them ‘Best international short film’ for ‘The Widow’ at Alicante Film Festival, and ‘Best Short film’ at Ourense International Film Festival.

She also works as Director of Photography, for directors such as Jess Snow, whose short film ‘Safe among stars’ got selections at NewFest (New York), InsideOut Film Festival (Toronto) and Outfest (Los Angeles), among others. Currently, Noelia is working with the Zenit TV production house as a director of a historical TV series.

CAST

PAULA VÁZQUEZ CORRAL

PABLO BALADO REY

ISABEL FIGUEIRA SALGUEIROS

MARÍA DEL CARMEN SANJURJO MANTEIGA

Script & Director

NOELIA MARÍA MUÍÑO GONZÁLEZ

Cinematographer

LORENA M. DURÁN

Editor

NOELIA MARÍA MUÍÑO GONZÁLEZ

Music

MIKE BRUN

Sound

LA PANIFICADORA STUDIO

Producers

NOELIA MARÍA MUÍÑO GONZÁLEZ

MANUEL MUÍÑO VÁZQUEZ

MARÍA ISABEL GONZÁLEZ AGUIAR

This project was possible thanks to these sponsors and supporting organizations:





NOELIA MARÍA MUÑO GONZÁLEZ
nmg403@nyu.edu | 929 299 9165