

LEONES

A FILM BY JAZMIN LOPEZ

PRESS KIT

SYNOPSIS

Deep in the forest a group of five friends wander around like a lion pack.

Lost in their word games, they play and seduce each other while going back and forth into adulthood territory, in a desperate search to avoid their already written story.









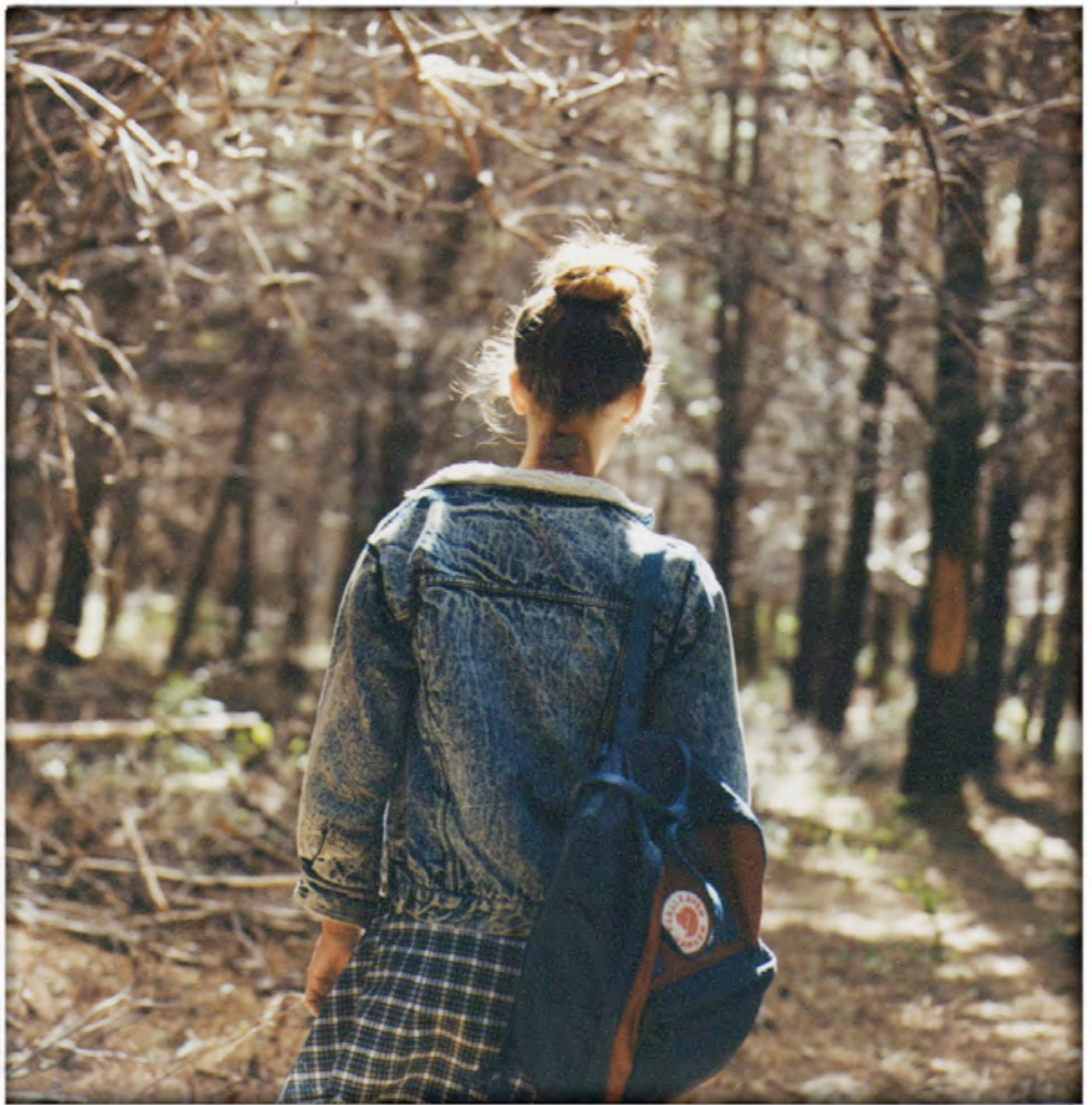
ABOUT THE FILM BY JAZMIN LOPEZ

“death is a lived life. life is a death that comes”. Jorge Luis Borges

A white page, a shape, maybe a point without pre-design, allows me to move eternally into time. LEONES is an essay about death, from the point of view of a mortal being, death seen as a beautiful landscape. Youth and its obsessions; death, its beauty and incomprehension. How weak can the human body be in comparison to an intellectual construction?

These kids are always in the moment. References to temporality are downplayed, or even denied. They are not only in the moment but immersed in it, anxious and bored, almost beyond temporality. The decay of these flowers and the dirt of their clothes exert pressure on memory. Their extreme presence is more than eternal. End of time: they are not aware of their past.

LEONES explores the fantastic boundaries of film as a language. The kids are more real than the fiction of the film. Their purpose is an empty pursuit of arriving – nowhere – Animals. The feeling fills the whole space. We have to translate it within ourselves. And only if we stay sensitive towards the world, will we be able to go through it... A correspondence is established. Different times are tied, entangled in a positive ending. A perfect circle is created: inside there is an open tunnel that allows us to carry on emotionally in this world.



DIRECTOR
JAZMIN LOPEZ

Jazmín López was born in Buenos Aires, in 1984. She is a graduate in Film Direction from Universidad del Cine (FUC). She has directed the short films PARECE LA PIERNA DE UNA MUÑECA; JUEGO VIVO and TE AMO Y MORITE, which were selected at festivals like: BAFICI, Toulouse, Clermont-Ferrand, Rotterdam and two times at the Huesca Film Fest, being awarded with the First Prize.

Furthermore, Jazmín López is a visual artist and has studied with artists as Guillermo Kuitca and Jorge Macchi. She has participated in the Istanbul Biennale (2011) and made exhibitions in Argentina (Ruth Benzacar), Mexico (MACO) and United States (Art Basel Miami & LACE).

Her first feature film LEONES premieres at Orizzonti Competition in the 69° Venezia Biennale. The film was supported by Arte/Cofinova, Torino Film Lab, Hubert Bals Fund, Netherlands Film Fund, Binger FilmLab, CineMart, BAL, Paris Project and TyPA.





INTERVIEW

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE LEONES?

The film works as a block of given time and the camera is the tool that reveals it, pure volume. Like a solid body that contains it all. There's no margin left for anything else, there's nothing beyond its limit.





HOW WAS THE WORK WITH DOP MATIAS MESA (GERRY, ELEPHANT) FOR THE FILM?

It was a very good process; we discovered alongside the shape of the film and I was able to learn a great deal out of every minimal frame in the film.

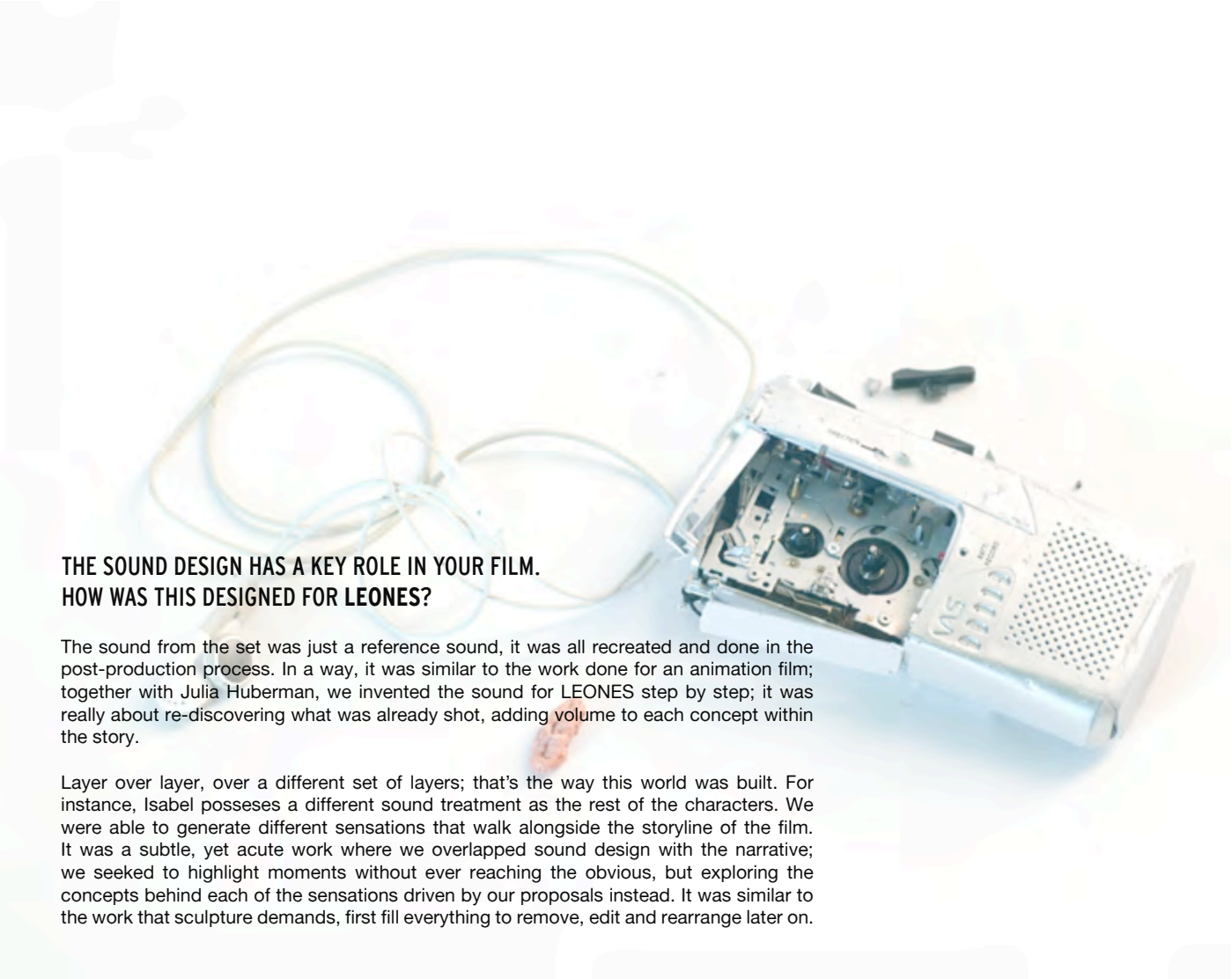
The work with the camera and the actors was built as a 'relay' system, points of arrival and departure. We had to achieve each of the sequence shots after going through tensions, discoveries, objects, gestures and intention. We set up these fix nodes and moved forward from one to the next, and there were free lines between these points, where infinity took over; these parallel lines were configured in such a way that they contained a world, their personal worlds.

WHAT DO THE CHARACTERS REPRESENT?

They are probably friends from school. Nonetheless, it's not too clear who they are; I wanted to play with who the real actors are and hand them over some directions. The resultant hybrid is part of a process that I interpret as a constant investigation. The fact that they have the same age as the characters was very rich and enabled for reality and fiction to blend seamlessly. The shooting stage was very particular, the relationship between themselves on a personal level was very significant and constantly changed during the process.

Some of the turning points influenced quite a lot the way the worked. After losing Isabel, the kids lose their humanity as well; there's no longer any codes between the brothers; Niki is capable of hitting Arturo, and her sister can easily order Niki to kill him. They were always animals, lions. But as long as Isabel is there with them, they pretend not to be. After losing the fifth member, the animals occupy the space



A pair of glasses with thin frames and a disassembled portable cassette player are shown on a white surface. The cassette player is open, revealing its internal components, including the tape reels and motor. The glasses are positioned to the left of the cassette player. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

THE SOUND DESIGN HAS A KEY ROLE IN YOUR FILM. HOW WAS THIS DESIGNED FOR LEONES?

The sound from the set was just a reference sound, it was all recreated and done in the post-production process. In a way, it was similar to the work done for an animation film; together with Julia Huberman, we invented the sound for LEONES step by step; it was really about re-discovering what was already shot, adding volume to each concept within the story.

Layer over layer, over a different set of layers; that's the way this world was built. For instance, Isabel possesses a different sound treatment as the rest of the characters. We were able to generate different sensations that walk alongside the storyline of the film. It was a subtle, yet acute work where we overlapped sound design with the narrative; we sought to highlight moments without ever reaching the obvious, but exploring the concepts behind each of the sensations driven by our proposals instead. It was similar to the work that sculpture demands, first fill everything to remove, edit and rearrange later on.





INFORMATION

Year - 2012

Country - Argentina / France / The Netherlands

Duration - 82 min

Screening Format - DCP / 35mm, Color, 1:2.35, Dolby SR

Shooting Format - 35mm, Color

Production Companies

REI CINE - PETIT FILM - LEMMING FILM - VIKING FILM -

CEPA AUDIOVISUAL

in association with

ARTE/COFINOVA 6





CREDITS

Written & Directed by - Jazmín López

Producer - Benjamin Domenech, Santiago Gallelli

Co-producer - Jean des Forêts, Marleen Slot, Leontine Petit,
Andrés Longares, Felicitas Raffo.

Cast - Julia Volpato, Pablo Sigal, Macarena del Corro,
Diego Vegezzi, Tomás Mackinlay.

Cinematography - Matías Mesa

Costume Design - Barbi Arcuschin

Editing - Benjamin Domenech, Jazmín López

Sound Design - Julia Huberman



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