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present**



# **MARIMBAS FROM HELL**

*(Las Marimbas del Infierno)*

a film by **Julio Hernández Cordoñ**

Guatemala/France/Mexico, 2010  
73 Minutes, shot on HD  
In Spanish with English subtitles

**tiff.** toronto  
international  
film festival  
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2010

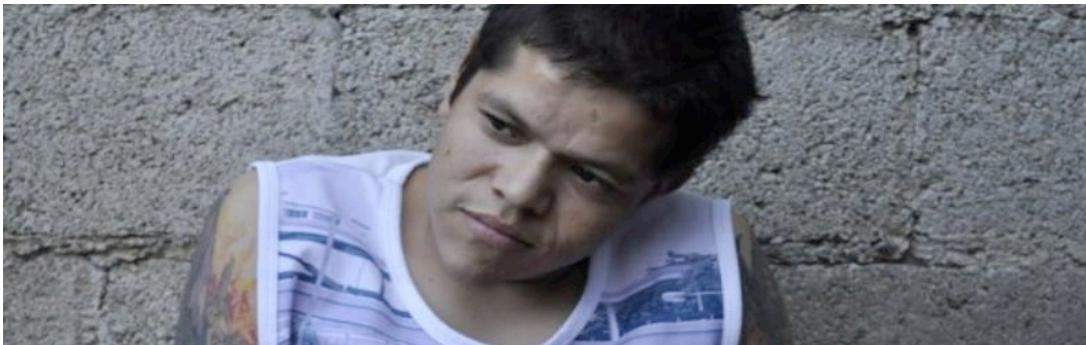
**ZABALTEGI**  
17125 IRAILA SEPTIEMBRE 2010

**World Premiere - 35<sup>th</sup> Toronto International Film Festival - Discovery  
Official Selection - 58<sup>th</sup> San Sebastian Int'l Film Festival - Zabaltegi**

## SYNOPSIS



Don Alfonso has fallen victim to an extortion scheme. Fearing that his neighbors, his fellow musicians, and the neighborhood gangs might harm, his family, or his beloved marimba, (Guatemala's traditional indigenous instrument), he sends his wife and daughters into hiding. He then flees his house, accompanied only by his marimba. As if nothing else could go wrong, another tragedy befalls Don Alfonso. Due to economic strife, and dwindling interest in traditional music, he is fired from his job as a musician in a restaurant. Out of desperation, he decides to fuse marimba with heavy metal.



He turns to his godson Chiquilin, a street-wise kid that is hooked on glue sniffing, and together they look for Blacko, a mythical rocker in the Guatemalan underground metal scene. Blacko, a medical doctor, ex Satanist-worshiper, turned fundamentalist Orthodox Jew/born again Christian, is also looking for an opportunity to continue doing what he loves the most: heavy metal.



Don Alfonso, Chiquilin and Blacko live in a country that ignores them. Thus, they accept their differences and come together as the **Marimbas del Infierno** (*Marimbas from Hell*), playing a new kind of music style, never imagined or heard before.

## **CAST**

Alfonso Tunché – Don Alfonso  
Blacko González - Blacko  
Víctor Hugo Monterroso - Chiquilín

## **CREW**

Written & Directed by Julio Hernández Cordón  
Produced by Julio Hernández Cordón, Pamela Guinea & Cyriac Auriol  
Co-Produced by Michel Lipkes & Julio Guillermo Bárcenas Sánchez  
(Axolote Cine), and Rafa Tres (Código Cinema)  
Director of Photography - María Secco  
Editing - Lenz Claire  
Sound - Antoine Brochu & Olivier Peria  
Original Music - Guerreros del Metal & Bacteria Sound System



## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

My intent is to tell a story about present day Guatemala, with heavy metal and marimba as a backdrop. With that in mind, I decided to use real musicians, with their actual problems, dreams and frustrations.

I find it important as a storyteller to use elements of reality that move me and hurt me, but that also make me smile. I search for real stories to tell, and want my work to mirror the place I come from. I combine these elements with my point of view and imagination to create stories that can only be told in Guatemala.

That's why this is a film that mixes marimba and heavy metal, reality and fiction, and (why not?) very unlikely characters. They would probably have never come together if not for **Las Marimbas del Infierno** (*Marimbas from Hell*).

**-Julio Hernández Cordón**

## **DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Julio Hernández Cordón was born in **1975** in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, to a Mexican father and a Guatemalan mother. He was raised in México, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Julio began his studies in the field of Communication and Journalism at the University Rafael Landívar in Guatemala. He further developed his vocation for filmmaking at the Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica (CCC), in México City.

With **Las Marimbas del Infierno** he won the 16th Valdivia Film Co-production Sessions & Venture Forum (Foro de Inversiones y Sesiones de Coproducción). He also won the Hubert Bals Grant for digital production at the 2011 Rotterdam Film Festival.

## **DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

**POLVO** (*Dust*), in pre-production. Feature, 80 min. Begins shooting in November 2010.

### **Awards**

Co-Production Award at Ibermedia during the first session 2010. In co-production with Tic-Tac Producciones (Spain) and Fábula (Chile).

Project Award at Ibermedia during the second session, 2009.

Selected for the 18th La Residence de la Cinéfondation - Cannes Film Festival, France, 2009.

Grant Winner at the 13th Screenplay Development Fund in Amiens - France, 2008.

**GASOLINA**, 2008. Feature, 74 min.

### **Awards**

Best Director - Tarapaca Festival - Chile, 2010.

International Jury's Special Mention - BAFICI - Argentina, 2009.

Jury's Special Mention - Miami International Film Festival - USA, 2009.

Horizontes Latinos Prize - Best Latin-American Film - San Sebastián Film Festival, 2008.

Best Central American Film - Icaro Film Festival - Guatemala, 2008.

Prize of the Industry, Cine en Construcción - San Sebastián Film Festival - Spain, 2007.

Casa de América - Cine en Construcción - San Sebastián Film Festival - Spain, 2007.

CICAE Award - Cine en Construcción - San Sebastián Film Festival - Spain, 2007.

Production Award to a First Film - Cinergia - Costa Rica, 2006.



**PRODUCTION COMPANIES**

**Melindrosa films**  
**Les Films du Requin**  
**Axolote Cine S.A.**

**FESTIVALS AGENT**

**RAMONDAPARIS** (World, except North America)  
Pascale Ramonda – [pramonda@gmail.com](mailto:pramonda@gmail.com)

**SALES AGENT**

**FiGa Films**  
**Home of the New Latin Cinema**  
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