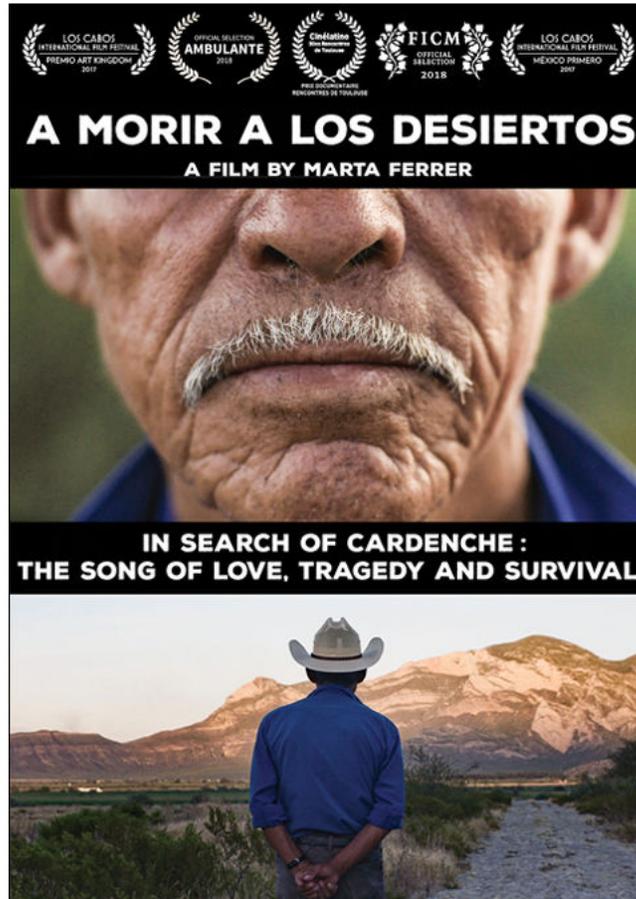


# TO DIE IN THE DESERT (A MORIR A LOS DESIERTOS)



A FILM BY MARTA FERRER

90 mins / Color / 2017 / Spanish, English Subtitles / Mexico



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## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

2018 Best Documentary - Latin American Film Festival of Toulouse

2018 Honorable Mention José Roviroso Award for Best Documentary

2017 Winner of the Art Kingdom Award Los Cabos International Film Festival

## **FILM FESTIVALS**

2019 FISCUR Festival Internacional de Cine del Sur del Mundo

2018 Festival de Cine Lima Independiente

2018 Ambulante

2018 Festival Internacional de cine de Guanajuato

2018 Festival Internacional de Cine de Morelia

2018 Festival de Cine Puy Ta Cuxletaltic (Oventik, Chiapas)

2018 FILMAR Festival de Cine Latinoamericano



## SYNOPSIS

Northern Mexico is home to the last singers of Cardenche Song, a nostalgic melody of love, wailing and tragedy. This is a journey in search of this musical tradition, rooted in cotton farmers and miners now on the verge of extinction. Cardenche is sung a cappella in groups of three and has been shared from generation to generation. It takes the name of a cactus whose thorn — like love, the Cardenche singers note — goes in too easily but hurts like hell to take out. *To Die in the Desert (A morir a los desiertos)* is a dazzling new documentary that features heartbreaking musical performances that capture why this howl of a singing technique is so unique and important.



## DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

I discovered Cardenche Song one winter night when a friend showed me a homemade video of the Cardencheros de Saporiz on YouTube. That song shook me, and that night I dreamed that aged mouths sang in my ear. I woke up and decided I wanted to make a movie. I had an urgent need to make this tradition known, at imminent risk of extinction, and I wanted to cinematically convey the emotions that the song arose in me. Little by little, I discovered the history behind the song and its culture. I was interested in understanding, through the process of making the film, how music and art are able to reflect a piece of history. The social context of a community and a collective feeling. For me, Cardenche Song has been a reflection of the state of the soul of many generations, strongly expressed through today. The film allowed me to understand that traditions, which reflect the world we inhabit, don't die; they simply transform.

Although Los Cardencheros de Saporiz have been invited to international events in countries such as France or the United States over the last 10 years, and they are known in throughout the world of popular music, the tradition is still unknown in their own country of origin. But the film has had a great reception in Mexico and is managing to bring the tradition to people who are not necessarily dedicated to anthropology or traditional music. For Cardenche Song, like all music made from the soul, has the power to connect emotionally with people from distant places. The film, far from being informative, is also a very personal vision, made from the guts of the universe that surrounds this tradition, speaking of universal themes such as death, the need for expression or the hardness and absurdity of life then and now.

My wish now is to show the film in many more places outside of Mexico to make the tradition visible, and find, through music and the cinematic experience, these emotional and experiential connections with people from other cultures.

Marta Ferrer



## **DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES**

Marta Ferrer graduated with a degree in Cinematography from ESCAC (Barcelona). In 2006, she received a scholarship to study at the Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica in Mexico where she directed her first documentary “El Varal,” which won Best Documentary at the Morelia Film Festival in 2010. In Mexico, Marta works as a director and cinematographer in different documentary projects. “To Die in the Desert” is her latest film.



## **PRODUCTION CREDITS**

Marta Ferrer: Director & Writer

Emiliano Altuna, Carlos Rossini, Daniel Gruener, Francisco del Valle & Francisco Maya: Executive Producers

Nicolás Celis, Sebastián Celis, Alejandro Durán & Marta Ferrer: Producers

Tania Zamora & Mariana Santiago: Line Producers

Hugo Royer & Marta Ferrer: Cinematographers

Adrià Campmany & Iván Pujol: Production Sound

Ares Botanch & Andrea Rabasa: Editors

Christian Giraud: Sound Designer, Supervising Sound Editor

Juan Pablo Villa, Los Cardencheros de Sapioriz & Los Cardencheros de La Flor de Jimulco: Original Music

Bambú Audiovisual: Postproduction

### **The Characters:**

#### **LOS CARDENCHEROS DE SAPIORIZ**

Antonio Valles Luna

Guadalupe Salazar Vázquez

Fidel Elizalde García

Genaro Chavarría Ponce

Mariana García Cortez

Otila García Cortez

Higinio Chavarría Romero

Adrián Castillo Soto

Antonio Castillo Soto

Marco Antonio Chiquito Soto

Ángel Valenzuela

Refugio Agüero Pérez "Kukin"

Heriberto Aguilera Hernández "Beto"

Pablo Acosta Hernández

Alberto Antúnez Ramírez

Avelino Beltrán Solís

Alfredo Beltrán Jaramillo

Gonzalo Castro "McKley"

Aniceto Chavarría Ponce

Pedro Machado Moreno

Miguel Orona Ríos

Altagracia Sifuentes