

# THE YEARS OF FIERRO (LOS AÑOS DE FIERRO)



A FILM BY

SANTIAGO ESTEINOU

100 mins/Color/2014/Spanish, English & Spanish and English Subtitles/Mexico



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## **HONORS & AWARDS:**

- Mexican Academy Award Nomination for Best Feature Documentary (Ariel), Mexican Academy of Cinematographic Arts and Sciences, 2014
- Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival. 2014
- People’s Award, FIDOCS, 2014
- Best Documentary Award, CRFIC, 2014
- Best Director Award, CRFIC, 2014
- Best Documentary Award, FMDI, 2014
- Special Mention of the Jury, DOCSDF, 2014
- Special Mention of the Jury, FICDH, 2015.

## **FILM FESTIVALS**

- Black Movie Film Festival, 2015
- CINELATINO - Rencontres de Toulouse, 2015
- Festival Cinematográfico Internacional del Uruguay, 2015
- Muestra de Cine Documental Mexicano en Madrid, 2015
- Festival Internacional de Cine de los Derechos Humanos – Pukañawi, 2015
- Marfici, Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente de Mar del Plata, 2015
- Festival Internacional y Mercado del cine Documental de Guía de Isora, 2015
- Toronto International Film Festival, Toronto, Canada, 2014
- Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival, Thessaloniki, Greece, 2014
- Guadalajara International Film Festival, Guadalajara, Mexico, 2014
- Morelia International Film Festival, Morelia, México, 2014
- International Documentary Festival of Santiago (FIDOCS), Santiago, Chile, 2014
- Lima Film Festival, Lima, Peru, 2014
- Havana Film Festival, Havana, Cuba, 2014
- International Film Festival WATCH DOCS “Human Rights in Film”, Warsaw, Poland, 2014
- Toulouse Latin American Film Festival, Toulouse, France, 2014
- Costa Rica International Film Festival “Pace with Earth” (CRFIC), San Jose, Costa Rica, 2014
- Festival of the Memory Ibero-American Documentary (FMDI), Cuernavaca, Mexico, 2014
- Brasilia International Film Festival, Brasilia, Brazil, 2014
- Mexico City International Documentary Film Festival (DOCSDF), Mexico City, Mexico, 2014
- Morelia International Film Festival, 2013

## SYNOPSIS

**The Years of Fierro** (Los Años De Fierro)– César Fierro, the oldest Mexican prisoner on death row in the United States, has been languishing in a Texas prison for over thirty years. His sentence has been put off repeatedly as the contradictory details of his initial trial have been reviewed. The prosecuting attorney stated that he would not have proceeded with the trial had these details been revealed. César continues to await execution by lethal injection for a murder that evidence shows he did not commit. One of the most painful consequences of César's incarceration is the effect that the injustice and separation has had on his younger brother, Sergio, demonstrating how this miscarriage of justice resonates beyond one wrongfully imprisoned man. The Years of Fierro is a compassionate portrayal of César Fierro and the psychological hardship that he endures while awaiting his final day.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“Los Años de Fierro” started as a school project. It was my thesis film for the MFA in Film and Media Arts at Temple University. Over time, it became the most important project I’ve ever taken. I didn’t want to tell César and Sergio’s story only from the moral and ethical point of view. For me this was not a film about the death penalty, but about the effects of injustice on a family. While making the film, I tried to portray the human side of it; looking at the characters with respect, but without being condescending. The most difficult part of making this film was the limited amount of time that the prison gave us permission to see César – a very short period every 90 days. This policy is designed to make it difficult for the media to get to know the person beyond being a “prisoner” so that we don’t think about the death penalty as a punishment for real people but as a punishment for criminals...

Over time César, Sergio and the lawyers have become my friends. I feel profound respect and admiration for all of them. I hope this film helps create awareness about the many ethical and legal problems surrounding the death penalty. I also hope that one day the authorities in Texas review César's case and finally accept that they made a mistake and that César deserves justice.

Santiago Esteinou



## **DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY**

Santiago Esteinou is a documentary filmmaker and producer from Mexico City. He studied filmmaking in Mexico's Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica and later received a Master of Fine Arts in Film and Media Arts from Temple University. Santiago received a Fulbright grant in 2008. He has directed the documentaries *Los Años de Fierro* and *Dolor Crónico*.



## **PRODUCTION CREDITS**

Director - Santiago Esteinou

Producers – Alejandro Durán & Santiago Esteinou

Director of Photography – María Secco and Axel Pedraza

Editing – Javier Campos

Sound Recording – Axel Pedraza and Milagros Vargas

Sound Designer – Iván Ramos

Music – Carlo Ayhllón

A CONACULTA, IMCINE & FOPROCINE CO-PRODUCTION

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