

CANELA



A FILM BY
CECILIA DEL VALLE

77 mins / 2020 / Spanish, English Subtitles / Argentina



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FILM FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Best Film & Audience Award Best Film – Rio Film Festival LGBTQIA+; Brazil
Best Film – AMOR, LGBT+ International Film Festival; Chile
Best Film, New Directors Competition – VLAFF, Vancouver Latin American Film Festival; Canada
Special Mention – ASTERISCO International LGBTIQ+ Film Festival; Argentina

BAFICI, Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival; Argentina
ZINEGOAK, Bilbao International LGBT Film & Performing Arts Festival; Spain
VANDA DUARTE Women and Latinx Dissidences Film Festival; Argentina
OUT & LOUD, Pune International Queer Film Festival; India
"International Women's Film Festival Dortmund; Germany
OutfestPerú, The International Gay, Lesbian Trans Film Festival of Lima; Peru
Film Pride – Brighton & Hove Pride Queer Film Festival; UK
KASHISH Mumbai International Film Festival; India
Florence Queer Festival; Italy
OUT at the Movies International Film Festival; US
Festival Mix, Cinema and Sexual Diversity Festival; Mexico
MIX COPENHAGEN LGBTQIA+ Film Festival; Denmark
MIDBO, Bogota Documentary Film Festival; Colombia
International Queer Film Festival Playa Del; Mexico
Festival FILMAR in Latin America; Switzerland
MCYTV, International Show of Women in Cinema and TV; Mexico

SYNOPSIS

Áyax Grandi, an architect from the city of Rosario, Argentina decided at the age of 48 to become Canela. This film takes us through Canela's journey as she struggles between being true to herself and conforming to societal norms. Fueled by this inner conflict, Canela embarks on a profound quest for self-discovery, seeking guidance from healthcare professionals, confiding in her children, and reconnecting with old friends. Along this path, Canela stumbles upon a surprising revelation about her desires.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

The documentary, a transformation.

I began the journey of making my first documentary six years ago: it was a naive start. I came from fiction, from closed scripts, from the established structure, and from the somewhat deceitful relief that preconceived ideas give you.

The challenges inherent to the documentary genre, such as knowing how to find the necessary time for the protagonist to reveal themselves and thus assert themselves in the story; being receptive to genuine moments by creating the appropriate circumstances for situations to emerge; thinking about how to weave those moments; subordinating oneself to the availability of the protagonist within the framework of their life; dealing with the complexity of working with roving technical teams: everything was much more difficult than expected.

In the long creative process that involved traversing artistic residencies and encountering other perspectives allowed me to become aware of the narrative. I received the most beautiful compliment when a tutor told me that she was moved by the love in my look at the protagonist. At that moment, I understood that fascination had turned into friendship, and that I was filming a beloved woman. A transgender woman, a woman with fears, with worries, but above all with questions about feeling like a woman. Nothing was foreign to me; in one way or another, I had felt similar things. We both accompanied each other on our journeys. She, answered questions through unexpected encounters that turned into a beautiful story; and I, the crazy, long, and strange process of making the film. This documentary, which I adore as much as its protagonist, is an experience that has profoundly transformed me as a filmmaker and also a person.

Cecilia Del Valle

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Cecilia Del Valle studied at the Universidad del Cine in Buenos Aires (2005-2009). Teacher of the workshops "Introduction to Film Script" "From literature to Cinema" in the program of the National University of Rosario Literature degree. She studied Playwriting with Mauricio Kartun and Ariel Barchilón (2014-2018). Director and producer of "Dilemmas of Abandonment" (short film), "Cinco" (collective feature film) and "Canela" INCAA Documentary.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Cast: Canela Grandi

Direction and Production: Cecilia del Valle

Screenplay: Cecilia del Valle / Romina Tamburello

Associate Producer: Pamela Carlino

Director of Photography: Lucas Perez

Production Manager: Roxana Bordione

Editing: Veronica Rossi

Sound Design: Santiago Zecca

Original Music: Juani Favre