

SYNOPSIS

Jacob Kaplan lives an ordinary life in Uruguay. Like many of his other Jewish friends, Jacob fled Europe for South America because of World War II. But now turning 76, he's become rather grumpy, fed up with his community and his family's lack of interest in its own heritage.

One beach bar may, however, provide him with an unexpected opportunity to achieve greatness and recover his family's respect in the community : its owner, a quiet, elderly German, raises Mr. Kaplan suspicion of being a runaway Nazi.

Ignoring his family's concerns about his health, Jacob secretly recruits Contreras, a more loyal than honest former police officer, to help him investigate. Together, they will try to repeat the historic capture of Adolf Eichmann : by unmasking and kidnapping the German and secretly taking him to Israel.

CAST

JACOB KAPLAN
WILSON CONTRERAS
THE GERMAN
REBECCA
LOTTIE
ESTRELLA

CREW

DIRECTOR & WRITER
PRODUCERS
COPRODUCERS
ASSOCIATED PRODUCER
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
EDITOR
SET DESIGNER
SOUND

COSTUME DESIGNER
MUSIC
ADDITIONAL SONG
PRODUCTION COMPANIES

HECTOR NOGUERA
NESTOR GUZZINI
ROLF BECKER
NIDIA TELLES
NURIA FLO
LEONOR SYARCAS

ALVARO BRECHNER
ALVARO BRECHNER, MARIANA SECCO
ROMAN PAUL, GERHARD MEIXNER
SIMON OFENLOCH
ALVARO GUTIERREZ
NACHO RUIZ CAPILLAS
GUSTAVO RAMIREZ
FABIAN OLIVER,
NACHO ROYO -VILANOVA
ALEJANDRA ROSASCO
MIKEL SALAS
SERGE GAINSBURG
BAOBAB FILMS, SALADO,
RAZOR FILM, EXPRESSO FILMS, ZDF/ARTE

URUGUAY, SPAIN, GERMANY / COLOUR / DCP / 98' / 1:2.35 / 2014



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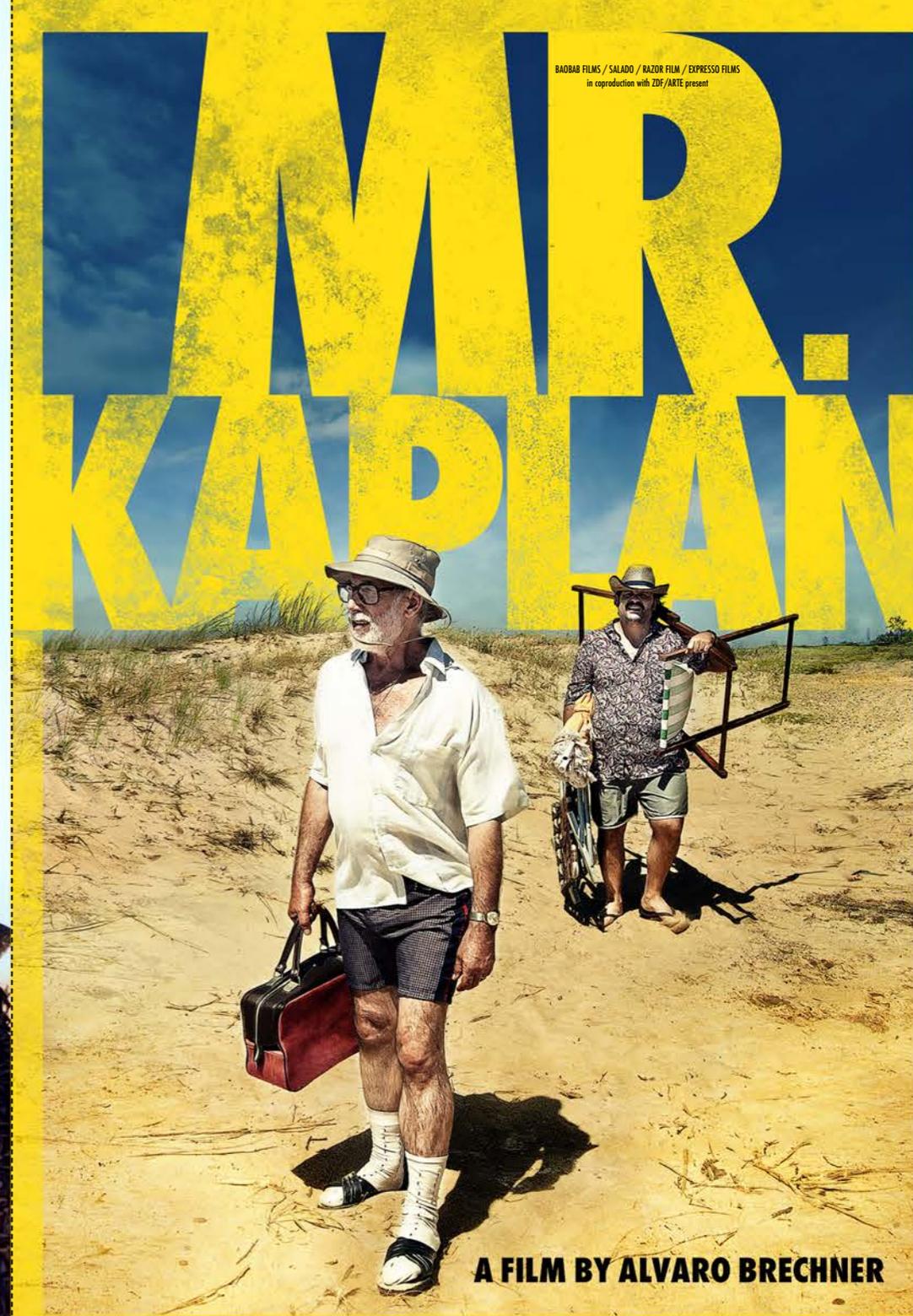
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BAOBAB FILMS / SALADO / RAZOR FILM / EXPRESSO FILMS
in coproduction with ZDF/ARTE present

A FILM BY ALVARO BRECHNER

DIRECTOR'S INTERVIEW

THE ORIGIN

My grandfather Jaime Brechner was born in Poland on January 6, 1912. In 1938 he left behind his home and family and escaped to South America, a place where nothing was familiar and where he had the opportunity to start a new life. Both his parents and sister remained. He never saw them again.

A century later, while my first feature film was screened in Warsaw, I took the opportunity to travel to Sosnowiec, his native town. I was moved by the experience, but nothing that I found there was recognizable as being essential to my personal identity or culture.

As I made my way home, I was shocked by the revelation. For a man who has always been interested in exploring themes of how we create our identities as a way of survival, this was an unexpected sensation. I had never thought about it. The fact is that one day we will die, and after a few decades, there will be little of us left in the world no matter what we do. We are born, we take some pictures, and we die. But who will remember us after? What difference will we have made? Will our life be in anyway "special"?

ADOLF EICHMANN AND SS IN URUGUAY

I have always felt a special interest in the history of the Nazis that escaped to South America, especially the case of one of its most notorious leaders, Adolf Eichmann.

Eichmann was discovered living in Argentina under a false identity and was captured in a dangerous, complicated and almost impossible operation. Over the last years, I have been

investigating and meeting with experts on this topic. Contrary to Serge Gainsbourg's song lyrics "SS in Uruguay", in Montevideo, the Jewish community is completely integrated to all the activities of the country. Anti-Semitic sprouts are extremely rare. For many Jews, the biggest menace they face is the existential danger of becoming assimilated into the local secular society, without preserving their own culture and traditions.

In this way, I began to combine my own very real memories of my grandfather with a series of fictional events, creating Jacob Kaplan: a patriarch without a patriarchy. A Quixote Schlemazle, who at 75 years old, finds a last chance of doing something exceptional and to plunge into an adventure that will take his life to unprecedented heights.

COMEDY AS A SERIOUS MATTER

One of the main challenges of MR. KAPLAN was its tone. I see life as a mix of comedy and drama, two sides of the same coin. Even in the saddest background and circumstances, the use of humour gives us the strength to persevere and get enlightened.

Maybe that's why I've always felt attracted toward characters that possess a quixotic mentality, whose longing for epic adventure strongly opposes the absurd circumstances of reality.

Men who use their fertile imagination as a tool of survival from the boring quotidian existence, and in doing so, they find a way to take revenge on death and oblivion.

MR. KAPLAN is a film that examines the role of the elderly, the loss of one's identity

confronted with the continuity of tradition, the preservation of one's dignity, the chance to leave one's mark forever and realizing one's wildest dreams. A tale about men, about what one believes and what one would like to believe.

ALVARO BRECHNER DIRECTOR, WRITER, PRODUCER

Alvaro Brechner (Director, Writer, Producer) began studying, writing and filmmaking in Montevideo, his hometown. At 23, he received the National Literature Award by the Uruguayan Ministry of Culture. In 1999 he travelled to Spain to do a Master in Creative Documentary at the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona.

Since 2000, Alvaro lives in Madrid, where he directed several documentaries for History Channel, Odyssey, TVE and three award winnings Short Films ("The Nine Mile Walk", "Sofia", and "Second Anniversary"), winning 50 awards in over 140 International Film Festivals including Clermont-Ferrand, London, Tampere, Saint Petersburg and Los Angeles.

In 2009, Alvaro's directing feature debut "Mal día para pescar" (Bad Day to go Fishing), premiered in competition at the 48th International Critic's Week of Cannes Film Festival. The film received over 30 awards and participated in 60 International Festivals, including Montreal, Warsaw (Best Film Free spirit), Los Angeles Latino (Best Film, Opera prima), Mar del Plata (Best Actor), Moscow, Shanghai, Las Américas Austin (Best Film & Audience Award), Brooklyn (Best Director), Sofia (Best Film Fipresci), São Paulo, Pusan, Haifa, Stockholm, Lima (Best Script), Gijón (Best Art Director), La Habana and Cinespaña Toulouse (Best Script, Best Music). It was Uruguay's Oscar candidate for Best Foreign Film, won 10 Uruguayan Critics Awards (Fipresci), 3 Iris Awards and was nominated by the Spanish Critics for Best Film, Best Screenplay, Best Actor. His second feature, Mr.Kaplan will be theatrically released in 2014. The film, shot in Uruguay, was part of the Torino Film Lab, Cannes Cinefondation Atelier, Jerusalem Film Lab and Nipkow Program selection among others.

Through characters that display their contradiction and frailty in the search for friendship and self-respect, my goal was to portray those small and big moments that make our journey through this world ridiculous, while often still fascinating.

ACTORS' BIO HECTOR NOGUERA

Born in Santiago de Chile in 1937, Noguera has started his actor career very early, becoming one of the most respected actors in Latin America and a key figure on the cultural panorama of Chile.

He is the Artistic Director at Teatro Camino in Santiago de Chile, Senior Member of the Art University and Member of Fine Arts Academy.

Actor, director, professor and playwright, he has made over 120 theatrical plays, has toured Latinamerican and European countries and the United States with his plays.

He achieved more than 120 play premieres and was awarded with national and international prizes. Among his works we can find Desierto Sur (Shawn Garry, 2008), El Regalo (Cristián Galaz, 2006), Fuga (Pablo Larraín, 2003), Sub terra (Marcelo Ferrari, 2003).

Born in Montevideo, he began his artistic activity at the age of 16 as a part of the theatrical group called Antimurga B.C.G.

In the last years, Guzzini has become a main figure in the Uruguayan's film scene, participating in many prestigious and film festival's awarded films like Tanta Agua (Leticia Jorge/Ana Guevara, 2012), Solo (Guillermo Rocamora, 2012), Tres (Pablo Stoll, 2010), La demora (Rodrigo Plá, 2010), Gigante (Adrián Biniez, 2009), Acné (Federico Veiroj, 2008).

Soon, he will be seen too in El 5 de Talleres (Adrián Biniez, 2013), Zanahoria (Enrique Buchichio, 2013), and Clever (Federico Borgia/Guillermo Madeiro, 2013).

NESTOR GUZZINI

