

QUINZAINÉ  
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT  
CANNES 2010

# WE ARE WHAT WE ARE

A FILM BY JORGE MICHEL GRAU

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# WE ARE WHAT WE ARE (SOMOS LO QUE HAY)

**A FILM BY JORGE MICHEL GRAU**

## INTERNATIONAL PRESS

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## **SYNOPSIS**

A middle-aged man dies in the street, leaving his widow and three children destitute. The devastated family is confronted not only with his loss but with a terrible challenge - how to survive. For they are cannibals. They have always existed on a diet of human flesh consumed in bloody ritual ceremonies... and the victims have always been provided by the father. Now that he is gone, who will hunt? Who will lead them? How will they sate their horrific hunger? The task falls to the eldest son, Alfredo, a teenage misfit who seems far from ready to accept the challenge... But without human meat the family will die.

Shocking, bloody and deeply moving, **WE ARE WHAT WE ARE** is a remarkable reinvention of the horror genre - a visceral and powerfully emotional portrait of a family bound by a terrible secret and driven by monstrous appetites.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

During my stay at CCC I tended, subconsciously or intuitively, to look for my own self in a specific topic - all of my exercises were guided by this particular search. Violence permeated my work, my speech, and my narration. I always looked for the things I wanted to say, but it was never enough. I never developed its most important implication - its direct relation with family... the family that generates violence and is affected by it.

Now, in my first feature, you can see them, sense them, taste them - family disintegration, urban violence, social depredation, the fight among minorities to survive and be noticed. But above all, the possibility of improvement - taking the only chance to escape violence. And also the possibility of ridding myself of it completely... of living it in flesh and blood without letting it harm me.

My aim is to decode my surroundings. To try to describe myself through this story; to discover my ambitions, my motivations, and my values. To find through the screen the tools with which to build my discourse.

## **DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Jorge Michel Grau was born in Mexico City in 1973. He graduated with honors in directing from the Centro de capacitación Cinematografica (CCC), and studied communications at UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) and directing at the Escola Superior de Cinema I Audiovisuals de Catalunya (ESCAC) in Barcelona. Grau received a scholarship from FONCA (Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes/ National Fund for Culture and Arts) in the support program for overseas studies and another from the Young Creators support program. He has studied stage direction at the National University Theatre School (CUT) and arts and direction with Professor Alejandro Luna at the CCC.

He was selected for the "Morelia Lab" at the third Morelia International Film Festival and for the "Visionary Talent Campus" at the Guadalajara International Film Festival, organized by Berlinale Talent in March 2008.

Awards include:

Winner FIRST FILM CONTEST IMCINE-CCC with SOMOS LO QUE HAY (WE ARE WHAT WE ARE).

Winner - BEST SHORT FILM "PRIX DU JURY JEUNE" - "10 RECONTRES DU CINEMA SUD AMERICAIN" - Marseilles, France, 2008 for PRETTIER THAN YOU.

Winner - BEST MEXICAN SHORT FILM DOCUMENTARY - 9TH FESTIVAL EXPRESIÓN EN CORTO - Guanajuato Mexico, 2006 for KALIMAN.

A member at the Selection Committee for the "International Film Schools Festival" in 2008, and of the CCC Admission Committee, Grau teaches production at CCC and in the Extracurricular System for UNAM, and directing at the KMZ School.

SOMOS LO QUE HAY (WE ARE WHAT WE ARE) is Jorge Michel Grau's first feature film.

## **CAST – SELECTED FILMOGRAPHIES**

### **Francisco Barreiro (Alfredo)**

DÍAS DE GRACIA aka DAYS OF GRACE - Everardo Gout (2010)  
PERPETUUM MOBILE - Nicolás Pereda (2009)  
JUNTOS aka TOGETHER - Nicolás Pereda (2009)

### **Alan Chávez (Julían) †**

EL BAILE DE LA IGUANA - Marcel Canezin (2006)  
VOCES INOCENTES aka INNOCENT VOICES - Luis Mandoki (2004)  
DESIERTO ADENTRO aka THE DESERT WITHIN - Rodrigo Plá (2008)  
DOS ABRAZOS aka TWO EMBRACES - Enrique Begné (2007)  
PARTES USADAS - Aarón Fernández (2007)  
LA ZONA - Rodrigo Plá (2007)  
PARKING LOT - Luis Eduardo Reyes (2008)

### **Paulina Gaitán (Sabina)**

LA MITAD DEL MUNDO - Jaime Ruíz Ibáñez (2009)  
DESEO - Antonio Zavala (2010)  
SIN NOMBRE aka WITHOUT NAME - Cary Fukunaga (2009)  
COSAS INSIGNIFICANTES aka INSIGNIFICANT THINGS - Andrea Martínez (2008)  
TRADE aka WELCOME TO AMERICA - Marco Kreuzpaintner (2007)  
MORIRSE EN DOMINGO aka NEVER ON A SUNDAY - Daniel Gruener (2006)  
VOCES INOCENTES aka INNOCENT VOICES - Luis Mandoki (2004)

### **Carmen Beato (Patricia)**

EL PRINCIPIO DE LA ESPIRAL - Rafael Rangel (2009)  
MAREA DE ARENA aka TIDES OF SAND - Gustavo Montiel Pagés (2009)  
ARRÁNCAME LA VIDA aka TEAR THIS HEART OUT - Roberto Sneider (2008)  
VIVA HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL - Eduardo Ripari (2008)  
MUJERES X - Patricia Arriaga Jordán (2007)  
LA VIDA INMUNE aka RESISTING LIFE - Ramón Cervantes (2006)  
UN MUNDO MARAVILLOSO aka A WONDERFUL WORLD - Luis Estrada (2006)  
SEXO, AMOR Y OTRAS PERVERSIONES Gerardo Tort (2006)  
ARO TOLBULKHIN. EN LA MENTE DEL ASESINO aka ARO TOLBUKHIN: IN THE MIND OF A KILLER - Agustí Villaronga (2002) SILVER ARIEL , MEXICO – BEST ACTRESS  
ALAS DE MARIPOSA aka BUTTERFLY WINGS - Juanma Bajo Ulloa (2002)  
DEMASIADO AMOR aka TO LOVE TOO MUCH - Ernesto Rímoch(2002)  
BEFORE NIGHT FALLS - Julian Schnabel (2000)

## **CREW**

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY **Jorge Michel Grau**  
PRODUCER **Nicolás Celis**  
DP **Santiago Sánchez**  
EDITOR **Rodrigo Ríos**  
SOUND DESIGNER **Federico Schmucler**  
MUSIC **Enrico Chapela**  
PRODUCTION DESIGN **Alejandro García**  
PRODUCTION COMPANIES **CENTRO DE CAPACITACIÓN  
CINEMATOGRAFICA (CCC)  
FONDO PARA LA PRODUCCIÓN  
CINEMATOGRAFICA DE CALIDAD  
MÉXICO (FOPROCINE)**

## **CAST**

Alfredo **Francisco Barreiro**  
Julián **Alan Chávez**  
Sabina **Paulina Gaitán**  
Patricia **Carmen Beato**  
Owen **Jorge Zárate**  
Octavio **Esteban Soberanes**

