

Un Traductor

Directed by Rodrigo & Sebastián Barriuso

Un Traductor

Logline

A Russian Literature professor at the University of Havana is ordered to work as a translator for child victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster when they're sent to Cuba for medical treatment. Based on a true story.

Synopsis

In the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Malin, a Russian literature professor at The University of Havana, is sent to translate between Cuban doctors and children sent from the USSR for medical treatment. Torn from the abstract world of academia and forced into the relentlessly real world of medicine, Malin becomes increasingly depressed. When he meets a child who tells him a story, Malin connects with the kids and finds his way through. Just as he adapts to his new job, the Berlin Wall falls and Cuba enters the deepest economic crisis the island has ever known. But Malin is now so entrenched in the lives of the Chernobyl Children that he doesn't notice his young family suffering. He must find his way back to his wife and child through the lessons he learns at the hospital – and become a better person on the way.

Filmmaker Biographies

Rodrigo Barriuso, Co-Director

Rodrigo Barriuso is a Cuban-Canadian award-winning filmmaker. With a background in art theory, Rodrigo's cinematic approach is highly influenced by the conceptual and aesthetic values that often inform the wider world of visual arts. His short film *For Dorian* screened at festivals around the world including Slamdance Film Festival and Melbourne International Film Festival, receiving the Best Canadian Film Award at InsideOut Toronto LGBT Film Festival, the Norman Jewison Filmmakers Award, and the Best Short Film Award at MIX Copenhagen.

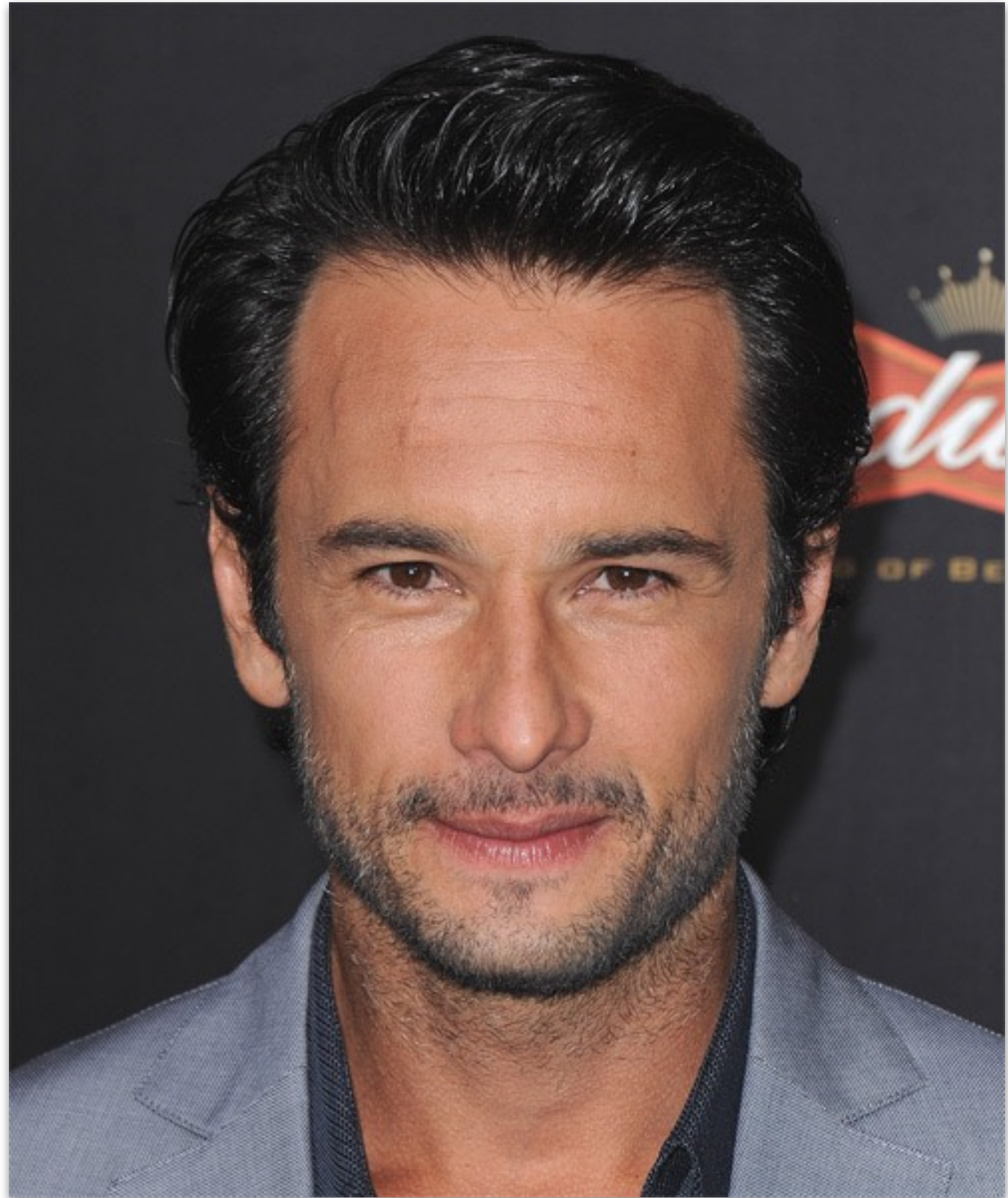
Sebastián Barriuso, Co-Director

Sebastián Barriuso is a Havana-born award-winning filmmaker. He studied at the High Institute of Art in Cuba. He produced *La Piscina*, which had its premiere at Berlinale 2013 and received the Jury Prize at the Marrakesh Film Festival. Sebastián is part of the EAVE Network and a CMPA member.

Un Traductor is the Barriuso brothers' directorial debut.

Lead Cast Biographies

Rodrigo Santoro
as Malin



Rodrigo Santoro

Rodrigo can be seen starring alongside Academy Award Winner Anthony Hopkins, Evan Rachel Wood, and Geoffrey Wright, in the hit HBO series **WESTWORLD** directed by Jonah Nolan and produced by JJ Abrams.

Rodrigo can also be seen in the MGM remake of the iconic film **BEN HUR**, in which he stars as '**Jesus**', alongside Jack Huston, Toby Kebbell, Nazanin Boniadi and Morgan Freeman for director Timur Bekmambetov. He can also be seen in **THE 33** starring alongside Antonio Banderas, Juliette Binoche, James Brolin, and Gabriel Byrne and in Gavin O'Connor's **JANE GOT A GUN**, co-starring Natalie Portman, Ewan McGregor, and Joel Edgerton. He recently wrapped the Spanish feature **1989** for directors Rodrigo & Sebastian Barriuso (LA PISCINA, BOYS ON FILM 11) starring alongside Maricel Alvarez. Rodrigo co-starred in the Warner Brothers feature **FOCUS**, alongside Will Smith and Margot Robbie. The film debuted at **\$18.6M domestic on opening weekend and was #1 at the box office, currently FOCUS has generated over \$159.2 Million Worldwide.**

Rodrigo can also be seen in the Stephan Elliott directed **RIO, I LOVE YOU** starring alongside Emily Mortimer, Harvey Kittel and Jason Isaacs, which premiered in 2015. Rodrigo can be seen in the Independent feature **DOMINION** co-starring alongside John Malkovich, Rhys Ifans, Tony Hale, and Romola Garai. Rodrigo is also associate producing **PELE** with Brian Grazer.

Previously, Rodrigo can also be seen reprising his iconic role of 'Xerxes' in **300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE** opposite Eva Green and Sullivan Stapleton for Warner Brothers which **opened #1 in the world and is currently at \$330 million worldwide.** Rodrigo also returned as the voice of "Tuilo" in **RIO 2** which was released April 11th 2014 and has currently grossed **\$340 million worldwide.** Rodrigo starred in the Lionsgate features **THE LAST STAND** opposite Forrest Whitaker, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and produced by Lorenzo Di Bonaventura and **WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING** opposite Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, and Elizabeth Banks. Rodrigo also starred in **HEMINGWAY AND GELHORN** opposite Nicole Kidman and Clive Owen, which premiered on HBO.

HELENO, the fascinating true life story of Brazilian soccer star Heleno de Frietas in which Rodrigo stars and also produced, sold to HBO for U.S. distribution after its premiere at the 2011 Toronto Film Festival. He was awarded the Best Actor award for this film at the 2012 LIMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. He also received the Best Actor award at the 2011 HAVANA FILM FESTIVAL. The movie had its U.S. premiere at the Miami Film Festival. Rodrigo starred in the world wide smash animated Fox feature hit **RIO** that had a box office gross of **\$486 million worldwide.** He also appeared on the December 2011 cover of VOGUE- the first male in the history of the magazine to do so.

Maricel Álvarez
as Gladys



Maricel Álvarez

Maricel Álvarez is a stage and film actress, director, choreographer and curator. Her practice develops at the intercrossing of theater performance and visual arts, blending the boundaries of where the body, as artistic and critical device, may reveal itself. This interdisciplinary approach is reflected in her artistic and academic background: taking Literature at Universidad de Buenos Aires and courses with renowned masters in theatre and contemporary dance.

Since 1999 she holds close artistic collaboration with Emilio García Webbi. She has also worked with El Periférico de Objetos, Alejandro González Iñárritu (Biutiful), Sophie Calle, William Kentridge, Santiago Loza, Rubén Szuchmacher, Woody Allen (To Rome with Love), Alejandro Tantanian, Martín Churba, Nora Lezano, Iván Fund (Toublanc), Edgardo Cozarinsky, Ana Katz (My Friend at the Park), Nicolás Provider (Fatherland), and Diana Szeinblum, among many other artists and companies.

Maricel's work has been showcased in theatres, galleries, film festivals and museums in Argentina and abroad, such as Centro de Experimentación del Teatro Colón, Centro de Experimentación Contemporánea del Teatro Argentino de La Plata, Teatro General San Martín, Centro Cultural Kirchner, Espacio de Arte-Fundación Osde, Konzert Theater Bern (Switzerland), Berliner Festspeiele (Germany), Akademie der Künste Berlin (Germany), Museo Universitario del Chopo and Teatro El Galeón (Inba) in Mexico City, Cannes Film Festival (France), Sundance Festival (USA), Morelia Film Festival (Mexico). As a lecturer, she imparted courses at Ludwig Maximilian Universität (Germany), Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), Kyoto University of Arts and Design (Japan), Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Theatertreffen in Berlin (Internationales Forum) and Foro Shakespeare in Mexico City. Participated as performer and/or director in festivals in Germany, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Spain, France, Japan, Mexico and Switzerland. In 2016 she was Resident Artist at Museo Universitario del Chopo in Mexico City. A faculty member at the Master Programme Maestría de Teatro y Performance, Universidad Nacional de las Artes (Una) and an international artists program Curator at Bienal de Performance Argentina.

Yoandra Suárez

as Isona



Yoandra Suárez

Cuban-born Yoandra Suárez is an actress who identifies herself with humanism and spirituality. She seeks to transmit love values and peace for the earth. In 2005 she performed in Benito Zambrano's ***Habana Blues***, which picked up 9 award wins including two Goya Awards. She started acting and modelling at a young age and has performed in many international and Cuban television series such as ***Salir de Noche*** and ***Al Compás del Son***. She was awarded Best Female Actor for her performance by the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC). Most recently, she has appeared as Odalys in the 2016 series ***Hasta Que Conocí***.

CAST

Malin	.....	Rodrigo Santoro	Tatiana	.....	Ennie Yarini Martínez Martínez
Gladys	.....	Maricel Álvarez	Igor	.....	Haydel Núñez Peguero
Isona	.....	Yoandra Suárez	Boris	.....	Henry Joaquín Expósito Torres
Alexi	.....	Nikita Semenov	Rafael	.....	Rolen Hernández López
Javier	.....	Jorge Carlos Pérez Herrera	Teresa	.....	Oneyda Hernández Lorenzo
Vladimir	.....	Genadijs Dolganovs	Stasia	.....	Claudia Karla Vicente Gutiérrez
Olga	.....	Milda Gecaite	Empleada de la Gasolinera	.....	Ana Gloria Buduén Castellanos
Luciya	.....	Laura Mia Ravelo Hernández	Empleada del Supermercado	.....	Alina Castillo Domínguez
Dariya	.....	Aleksandra Maslennikova	Estudiante 1	.....	Carlos Alejandro Rodríguez Halley
Dr. Sanchez	.....	Osvaldo Doimeadiós	Estudiante 2	.....	Flora Borrego Pérez
Dr. Rivas	.....	Eslinda Núñez	Técnico de Ultrasonido	.....	Adonys Díaz Cobas
Ronaldo	.....	Mario Guerra	Empleada del Banco	.....	Dailyn Llerena
Kristina	.....	Irina Davidenko	Dr. de Cuidados Intensivos	.....	Olga N. Rodríguez Marrero
Felipe	.....	Jorge Molina	Asistente de la Galería	.....	Antonio Alfonso Ramírez
Veronica	.....	Linda C. Soriano López	María	.....	Rayma Pérez
Decano	.....	Patricio Wood	Administradora de Tarará	.....	Carmen Ruiz
Elena	.....	Nataliya Rodina	Locutor de Radio y Televisión	.....	Nayib Rodríguez

Production Team

Directed by	Rodrigo & Sebastián Barriuso
Written by	Lindsay Gossling
Produced by	Sebastián Barriuso, Lindsay Gossling
Associate Producers	Karen Harnisch, Alejandro Valbuena
Executive Producers	Lindsay Gossling, Louis O'Murphy
Director of Photography	Miguel Littin-Menz
Editor	Michelle Szemberg
Production Designers	Zazu Myers, Juan Carlos Sánchez Lezcano
Costume Designer	Samantha Chijona
Music Composed and Performed by	Bill Laurance
Casting by	Libia Batista, Marsha Chesley CDC, Shakyra Dowling CSA

Production Team Biographies

Lindsay Gossling, Screenwriter

Lindsay is a screenwriter whose films are driven by compelling human stories. When her first two scripts made the quarterfinals of The Nicholl Fellowship she shifted her focus from a successful career as a director, producer and writer on a wide range of international productions – from acclaimed documentary to prime-time reality, factual entertainment, magazine shows and sports – to making movies. She credits her experience on BBC1's *Christopher Reeve: Choosing Hope*, the multi-award winning *In Colour* documentary series, and *Nobel* (the Official Films of the Nobel Foundation) for honing her ability to bring meaningful stories to life on screen. She is an alumna of the Canadian Film Centre, The Sundance Institute's Screenwriters' Lab, and Queen's University.

Miguel Littin-Menz, Director of Photography

Miguel Littin-Menz is one of the most prominent Latin-American cinematographers working today. His work has screened at international film festivals including Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Sundance and Camerimage. One of his most recent films, *Hands of Stone* (2016) starring Robert De Niro and Edgar Ramirez, directed by Jonathan Jakubowicz had its World Premiere in the Official Selection of the Cannes Film Festival. His career stands out for his collaboration with director Andrés Wood on films including *Machuca* (Cannes, Official Selection) and *Violeta Went to Heaven* (Sundance, Grand Jury Prize) among others. Miguel lives in Los Angeles and Santiago de Chile.

Production Team Biographies

Michelle Szemberg, Editor

Michelle Szemberg is a Toronto born award winning film editor who has collaborated with some of the leading forces in Canadian cinema. Michelle's credits include the independent feature films *Moon Point* (Dir. Sean Cisterna), *Don't Get Killed in Alaska* (Dir. Bill Taylor), *No Stranger Than Love* (Dir. Nicholas Wernham), and *Natasha* (Dir. David Bezmozgis). In addition to her work in film, Michelle edited two seasons of the Netflix/Rogers TV series *Between*, created by Michael McGowan. Her latest titles include the Serendipity Point Films produced feature *Below Her Mouth*, directed by April Mullen, which premiered at TIFF in 2016, and the Canadian/Cuban film *Un Traductor*, directed by Rodrigo and Sebastián Barriuso.

Zazu Myers, Production Designer

Growing up in both Muskoka, Ontario and Bali, Indonesia shaped Zazu's sense of design and sparked an interest in creating rich environments for characters from all walks of life. Her recent feature work ranges from the contemporary Berlin club scene (Drew Lint's "*M/M*", premiering at Slamdance), to 1980s Havana ("*Un Traductor*"), to the homes of impoverished Inuit teenagers living in the Arctic (Miranda De Pencier's "*The Grizzlies*"). Zazu has also brought her unique vision to several other feature films and short films including *Paper Year*, *But I'd Really Have To Kill You*, *The Statistical Analysis of Your Failing Relationship*, and *The Fox & The Chickadee* and designed numerous music videos for artists such as Drake, Sarah Slean, Austra, Serena Ryder, The Rural Alberta Advantage, Young Empires, Great Lake Swimmers and Autoerotique.

Production Team Biographies

Bill Laurance, Composer

Grammy Award ® winner and original member of the internationally acclaimed band Snarky Puppy, Bill Laurance released his debut album *Flint* in 2014 and after going straight to No.1 in the iTunes Jazz Charts, received international critical acclaim. His second album *Swift* was released on GroundUP Music in 2015. Classically trained, Bill has worked as a professional musician since he was 14, touring internationally as a pianist, keyboard player, composer, producer and arranger, recording and/or performing with other internationally acclaimed artists.

Samantha Chijona, Costume Designer

Cuban-born Samantha Chijona has a design degree from Complutense University in Madrid, Spain with a specialization in Scenic and Costume Design. She has worked on multiple films, TV Series and commercials. She was the Costume Designer on Cuba/Spain co-production *Ventos de la Habana* (2016, dir. Félix Viscarret), and Spanish short *Respirando* (2016, dir. Mar Olid). In 2016, she was the Costume Department Head on Cuba/Spain mini-series *Cuatro Estaciones en La Habana*.

Production Team Biographies

Karen Harnisch, Associate Producer/Line Producer

Karen Harnisch has produced several award winning shorts and two features, beginning with Calvin Thomas and Yonah Lewis' *The Oxbow Cure*. Most recently she produced Andrew Cividino's *Sleeping Giant* which premiered at Critics' Week in Cannes and won the Best Canadian First Feature Award at the Toronto International Film Festival, among other accolades. She has two feature in post-production: Drew Lint's debut feature *M/M* and Antoine Bourges' *Fail to Appear*. Karen is currently developing the television series *We Ate the Children Last* for Bell Media, adapted from a short story by Yann Martel and written by Andrew Cividino, and the feature drama *Baldy*, about a young woman faking cancer, set to star Hannah Gross (*Mindhunter*). Karen is an alumna of TIFF Studio, Ryerson University's School of Image Arts, and the EAVE Producers Workshop.

Alejandro Valbuena, Associate Producer/First Assistant Director

Born in Colombia, Alejandro Valbuena moved to Canada at the end of the 20th century with an abundance of professional projects already under his belt. He has worked as 1st AD on numerous films and TV series' including Netflix *Narcos*. Fluent in both English and Spanish, but can also fend in French and Portuguese. In the last two years Alejandro had the pleasure of working with actors such as Laura Dern, Kristen Stewart, Diane Kruger, Wagner Moura, Pedro Pascal, Luis Guzman, Rodrigo Santoro, and many more Latino actors. He is a member of the Director's Guild of Canada.

Producer Biographies

Sebastian Barriuso & Lindsay Gossling, Producers

Creative Artisans Media principal Sebastian Barriuso is a Havana-born award-winning filmmaker. He studied at the High Institute of Art in Cuba. Sebastian produced *La Piscina*, which had its premiere at Berlinale 2013 and received the Jury Prize at the Marrakech Film Festival.

Lindsay Gossling founded **Involving Pictures** to make meaningful, entertaining movies following a successful career as a director, producer and writer on a wide range of international productions from acclaimed documentary to prime-time reality, factual entertainment, magazine shows and sports.

Both are alumnus of the Sundance Institute, the Canadian Film Centre, and are members of the CMPA.

Background Notes

- ***Un Traductor*** is based on the life of Manuel Barriuso Andino — directors' Rodrigo and Sebastián Barriuso's father (the character "Malin").
- Javi and the yet-to-be-born baby are Sebastián and Rodrigo (respectively).
- This is Rodrigo Barriuso and Sebastián Barriuso's directorial debut. It is the first time they have collaborated.
- The film was shot entirely on location in Havana, Cuba.
- All the artwork in the film was curated by Magda González-Mora — the directors' mother (the character "Isona").
- Lead actor Rodrigo Santoro is from Brazil. His first language is Portuguese. For the film, not only did he have to speak Spanish with a Cuban accent, but he also learned Russian in order to play the part.
- All of the principal Russian roles (apart from Malin) were cast in Toronto.
- This is Lindsay Gossling's first produced feature script. The script was written in English and later translated into Spanish and Russian.
- Lindsay Gossling wrote the first draft of the script without ever having been to Cuba.
- The real life Malin and Isona both visited set during production.
- The baby seen in the ultrasound scene is Sebastian Barriuso's first child.
- The woman sitting next to Isona in the ultrasound waiting room is Mel Fronckowiak, Rodrigo Santoro's partner, who was also pregnant at the time of production.















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