

QUINZAINÉ  
DIRECTORS FORTNIGHT  
CANNES 2022

# UN VARÓN

(A MALE)

Directed by Fabian Hernández



MEDIO DE CONTENCIÓN PRODUCCIONES  
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# UN VARÓN

## A MALE

**WORLD SALES**

CERCAMON (In Cannes: Palais Riviera L10)

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## SCREENINGS AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2022

**May, Tuesday 24 at 2:15pm Théâtre Croisette (World Premiere)**

May, Wednesday 25 at 11:30am Arcades 1 (Additional)

May, Wednesday 25 at 7pm Cinéma Alexandre III (Additional)

May, Friday 27 at 2pm Cinéma La Licorne (Additional)

Download Marketing materials on our website [WWW.CERCAMON.BIZ](http://WWW.CERCAMON.BIZ)



## SYNOPSIS

Carlos lives in a youth shelter in the center of Bogotá. It's Christmas and he longs to spend the day with his family. As he leaves the shelter for the holidays, Carlos is confronted with the brutality of his neighborhood, ruled by the law of the strongest, the alpha male. He must prove he can be one of them, while deep inside, these expressions of masculinity clash with the decisions he must make in order to survive.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The film is inspired by events from my adolescence, my personal experiences. I grew up in a patriarchal society with its machismo and in the company of 'real men'. Vulnerability and fear were considered as feminine, as a lack of virility and a flaw. Therefore, I rejected to express my feelings and sensations and to explore my sexual desires. I also started to hate the poetry and art I was originally drawn to. I despised sensitivity in general.

UN VARÓN tells about this conflict: the vulnerable side in men challenged by a pressure to adopt a concept of stereotypical masculinity which hides the individual's true nature.

I intended to show that there are ways out of this, even in a rough environment like the streets of Bogotá: It is possible to change, to break free from an identity imposed on you and yet, to survive. In fact, it is the rebellion against machismo that lets the main character grow strong.





# DIRECTOR'S Q&A

## **Where did the idea of making the film come from?**

The film was inspired by the memories of my adolescence, especially by the streets of the neighborhood in downtown Bogotá I grew up in. It is also influenced by the stories and reality of the children I worked with. The way they express their ideas and thoughts is sometimes so pure that it does not fit in a script. I wanted to make this film to experience a world that looks at fragility, sadness and fear as weaknesses and failure.

## **How does this world look like?**

The film shows a universe that is obsessed with virility. In public, one must follow the rules of the game to be accepted as a "real man" but behind closed doors, there is room for intimacy and doubt whether you want to become that macho.

## **In UN VARÓN Bogotá is presented in a special way. What image did you want to create?**

It is an unknown place for many people and will appear even more so because of the way I portrait it. The film shows places traditionally known for their marginality. But I didn't want to depict them in a cliché way by using the typical images of violence, weapons or poverty as main protagonists. I wanted to broaden the picture and reveal the complexity and honesty of the characters who inhabit the place.







**Why did you want to paint a different picture of these mostly young people, especially men?**

Most of the young men I grew up with and still see in the neighborhoods become violent to prove that they are macho enough to fire a gun, fight or talk to a woman. What lies behind all that is a culturally inherited construct preserving the prestige and power of the macho and patriarchy in general. Realizing that has been crucial for me. Therefore, I tried to capture the individual's life beyond violence and the social and cultural roots of what a young man is supposed to be like.

**How did you find your protagonists?**

I looked around in my neighborhood and in the town of Los Mártires. I saw many charismatic young men. But when I discovered Pipe, the boy who stars in the film, and his attempts to come across extremely masculine, he immediately brought back memories from my adolescent years: his appearance, his clothes, the look and behavior. As a teenager, I also created a fake masculinity that would earn me the respect of my peers. Pipe represents much of what I wanted to express back then.

**What image of masculinity did you want to explore?**

For me, the concepts of masculinity or femininity are culturally inherited social constructs. It is difficult to define masculinity because I don't know if it exists at all. In any case, I wanted to film the true nature of a person who questions the type of masculinity that excludes a more fragile side.

The film also shows sexual concerns and doubts that are contradicting the fictional stereotype of a what a “real man” should be like.

**Now that the film is screening in Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival, what does this mean to you at this point in your career?**

This great honor is a recognition of the work I have been doing for more than four years with Manuel Ruiz, my producer. A work that we have done with a lot of passion for cinema, to express the ideas the film contemplates and share our approach to cinema in general. Being screened in Cannes allows us to show our film and my town Bogotá, my neighborhood, to a big audience.

**What are your plans for the future?**

I have another feature film in development. I want to continue expressing ideas through cinema, to continue filming, be it in short, medium or long form. I am interested in investigating the social constructs that push us to adopt certain roles. That's why adolescence is so decisive. That is when each individual is confronted with creating his or her identity. A reason I would like to continue filming with young people, being able to listen to them to enrich my ideas and to create a contemporary cinema.



# DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Fabian Hernández was born in Bogotá in 1985. He has written, directed and produced his first short films with his company Níquel Films which he founded in 2015. He has also worked as an assistant director in film productions in Colombia. In addition to his career as a Director, he has taught “Script and Film” in public schools in Bogotá. He is currently developing a new feature film THE BIRDS.



# CAST & CREW

Writer & Director **Fabian Hernández**

Cast **Dylan Felipe Ramírez**

Director of Photography **Sofía Oggioni**

Casting **Santiago Porras**

Sound Director **Isabel Torres**

Sound Mixer **Jean-Guy Veran**

Original Music **Mike & Fabien Kourtzer**

Color grading **Emmanuel Fortin**

Art Director **Juan David Bernal**

Producers **Manuel Ruiz Montealegre, Louise Bellicaud, Claire Charles-Gervais, Ilse Hugan, Christoph Hahnheiser, Josune Hahnheiser**

Production Company **Medio de Contención Producciones (Colombia)**

Co-Production Companies **In Vivo Films (France), Fortuna Films (Netherlands), Black Forest Films GmbH (Germany), RTVC Play (Colombia)**

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World Sales **Cercamon**

DCP - 82 mns - 5:1 - Drama - In Spanish



