

CHANGE

DON'T AIR YOUR DIRTY LINEN IN PUBLIC



A Film by
ABNER BENAİM
Director, Producer and co-writer

Present to:
Francisco Gattorno
Isabella Santo Domingo
Aída Morales
Rosa Lorenzo

Panamá, Rep. De Panamá

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www.chancelapelicula.com



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SYNOPSIS

Toña and Paquita work as live-in housemaids at the Gonzales-Dubois, an aristocratic family in Panama. For a long time they have been mistreated and poorly paid. They're now fed up with the abuse and lack of respect they get from their employers. While the family plans to leave for a shopping weekend in Miami, Toña and Paquita have different plans: They kidnap the Gonzales Dubois' in their own home and ask for a large ransom. After sessions of interrogation and ridicule, the family secret is revealed: The Gonzales Dubois household, despite appearances, is bankrupt. All they have to their name is debt. But Toña and Paquita have gone past the point of no return...

CHANCE deals with the hard issues of class differences in Latin America in a satirical, witty comedy, the first one coming from Panama.

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Cast: Francisco Gattorno, Isabella Santodomingo, Aida Morales, Rosa Lorenzo

Direction: Abner Benaim

Production: Matthias Ehrenberg ("Sexo, Pudor y Lagrimas", "Rosario Tijeras") and Abner Benaim

Script: Abner Benaim and Papus Von Saenger

Date of Premiere in Panama: January 2010

Locations: Panama city and surround

Co-production: Panamá - Colombia

Distribution: United International Pictures

Duration: 90 min.

Shooting Format: Red One

Exhibiting Format: 35mm.

Aspect ratio: scope 2:35

Speed: 24 cuadros por segundo

Footage: 2486 mts.

Number of reels: 5

Image in Colour

Sound: Dolby SRD

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PRODUCTIONS NOTES

After a year of post-production and seven weeks of filming, with a first-class cast of actors from Panama, Colombia, and Cuba as well as a technical team from 12 countries, in January 2010, CHANCE arrived to the movie theaters of Panama, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and other countries of the region. Chance, directed by Abner Benaim and starring Isabella Santo Domingo, Francisco Gattorno, Aída Morales, and Rosa Lorenzo is one of the only films in the world that beat Avatar at the 35mm box office.

The project, which opens the doors of cinema in Panama, was born more than two years ago, when the director was researching the relationship between live-in maids and their employers for a documentary about class conflict as seen from within the household. With so much material available, Abner decided to postpone his initial documentary project and to instead write a screenplay with a comedy twist but infused with much reality and reflection.

"I want people to laugh but also to find it interesting. It is very important to maintain a balance between its entertainment value and and its substance. We wanted the project's reason for being, the exploration of class conflicts in latin America namely, to be present

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and make sense, but with a comedy spin. We're out for laughs, not for blood", explains the director.

After his participation at Huelva Iberoamerican Film Festival and in the thirty first edition of the Havana Film Festival (*Festival del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano de La Habana*), in the 25th International Film Festival of Guadalajara, Mexico (*Festival Internacional de Cine de Guadalajara, Mexico*), and in the 26th Chicago Latino Film Festival, Chance arrives to tell a story charged with black humor, which opens the door of a household to show us an X-ray of what happens within a world of appearances.

Its story invites the spectator to deeply question from within this tragic comedy, on the inability or ability of each one of us to deal with the differences between social classes.



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Maids wanted

The casting for the roles of Toña and Paquita, the maids, started with the publication of several newspaper ads, in which women with experience as household maids and wishing to participate in a movie were sought. We received many calls from interested persons and more than 500" women were auditioned. Nonetheless, we always had to convince them that this was a real comedy and not a trap to record them in a porn film".

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CAST

Isabella Santo Domingo is Gloria



Isabella Santo Domingo was born in the city of Barranquilla, Colombia on March 28th of 1970. Already at an early age she demonstrated strong artistic and journalistic inclinations as well as a talent for sports. All of these characteristics will years later define a brilliant career not only as an actress but also as a journalist.

She studied fashion design in the American College for the Applied Arts in Atlanta, Georgia, and radio and television in the same city.

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Upon her return to Colombia she began her meteoric career which has led her to become a **columnist for several news dailies as well as magazines**. In 1995, she created and then directed for the following six-year period the magazine Shock, a publication designed to appeal to young Colombians. She later created the entertainment magazine Control T.V.

Isabella's first role as an actress took place with the soap opera Secret Passions (*Pasiones Secretas*). From that moment on, work offers never stopped coming (Just a Woman (*Sólo una Mujer*), Temptations (*Tentaciones*), Green Fire (*Fuego Verde*), Momposina, Eternally Manuela (*Eternamente Manuela*) and Dog Love (*Perro Amor*)). With the epic series The Saga (*La Saga*) Isabella returned to the silver screen; she later carried on as an antagonist in For the Love of Gloria (*Por Amor a Gloria*), and she has subsequently participated with special appearances in several productions, among them In Eva's Heels (*En Los Tacones de Eva*).

As a writer, Isabella has published three books: Gentlemen Prefer Them Dumb (*Los Caballeros las prefieren brutas*), AM/FM, (*Asalariada de Mierda o Felizmente Mantenido*), and Sexorcism (*Sexorcismo*). In movies she has starred in the films like Colombians, An Act of Faith

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(*Colombianos, un acto de fe*) and *The Deal (El trato)*. Among her roles as a supporting actress and her participation in short to medium length features it is worth noting: *Caliber 35 (Kalibre 35)*, *Fame (Fama)* (for the United States), *Violet Is Blue* and *Hello God...* the latter two, written by Isabella herself.

Isabella worked together with Sony as the supervisor of the TV project based on her book. She's now writing her next book, which will be published by Random House in 2010.

In *CHANCE*, Isabella interprets the role of Gloria, an upper class Panamanian woman whose only occupations are to tend to her looks and to drive her household maids crazy with her constant demands.

Francisco Gattorno is Fernando



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After participating in movies such as Strawberry and Chocolate (*Fresa y Chocolate*), Between the Afternoon and Night (*Entre la tarde y la Noche*), and Before Night Falls (*Antes de que Anochezca*), Francisco Gattorno joins the cast of CHANCE to interpret the role of the family's father, a rich Panamanian politician with an apparently perfect life, which however conceals big secrets.

Francisco was born on October 12th, 1964 in Santa Clara, Cuba. He is an internationally known Cuban actor on account of his works in productions such as Today is Still Always (*Hoy es siempre todavía*), Schirabad, Cane Plantation of Passions (*Cañaveral de Pasiones*), You and I (*Tu y Yo*), Precious (*Preciosa*), Passion Labyrinths (*Laberintos de Pasión*), and Lovers of the Dessert (*Amantes del Desierto*).

His performances have garnered awards for him such as The Herald of México to the best actor and male discovery, Eres Award 1996 as actor revelation and best young actor, Ace Award (Show Chroniclers Association of New York - *Asociación de cronistas de espectáculos de Nueva York*)) and the Lo Nuestro Award 1996, awarded by Univisión. In theater, Gattorno has given life to classical characters from works such as Romeo and Juliet, Othello, Hamlet, The Death of a Traveler (*La muerte de un Viajante*) and The Incredible and Sad Story of Cándida

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Erendira (*La increíble y triste historia de Cándida Erendira*), among more than 30 plays which he has accumulated in his biography.

Aída Morales is Paquita



She is a submissive and acquiescent household maid, who will soon take control of her life and will lead a chaotic rebellion in the house of her employers.

Aída Morales has a long trajectory in television and movies. She has participated in productions such as Parents and Offspring (*Padres e Hijos*), "No one lives here" (*Aquí no hay quien viva*), The last happy marriage (*El ultimo matrimonio feliz*), Accomplices (*Cómplices*),

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Husband on a salary (*Marido a sueldo*), The Mariachi's daughter (*La Hija del Mariachi*), The Kings (*Los Reyes*), The mafia widow (*La viuda de la mafia*), Grilled love (*Amor a la plancha*), Love miracles (*Milagros de amor*) and Isabel had it in for me (*Isabel me la veló*), among others.

She was a member of the casts of the films Bolivar am I (*Bolívar soy yo*), The child and the father (*El niño y el papá*), A love in the twilight (*Un amor en la penumbra*), and The light in the rock (*La luz en la roca*). In television we will soon see her acting in the Latin-American version of the internationally recognized production Grey's Anatomy.

The most difficult scenes for Aída Morales were those where her character, Paquita, had to drive a car in the congested avenues of Panama. The problem is that Aída does not know how to drive and she has no driver's license, so she had to take a crash course before venturing out on the streets.

She studied scenic arts for theater, movie, and television with Paco Barrero and completed her formation with other courses in the hands of the masters Raúl Wiesner and Carlos Duplat.

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Rosa Lorenzo is Toña



She is a natural actress to whom movies and the opportunity to interpret a role came to her as a result of destiny and coincidence. Her life defining experiences constitute the basis of her acting in CHANCE, in which she interprets Toña, a household maid at the service of a powerful Panamanian family.

Rosa was born in the City of Colón, but soon moved to Panama City with her father, a Captain in the National Guard. Once in the capital, she worked from a very young age as a household maid, until she secured stable employment in the public sector.

Rosa never imagined participating as an actress in a film, until one day someone stopped her on Panama's busy Central Avenue and proposed

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to her that she take part in an audition. ¿Me? Asked Rosa surprised. "I thought it would be a candid camera affair", she remembers.

After the selection tryouts, her spontaneity and genuineness landed her one of the starring roles of CHANCE: Toña, a household maid who has turned into the film's revelation, and who according to Rosa, is a very real person: "Toña exists – she explains – there are many women like her, who are abused by powerful people".

Working side by side with actors and actresses of the caliber of Francisco Gattorno, Isabella Santo Domingo, and Aída Morales, Rosa Lorenzo had to adapt to the demands of the screenplay, just like any other professional, although in her case this translated into a constant challenge. One of the anecdotes which she remembers laughing, is when she had to jump into a pool. "iI do not know how to swim! So everybody had to jump in the pool to rescue me; this was a very fun moment".

Rosa also confesses that there were aspects of her work as an actress which were difficult to adapt to: "Such as walking around without having arranged your hair and without any make-up, notwithstanding that this was a fiction character, I always like to dress up and look good".

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A word with the Director of Chance

AIRING THE DIRTY LAUNDRY WITH ABNER BENAİM

The director Abner Benaim talks about the cast, the shoot, and the progression of his project from documentary to feature film.

¿How did the concept of Chance come about?

When I realized that I had too much material for a documentary, I began to ponder whether I should shoot a comedy or a drama on the subject of household help, but felt it could easily become too heavy. It needed to be more a tragicomedy, because it was born from material which is conflictive yet at the same time somewhat comedic, and from real material which is part of our lives, a fictional story. Thus the concept arose from the exploration of the relationships between social classes in Latin America.

¿In the movie you combine politics, economics, and social classes. How do you manage all of this without offending anyone?

By moving a little bit beyond the concept of politics and economics and taking a close-up view of human relationships. Once the story took shape as a comedy, the idea was to maintain a balance between the entertaining part of the film and its message or content component; in other words that the project's fundamental reason for being still

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remained, and made sense, but always with a comedic flavor or tone.

Isn't it risky to bet on comedy for your first film?

The fact that it is a comedy, I would say, is, quite natural.

Panama is a Caribbean country where people are drawn to humor and jokes. On a personal level however, it is somewhat unexpected because I always imagine a drama.

¿How do you manage to shoot a comedy without stereotyping characters such as the **maids, the housewife, the gardener...?**

Well, I begin from the premise that stereotypes are not that harmful, nor so problematic because to a certain extent they are grounded on something that is real. But let's say the particularity, the individuality, and the legitimacy of each character are based on details, and the latter in turn, are the result of research.

What is important is to know what it is you are saying, like when you make a movie about your house or your family, no one has to tell you how the story goes. I cannot say that I have been a household maid, but I have known many and I have listened to the testimonies and anecdotes of many, and that is why research is key. The two starring characters at some point in their lives experienced what it is to be a household maid and although that does not guarantee a good role, it certainly helps.

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FESTIVALS

35 edition Iberoamerican Film Festival of Huelva 2009 (Spain)

31 edition New Latin American Film Festival of La Habana 2009
(Cuba)

25 edition International Film Festival of Guadalajara 2010 (México)

26 edition Latin Film Festival of Chicago 2010 (EEUU)

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BEHIND THE SCENE

THE DIRECTOR

Biofilmography Abner Benaim



Born in 1971 and raised in Panama City, Panama. In 1999, Benaim moved to Israel and began his filmmaking studies at Camera Obscura, Tel Aviv. He also studied Directing Actors with Marketa Kimbrell from NYU, and has worked on various Israeli, Panamanian and US film productions. Before his film career, Abner Benaim received his BA in International Relations at the University of Pennsylvania, studied Art in Florence, Italy, and worked as an entrepreneur in Panama. Several of

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the films produced and directed by Benaim have won acclaimed awards in the international community, including New York Television Festival, Monte Carlo TV Festival, and Haifa International Film Festival. Articles about his work have been featured in Rolling Stone Magazine, Gatopardo magazine, CNN in Spanish, and more. Benaim is currently based in Panama City where he recently finished his first feature film: CHANCE.

GOOD VIBES.

(Documentary, 50 min.) Israel, 2003

Produced, Shot and Directed by Abner Benaim

Good Vibes was debuted at the Haifa International Film Festival and it was broadcast on Israeli TV (YES Israeli Channel) and in New Zealand's Maori TV. It was screened at several international film festivals as:

Syracuse International Film Festival-director's award

BAR TV Yugoslavia- Best Screenplay for a documentary award

World Youth Alliance Festival, UN, New York- Special merit award

ISRAFEST Chicago, Miami, New York, Los Angeles

Parnu Anthropological Film Festival, Estonia

Special screenings at Cinemas in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and Panama City.

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ROUND TRIP TO PANAMA

(Documentary, 33 min.) Israel, 2002

Written, Shot Produced and Directed by Abner Benaim for the series Israelis without frontiers.

BULLDOG-NOISE

(Documentary, 50 min.) Israel 2002.

Directed by Abner Benaim for Two Shot Productions popular and critically acclaimed environmental awareness series BULLDOG. Broadcast on Israel's Culture and Science network channel 8.

IN THE ATTIC

(Fiction, 18 min.) Israel 2004

Featured at the Palm Beach International Film Festival and Broadcast on channel 11, Panama.

EL OTRO LADO (THE OTHER SIDE)

(Documentary series, 22 min. X 11 episodes) Panama, 2005

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The series was broadcast in prime time on Panama's TVN Channel Two and won high praise from the audience and from critics. It was written about in Rolling Stone Magazine Latin America and Gatopardo magazine. Various episodes were screened at film festivals around the world and received important awards:

NEW YORK TELEVISION FESTIVAL 2005- Best Documentary Award

ICARO FILM FESTIVAL 2005- Central America- Best TV Program

UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA- BEST TV PRODUCTION 2005

USMA UNIVERSITY VICTORIA AWARDS- BEST TV PROGRAM 2005

VOCES CONTRA EL SILENCIO- MEXICO

CARTAGENA FILM FESTIVAL- COLOMBIA

NEW SCREEN TV, Orlando- Special Merit Award

MONTE CARLO TV FESTIVAL 2006- Nominated in the NEWS DOCUMENTARY Category. Benaim was invited to participate as part of the jury for the festival.

PANAMA'S JOURNALISM AWARD-2005

ECOVISION 2006- Palermo, Italy

CADECI LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL 2006- Paris, France.

CHANGE

(Feature Films, 90 min.) Panama, 2009

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Benaim directed, co-wrote and co-produced his first fiction feature film: A comedy about two live in housemaids who take over their employer's house. CHANCE is a Panamanian- Colombian co-production and funded in part by Ibermedia. CHANCE's co-producer Matthias Ehrenberg from Mexico and has produced "Sexo, Pudor y Lagrimas", "Rosario Tijeras", "Satanas", and many other Latin American films. CHANCE's cast includes Isabella Santodomingo, Francisco Gattorno and Aida Morales.

CHANCE has participated in film festivals such as Huelva, Spain; Habana, Cuba; Guadalajara, Mexico; Chicago, U.S.A.

EMPLEADAS Y PATRONES (MAIDS & BOSSES)

(Documentary, 90 min.) Panama 2010

Produced and directed by Abner Benaim, this documentary has been recently Shot and is in the post – production process.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Actually Benaim is working on two new fiction scripts, "Vernissage" (to be produced in the U.S.A) and "En El Interior".

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THE CO-PRODUCER

Biofilmography Matthias Ehrenberg

He's been working in the film industry since 1990, spanning over 30 productions, both Mexican and international.

In 2004, he established an independent production company, **Río Negro Producciones**, company that manufactures film and TV projects in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Panama. In 2009 Matthias released **AMAR A MORIR**, Fernando Lebrija's first feature, distributed by Televisa and Gussi in M'exico.

Currently, he has just released the Colombo-Panamanian **CHANCE**, directed by Abner Benaím. Matthias is also in post-production with **NO ERES TÚ, SOY YO** directed by Alejandro Springall to be relased by Universal Pictures in 2010 and **THE OTHER FAMILY** by Gustavo Loza.

In the 90's he founded **Titán Producciones**, one of the most important independent production companies of its time, in which he produced the successful **SEXO, PUDOR Y LÁGRIMAS**, along with **LA HIJA DEL CANÍBAL** (*Lucía, Lucía*), both by Antonio Serrano, and **VIVIR MATA** by Nicolás Echeverría.

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He is also producer and co-producer of **FIBRA ÓPTICA** by Francisco Athié, **CRÓNICA DE UN DESAYUNO** by Benjamín Cann, and **LA HABITACIÓN AZUL** by Walter Doehner. Associate Producer and Production Manager in the acclaimed **BEFORE NIGHT FALLS**, by famed painter and director Julian Schnabel.

Producer of the celebrated **ROSARIO TIJERAS**, by Emilio Maile filmed in the city of Medellín, Colombia the feature broke several records in Colombia and kicked off a new wave of cinema in that country. He produced the Brazilian of *Sexo, Amor y Trance* in association with Globo TV, 20th Century Fox and *Total Filmes*, from Brazil.

He is currently developing **RAINEY EL ASESINO**, based on the novel by Héctor Manjarrez, **LA MALA LUZ** by Antonio Wakefield, **OPERACIÓN BABY** by José Luis Valle and **VERNISAGGE** by Panamanian Abner Benaim.

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PRODUCER COMPANY



RIO NEGRO PRODUCCIONES

Río Negro Producciones is a company with a wide range of experience in film production, distribution, and commercialization in the most important markets of Hispanic America. Established in the year 2000 by **Matthias Ehrenberg** with the goal of producing quality-based cinema, with universal themes, and commercial potential for the public in each of the countries that constitute the Hispanic American market.

Río Negro is part of a business network that include the most important markets of Hispanic American cinema in the line of film production, distribution, and commercialization. Some of these companies are Warner Bros., Twentieth Century Fox, Teleimage, Gussi, Columbia, UIP y Cineco.

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The company includes a film portfolio that is currently in development, production, post-production, and commercial state.

Experience in co-financing with sponsors (product placement) and access to awards and "soft money" financing (awards and government funding). Clear and specific objectives that allow the company to converge the endeavors of both partners and investors in the best projects available, with the goal to maximize the yields of these projects.

RELATED PROJECTS.

No Eres Tú, Soy Yo

Chance

Amar a Morir

Sexo Pudor y Lágrimas

Satanás

Rosario Tijeras

La Habitación Azúl

La hija del Caníbal

Before Night Falls

Vivir Mata

Sexo, Amor y Traição

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APERTURA FILMS is an independent production company specialized in fiction and documentary films.

Founded in 2005 in the City of Panama by Abner Benaim, this production company develops projects at national and international level for the Latin American, North American, and the European markets.

Several of Apertura's productions have been selected in International Production Forums, such as Sundance Independent Producers Conference, Docs Barcelona, Producers Network of the Guadalajara International Film Festival, and in the Production Conference of the Cartagena de Indias International Film Festival, and have been selected and received awards in renowned international festivals such as: Monte-Carlo TV Festival, New York TV Festival, Syracuse International Film Festival, Haifa International Film Festival, Brazil's Cine Sul, Guadalajara Film Festival, Habana International film festival, among others.

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Apertura Films has supported the production of several feature films from the United Kingdom and USA, filmed in Panama, with well-known filmmakers such as Harmony Korine and Werner Herzog.

In 2005, Apertura inaugurates its editorial department with the publication of PANAMIX, a photography book on Panama's cultural diversity.

Apertura Films' projects have been supported by institutions such as the Ibermedia Program and The Jan Vrijman Fund.

Among the most recent productions we can highlight the documentary series *The Other Side (El Otro Lado)*, the full-length fiction film *CHANGE*, and the full-length documentary *Maids and Bosses (Empleadas y Patrones)*.

Presently, Apertura Films is developing two feature films: *Vernissage (USA production)* and *In the Interior (En el Interior)*.

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CREDITS

An APERTURA FILMS

PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH RIO NEGRO

An ABNER BENAIM FILM

"CHANGE"

WITH THE SUPPORT OF PROGRAMA IBERMEDIA and CARACOL TV

FRANCISCO GATTORNO AIDA MORALES ISABELLA SANTODOMINGO y ROSA
LORENZO

MUSICAL SUPERVISION HERMINIO GUTIERREZ

COSTUMES LUZ HELENA CARDENAS

PRODUCTION DESIGN MARIA JOSE PIZARRO

EDITORS ALBERTO DE TORO

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR BERNARDO KENNY

PRODUCTION MANAGER SANDRA PAREDES

SOUND ENRIQUE OJEDA

SOUND DESIGN ANDRES FRANCO

ORIGINAL SCORE PATE DE FUA

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MAURICIO VIDAL

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SANDFORD SCHWARTZ

CO-PRODUCER PAULA JARAMILLO

WRITTEN BY ABNER BENAIM PAPUS VON SAENGER

PRODUCED BY MATTHIAS EHRENBURG ABNER BENAIM

DIRECTED BY ABNER BENAIM

A PANAMA- COLOMBIA COPRODUCTION

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MUSIC

The movie's music is very rich, combining original music by from Paté de Fuá, and existing music by Ruben Blades, Cienfue, DJ Black, Osvaldo Ayala, Lord Panama, and Carlos Eleta Almaran.

PATÉ DE FUÁ – Original Music



"MAGIA DE AMOR"

Interpretada por: VITTORIO

Autores: Liliana Gutierrez y
Romano Musumarra

"PLASTICO"

Interpretada por: RUBEN BLADES

Autor: Ruben Blades

"BIEN CUIDA'O"

Interpretada por: CIENFUE

Autor: Cienfue (Camilo Navarro)

"SU MADRE" y "RATATATATA"

Interpretadas por: Dj BLACK

Autor: Dj Black (Ricardo Alexander
Weeks Oneill)

"LA HISTORIA DE UN AMOR"

Interpretada por: LOS TRES
ASES

Autor: Carlos Almaran

"LLEGO EL CARNAVAL"

Interpretada por: OSVALDO AYALA

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"MUJER"

Interpretada por: SAMUEL

ARCHER

Autor: Samuel Archer

"DEVORAME OTRA VEZ" (Ven devorame otra vez)

Interpretada por: LALO

RODRIGUEZ

Autor: Palmer Hernandez

"FANTASIA DE AMOR"

Interpretada por: Dante Bernuy

Autores: Nelson Dante Bernuy

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"DAME LO MIO"

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