

# LA ISLA

DOX LAB presents a DOX LAB production with financial support of Polish Film Institute, Spanish Film Institute, The Shell Family Foundation produced by Investicoin B, New Europe Film Sales and New Europe Film Sales. From left to right: Gabriela Aguilar, Mery Alcala, Diana Madrid, Carmen Lopez, Mery Alcala, Diana Madrid, Carmen Lopez, Mery Alcala, Diana Madrid, Carmen Lopez. sound design Roberto Espinosa, John Robinson and director Valentin Niz. Producer directorial photography with Tadeo Martin developed and supported by IFR. DOX LAB by Tino Fischer & Patricia Ireland Spanish Film Institute of the same name Katarzyna Klimkiewicz producer Mery Alcala Anna Espinosa producers Belen Galloberiz Campos A. Jan Naszewski written and directed by Dominga Sotomayor & Katarzyna Klimkiewicz



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM



Written & Directed by Dominga Sotomayor & Katarzyna Klimkiewicz  
Chile, Poland | 2013 | 30 min.



World Sales and Promotion  
NEW EUROPE FILM SALES

Festivals: Anja Sosic, [anja@neweuropefilmsales.com](mailto:anja@neweuropefilmsales.com)

Sales: Jan Naszewski, [jan@neweuropefilmsales.com](mailto:jan@neweuropefilmsales.com)

A person stands on a large, fallen tree trunk in a dense forest. The scene is reflected in a calm pool of water in the foreground. The lighting is soft, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

# LA ISLA

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

A family gathers at their summer house on an island. Waiting for the last member to join them they wander around absorbed by the overwhelming nature, unaware of the devastating news awaiting them.

## SYNOPSIS

A group of people gather for a family reunion in a house on an isolated island. They are waiting for the last person to join them, but as the evening comes and he doesn't arrive, a strange anxiety overwhelms them. The group dismantles and the family members wander away from the house separately, confronting the sea and an unspoken fear that slowly consumes them.



# LA ISLA

## ABOUT THE FILM

The film combines two strong inspirations: a poem by Polish Nobel Prize-winning poet Wisława Szymborska called Road Accident, and Dominga's personal childhood experiences while living on the island Chiloé. This resulted in an ensemble story of a family waiting for a missing member that was supposed to join them for a celebration. It's a slow-burning mood piece told through a series of visual impressions, with a finely executed undertone of anxiety and untold tension.

The shooting took place in March on the Chiloé Island in Chile, using existing buildings and local nature (beaches, forests, etc.) as locations. A small crew filmed non-professional actors over a period of 10 days.



# LA ISLA

## CO-DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS

### DOMINGA SOTOMAYOR

After having lived for two years in Chiloé (my 3 and 4-year old period of childhood), only blurred images, sensations and direct images of nature and the sea remain. I feel the urgency to shoot there, to explore the particular atmosphere that the island offers. I wanted to use landscape as a dramatic element, in constant dialogue with the characters that inhabit them. If my first film portrayed a dried out couple that drove to the middle of the desert with their children, this film portrays a familiar reunion in the middle of an island, where nature seems to hide death.

I wanted to explore the complexity of the family and group relationships. I'm interested in daily situations, familiar, but always seen at a distance; a certain idea of style and form that's uncomfortable, and from where I stand, a reflection on mise-en-scène. For me, this is related with how what's familiar can become strange at the same time.

I'm interested in process over results, and we intended this film to be a part of a larger-scale exploration. My goal was to finish a film that doesn't restrict itself exclusively to a theatre screening room (...). I'm interested in thinking image (and sound) as a polymorphic means, unrestricted and unbound to a single and closed use or representation form.

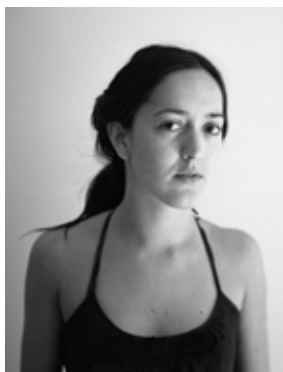
### KATARZYNA KLIMKIEWICZ

When something horrible happens in our life we always ask why, but we never ask why, when good things appear in our lives, when we encounter beauty and peace. Is it because it is not a perfect peace? I wanted to make a film that is about this imperfect beauty of a moment. We always look for something more, some better place, some better relationship and we so seldom stop and enjoy this one moment when we are safe. I wanted to portray people in a regular day, without them knowing it's an exceptional one.

As a filmmaker (...) I always explore the connection between the person and the place. How does the place influence who we are, how we behave, how we see ourselves and are seen by other, how it changes us. The main character of our film is an island, a strange and secluded place, it feels like it could be anywhere, and it is some kind of purgatory, a place between life and death. Most of people came here only for few days, they are visitors detached from their homes, in a new location. This place, the nature, exposes them in the new light. In this new place they suddenly see themselves and things differently.



# ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



## DOMINGA SOTOMAYOR

Dominga is one of the leading young directors from Chile. Her first feature film, *De Jueves A Domingo / Thursday till Sunday*, was developed at the Cannes' Cinéfondation Résidence and won the Tiger Award for best feature at the Rotterdam International Film Festival 2012 as well as best film awards at the IndieLisboa, T-Mobile New Horizons IFF and Valdivia FF, among others.

Dominga also had her video pieces and installations shown in Tate Modern and at exhibitions in Santiago de Chile. She directed several short-films including: *Cessna* [2005], *Noviembre / November* (2007), *Debajo / Below* (2007), *La Montana / The Mountain* (2008) and *Videojuego / Videogame* (2009) which have taken part and received awards in several international film festivals.

## PREVIOUS FILMS

***De jueves a domingo / Thursday till Sunday* - 2012**

International Film Festival Rotterdam 2012 – Tiger Award Winner  
Transylvania International Film Festival 2012 - Best Cinematography  
Cines del sur, Granada 2012 - Best Film  
Los Angeles Film Festival 2012 - Honorable Mention  
T-Mobile New Horizons International Film Festival 2012 - Best Film  
Valdivia International Film Festival 2012 - Best International Film  
FCLM-Festival du Cinéma Latino-Américain de Montréal – 2012 Special Jury Prize



## KATARZYNA KLIMKIEWICZ

Katarzyna is a graduate from the Polish Film School in Lodz and alumni of the Binger Film Lab in Amsterdam. Her documentary *Wasserschlacht – The Great Border Battle* co-directed with Andrew Friedman was awarded Berlin Today Award during Berlinale 2007. Her short film *Hanoi-Warszawa* won many Polish and International awards and was voted the Best

Short of 2010 by the European Film Academy. Her debut feature film *Flying Blind* premiered in Edinburgh International Film Festival in 2012 where it has been nominated for the prestigious Michael Powell Award. The film received three Awards (Grand Prix, Best Director, Critics Award) at the Polish Festival of First Films in Koszalin and was released cinematically in the UK and in Poland in 2013. She is a member of the European Film Academy, for many years she was also a president of Film 1,2 Association, which supports young filmmakers in Poland.

## PREVIOUS FILMS

***Flying Blind* – 2012**

Edinburgh IFF 2012 - The Michael Powell Award for Best British Feature Film, nomination  
Bath FF 2012 - Audience Award  
Palm Springs IFF 2012  
Polish Festival of First Films in Koszalin 2013 - Grand Prix, Best Director, Critics Award

***Hanoi-Warszawa / Hanoi-Warsaw* – 2009 (short, 30')**

Gdynia Polish Film Festival 2009 – Jury's Special Prize

# LA ISLA

## CINEMATOGRAPHY: INTI BRIONES

Award-winning Chilean cinematographer Inti Briones was born in Peru, Lima in 1971. In 2013 he was picked by Variety as one of 10 Cinematographers to Watch.

### PREVIOUS FILMS

#### ***Night Across the Street*, dir. Raúl Ruiz - 2012**

Cannes IFF 2012 - Semaine de la Critique  
International Cinematographers Film Festival 2012 – Best Cinematography  
Bonsái, dir. Raúl Ruiz - 2011  
Cannes IFF 2011 – Un Certain Regard, nomination  
Telluride FF 2011  
Thessaloniki IFF 2011  
Tokyo IFF 2011  
Havana IFF 2012 – Fipresci Prize

#### ***The Loneliest Planet*, dir. Julia Loktev - 2011**

Locarno FF 2011  
Toronto IFF 2011  
Istanbul Film Festival 2012 - The Golden Tulip International Competition Award.

#### ***Huacho*, dir. Alejandro Fernandez Almendras - 2009**

Cannes IFF 2009 – Semaine de la Critique, Official Selection

#### ***Ilusiones ópticas*, dir. Cristián Jiménez – 2008**

Pedro Sienna award for Best Cinematography -2010

#### ***Cielo, Tierra y Lluvia / The Sky, the Earth and the Rain* - José Luis Torres - 2007**

Rotterdam IFF 2008 – Fipresci Prize  
Internacional de Cine Contemporáneo de Ciudad de México 2008 – FICCO Grand Prix  
Jeonju IFF 2008 – DAUM Jury's Special Prize

#### ***Dias de Camp / Days in the Country*, dir. Raúl Ruiz - 2004**

Lima Latin American Film Festival 2006- International Critics Award

#### ***El Leyton*, dir. Gonzalo Justiniano - 2002**

Festival de San Sebastián

# LA ISLA

## CREW & CAST

DIRECTOR Dominga Sotomayor & Katarzyna Klimkiewicz  
SCREENPLAY Dominga Sotomayor & Katarzyna Klimkiewicz  
CINEMATOGRAPHY Inti Briones  
PRODUCTION DESIGN Valentina MacPherson  
SOUND Roberto Espinoza, Julia Huberman  
EDITING Catalina Marín  
CAST Rosa García-Huidobro, Francisca Castillo, Gabriela Aguilera, Niles Atallah, Eliseo Atallah, Carmen Couve, Ida Delgado  
PRODUCED BY Rebeca Gutiérrez Campos, Jan Naszewski  
PRODUCTION COMPANIES Cinestación (Chile), New Europe Film Sales (Poland)  
SUPPORTED & DEVELOPED BY CPH:DOX / DOX:LAB by Tine Fischer & Patricia Drati and Danish Film Institute - film commissioner Klara Grunning-Harris  
PRODUCED WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF Polish Film Institute, The Obel Family Foundation  
PRODUCTION CONTACT Rebeca Gutiérrez, +56 9 75 28 07 89, rebeca@cinestacion.cl

## FILM INFO

TITLE LA ISLA / THE ISLAND  
CATEGORY short film, drama  
DIALOGUES Spanish  
COMPLETION August 2013  
WORLD PREMIERE October 2013 Valdivia IFF – Opening Film  
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE: January 2014 - Rotterdam  
DURATION 30 min.  
SHOOTING FORMAT HD  
PICTURE Color  
SCREEN RATIO 16:9  
SOUND SYSTEM Stereo  
AVAILABLE FORMATS DCP, HDCam, ProRes

CPH:DOX presents a A DOX:LAB production with the economical support of POLISH FILM INSTITUTE, DANISH FILM INSTITUTE, THE OBEL FAMILY FOUNDATION produced by CINESTACIÓN & NEW EUROPE FILM SALES cast ROSA GARCÍA-HUIDOBRO, FRANCISCA CASTILLO, GABRIELA AGUILERA, NILES ATALLAH, ELISEO ATALLAH, CARMEN COUVE, IDA DELGADO location sound mixer CLAUDIO VARGAS sound post production SONAMOS sound design ROBERTO ESPINOZA, JULIA HUBERMAN art director VALENTINA MACPHERSON director of photography INTI BRIONES editing CATALINA MARÍN developed and supported by CPH:DOX DOX:LAB by TINE FISCHER & PATRICIA DRATI and DANISH FILM INSTITUTE film commissioner KLARA GRUNNING-HARRIS co-producers MACIEJ KUBICKI ANNA KĘPINSKA producers REBECA GUTIÉRREZ CAMPOS & JAN NASZEWSKI written and directed by DOMINGA SOTOMAYOR & KATARZYNA KLIMKIEWICZ



WORLD SALES AND PROMOTION  
New Europe Film Sales  
World Sales & Promotion  
Slowicza 12/2,  
05-075 Warsaw, Poland

FESTIVAL CONTACT  
Anja Sosic: +48 666 525 788  
anja@neweuropesales.com  
[WWW.NEWEUROPEFILMSALES.COM](http://WWW.NEWEUROPEFILMSALES.COM)

SALES CONTACTS  
Jan Naszewski +48 600 173 205  
jan@neweuropesales.com  
Kasia Siniarska +48 503035163  
kat@neweuropesales.com