
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

ALOFT

Directed by Claudia Llosa

Official Selection
Sundance Film Festival 2015

Rated R | 115 min

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SYNOPSIS

As we follow a mother (Jennifer Connelly) and her son (Cillian Murphy), we delve into a past marred by an accident that tears them apart.

She will become a renowned artist and healer, and he will grow into his own and a peculiar falconer who bears the marks of a double absence.

In the present, a young journalist (Mélanie Laurent) will bring about an encounter between the two that puts the very meaning of life and art into question, so that we may contemplate the possibility of living life to its fullest, despite the uncertainties littering our paths.

CAST

Nana	Jennifer Connelly
Ivan	Cillian Murphy
Ressmore	Mélanie Laurent
Newman	William Shimell
Young Ivan	Zen McGrath
Gully	Winta McGrath

CREW

Writer/Director	Claudia Llosa
Producers	Jose María Morales Ibon Cormenzana Mark Johnson
Cinematographer	Nicolas Bolduc
Production Designer	Eugenio Caballero
Editor	Guille De La Cal
Sound Designer	Fabiola Ordoyo
Production Manager	Sandra Hermida

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A mother who abandons her child for the common good; a son who abandons himself and his own ability to feel in order to bear the weight of tragedy; and a woman who abandons her life to follow her one obsession of curing herself. Three characters reveal themselves to us, reflecting on the difficult balance of creating a full life while assuming its fragility and uncertainties.

Aloft journeys through the worlds of art and nature to explore the meaning of healing and death as it forces us to confront the immensity of such concepts as love, order, chaos and faith, which at times are impossible to understand through rational thinking alone. Does art heal? Is nature a variable? Aristotle said that humans feel pain when they act against their nature. (Cycles, seasons, renovation and change). In the end, we learn that understanding our own nature is the most difficult task in life and that, perhaps, art can help us by offering the possibility of catharsis and sublimation.

Nana Kunning (Jennifer Connelly) explores that concept through her acts, aware that the exploration is not to be found in the piece of art (the object) itself, but in the process of its creation. *Aloft* forces the viewer into that journey. The same journey that Ivan, her son, (Cillian Murphy) will embark upon to find her. A journey to the infinite, into the absolute whiteness where there is nowhere to hide. A journey back to ourselves.

Claudia Llosa.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Claudia Llosa was born in Lima, Peru on November 15th, 1976. She is a director, screenwriter and producer. In addition, she studied Information Sciences at the University of Lima, and later completed a Masters in Scriptwriting at the TAI school of Madrid.

Her debut film, *Madeinusa*, premiered in official competition at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, and won several international awards, including the FIPRESCI Prize of International Critics in Rotterdam, and the award for Best Latin American Film at the Malaga Film Festival.

Her second film, *The Milk Of Sorrow*, won the Golden Bear for best film at the 2009 Berlin Film Festival, as well as the International Critics Award from the FIPRESCI. *The Milk Of Sorrow* also has the honor of being the first Peruvian film ever nominated for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

Recently Claudia directed the short film “Loxoro” for the TNT television series *Fronteras*, which includes collaborations with other Latin American directors. “Loxoro” won the Teddy Award at the 2012 Berlin Film Festival.

Awards bestowed on *The Milk of Sorrow* include: Guadalajara International Film Festival - Best Picture, Best Actress (Magaly Solier); L’etoile de Caux Festival, France - Gran prix; Gramado Film Festival, Brazil: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Picture from the Film Student Jury; Bogota Film Festival - Best Picture; Femmes de Salé International Film Festival, Morocco - Grand Prix; Festival Du Nouveau Cinéma, Montreal - Best Picture, Best Actress (Magaly Solier); Havana Film Festival, Cuba - Best Picture, Best Art Direction.

Awards bestowed on *Madeinusa* include: Havana Film Festival, Cuba, 2003 - Best Script; Rotterdam International Film Festival IFF, 2006 - Fipresci Award; Mar de Plata International Film Festival, 2006 - Best Latin American Picture; Recontres D’America Latine Film Festival, Toulouse, France, 2006 - Prix Spécial du Jury; Cine de Cearà Film Festival, Brazil, 2006 - Best Script, Best Cinematography; Lima, IFF, Peru, 2006 - Best Debut Picture, Conacine, Best Peruvian Picture; Hamburg Film Festival, Germany, 2006 - Award of the Hamburg Film Critics; Women’s Film Festival, Cologne - Best Debut Feature (1st place).

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

JOSE MARÍA MORALES founded Wanda Films in 1992, and Wanda Vision in 1997. Both companies specialize in production and distribution of independent films, primarily from Europe and Latin America.

In addition, Jose Maria was a member of the jury of the 2010 Berlin Film Festival. He holds a law degree from the Universidad Autonoma of Madrid, and has been Executive Vice President of the Latin American Federation of Cinematographic and Audiovisual Producers (FIPCA) for the last ten years.

FILMOGRAPHY AS PRODUCER: *El Faro de las Orcas* directed by Gerardo Olivares (In pre-production), *Aloft* directed by Claudia Llosa, *Guadalquivir* directed by Joaquín Gutierrez Acha (shooting), *Sueño y Silencio*, directed by Jaime Rosales, *Wilaya* directed by Pedro Pérez Rosado (2011), *Las Razones del Corazon* directed by Arturo Ripstein (2011), *Artigas* directed by César Charlone (2011), *Entre lobos* directed by Gerardo Olivares (2010), *Anclados* directed by Carlota Nelson (2010), *Martí – El Ojo del Canario* directed by Fernando Pérez (2010), *Revolución – El Cruce de los Andes* directed by Leandro Ipiña (2010), *El Cura Hidalgo* directed by Antonio Serrano (2010), *The Milk of Sorrow* directed by Claudia Llosa (2009), *El Niño Pez* directed by Lucía Puenzo (2009), *La Ventana* directed by Carlos Sorin (2009), *El Nido Vacío* directed by Daniel Burman (2008), *Tiro en la Cabeza* directed by Jaime Rosales (2008), *Madrigal* directed by Fernando Pérez (2007), *XXY* directed by Lucía Puenzo (2007), *La Soledad* directed by Jaime Rosales (2007), *La Señal* directed by Ricardo Darín (2007), *14 Kilómetros* directed by Gerardo Olivares (2007), *La Gran Final* directed by Gerardo Olivares (2006), *Madeinusa* directed by Claudia Llosa (2006), *El Camino de San Diego* directed by Carlos Sorin (2006), *La Bicicleta* directed by Sigfrid Monleón (2006), *La Hamaca Paraguaya* directed by Paz Encina (2006), *The Optimist* directed by Goran Paskaljevic (2006), *Arcadia* directed by Costa Gavras (2005), *El Nacimiento de una pasión* directed by Jesús Sánchez (2005), *Mi Mejor Enemigo* directed by Alex Bowen (2005), *Derecho de Familia* directed by Daniel Burman (2005), *La Perrera* directed by Manuel Nieto (2005), *La puta y la ballena* directed by Luis Puenzo (2004), *Perfecto Amor*

Equivocado directed by Gerardo Chijona, (2004), *Mala Uva* directed by Javier Domingo (2004), *Whisky* directed by Juan Pablo Rebella & Pablo Stoll (2003), *El Abrazo Partido* directed by Daniel Burman (2003), *Bombon – El perro* directed by Carlos Sorin (2003), *Midwinter's Night Dream* directed by Goran Paskaljevic (2003), *Suite Habana* directed by Fernando Pérez (2003), *Un Oso Rojo* directed by Adrián Caetano (2002),

Historias Mínimas directed by Carlos Sorin (2002), *El Crimen del Padre Amaro* directed by Carlos Carrera (2002), *Le Peuple Migrateur* directed by Jacques Perrin (2001), *Todas las azafatas van al cielo* directed by Daniel Burman (2001), *La Ciénaga* directed by Lucrecia Martel (2000), *La Perdición de los hombres* directed by Arturo Ripstein (2000), *Otilia Rauda* directed by Dana Rotberg (2000), *Un Paraíso bajo las estrellas* directed by Gerardo Chijona (1999), *Palabra y Utopía* directed by Manoel de Oliveira (1999), *Así es la vida* directed by Arturo Ripstein (1999), *La vida es silbar* directed by Fernando Pérez (1998),

La Lettre directed by Manoel de Oliveira (1998), *The Quarry* directed by Marion Hänsel (1997), *El Evangelio de las Maravillas* directed by Arturo Ripstein (1997), *Inquietude* directed by Manoel de Oliveira (1997), *Between the devil and the deep blue sea – Li* directed by Marion Hänsel (1996), *Profundo Carmesí* directed by Arturo Ripstein (1996).

IBON CORMENZANA is the chairman of Arcadia Motion Pictures, which produces high-quality feature films with upcoming European creative talent, top cast and international potential.

He holds a degree in Economics and Business from Bentley College in Boston, specializing in finance and marketing. From 1994 to 1999 he worked as a consulting manager for Arthur Andersen in Houston, London and Barcelona. In 2000, supported by a group of investors, Ibon founded the production company Infinity Films, which focused on the development and production of his own material, which led to his first feature film, *Jaizkibel*, which he wrote, directed and produced. The film won several accolades at national and international film festivals, including Best Debut Film at the Basque Cinema Awards.

In 2004, Ibon and his partner, Angel Durandez, expanded Infinity Films into Arcadia Motion Pictures, and began structuring new private sources of funding, both national and international, for its projects. In 2005, he produced Eugenio Mira's *The Birthday*, which won an award at the Sitges Film Festival. In 2007, Ibon completed his second film, *The Totenwackers*, starring Geraldine Chaplin.

In 2008, Ibon and Angel Durandez founded Arcadia Capital, an audiovisual consulting company financed through an investment group, which takes part in Arcadia's productions.

Arcadia Motion Pictures has produced *14 Days With Victor*, directed by Roman Parrado and starring Margo Stilley, Fernando Tielve and Joe Dixon (Official Selection at Sitges Film Festival 2010), *Are You There?* directed by Roberto Santiago and based on a play by Javier Daulte, *Jackboots on Whitehall* an animated movie directed by the McHenry brothers (Best Animated Feature Film at Sitges Film Festival 2010), *Blackthorn* (2011), directed by Mateo Gil and starring Eduardo Noriega, Sam Shepard and Stephen Rea, that premiered at Tribeca Film Festival and won 4 Goya Awards in Spain in 2012, *No Rest For The Wicked* (2011) which premiered at the official selection of San Sebastian Film Festival, and won 6 Goya Awards, including Best Spanish Film.

The company's more recent films include *Blancanieves*, by Pablo Berger, which represented Spain as Foreign Language film for the 2013 Oscars, and won 10 Goya Awards, including Best Spanish Film. *Blancanieves* was also the winner of the Special Jury Award and the Silver Shell for Best Actress at the San Sebastian International Film Festival and debuted with great US reviews at Toronto International Film Festival.

Arcadia is currently in postproduction of *Mariah Mundi & The Midas Box* with Michael Sheen, Sam Neill, Lena Heady, Ioan Gruffudd, and Aneurin Barnard, a family action adventure based on the books written by JP Taylor.

Other feature films include "Untitled," directed by Claudia Llosa, and coproduced with Mark Johnson, currently in postproduction, and two films in preproduction, "Prodigious," the second

feature film from director Roman Parrado (“14 Days With Victor”), based on Santiago Roncagliolo’s novel “Tan Cerca De La Vida,” and “Oliver’s Deal,” to be written and directed by Barney Elliott.

MARK JOHNSON won the Best Picture Academy Award for Barry Levinson’s poignant 1988 drama *Rain Man*, starring Dustin Hoffman (Best Actor Oscar) and Tom Cruise.

His recent slate of motion pictures includes *The Chronicles of Narnia* franchise as well as *Don’t Be Afraid of the Dark*, written and co-produced by Guillermo del Toro and starring Katie Holmes and Guy Pearce. Other notable credits among the dozens of films he has produced include Nick Cassavetes’ dramas *My Sister’s Keeper*, starring Cameron Diaz, and *The Notebook*, based on Nicholas Sparks’ best selling novel; Lance Hammer’s Sundance award-winning film *Ballast*; the Tim Allen and Sigourney Weaver sci-fi comedy *Galaxy Quest* directed by Dean Parisot; *The Rookie* directed by John Lee Hancock; Mike Newell’s gangster drama *Donnie Brasco* starring Johnny Depp and Al Pacino; and Clint Eastwood’s *A Perfect World* starring Kevin Costner.

Johnson produced all of writer-director Barry Levinson’s films from 1982-1994; in addition to *Rain Man*, their diverse slate of acclaimed features includes *Good Morning Vietnam*, *The Natural*, *Tin Men*, *Toys*, *Young Sherlock Holmes*, *Avalon*, *Diner* (their 1982 debut film, for which Levinson earned an Oscar nomination for his screenplay), and *Bugsy*, nominated for ten Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director. *Bugsy* also earned a Golden Globe Award for Best Picture.

Johnson’s most recent film credits include *Won’t Back Down* for Walden Media/20th Century Fox, starring Maggie Gyllenhaal and Viola Davis and directed by Daniel Barnz. 2012 also saw the release of the Johnson-produced *Not Fade Away*, written and directed by David Chase. On the television side, he is the executive producer of the Emmy-nominated AMC drama *Breaking Bad*, which has recently wrapped its fifth and final season and the Sundance Channel’s first

scripted series, *Rectify*, created by Ray McKinnon, which premiered in April to wide acclaim. Most recently, Johnson serves as executive producer for the AMC series *Halt and Catch Fire*.