



# LA ZONA



a film by  
**Rodrigo Plá**

starring: **Daniel Giménez Cacho, Carlos Bardem, Daniel Tovar**  
and  
**Maribel Verdú**

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## **synopsis**

Residents of an enclosed estate in an upmarket part of Mexico are shocked by a violent crime committed by three young men, they decide not to report the event to the authorities, but to track the thieves down themselves.

With one thief left to be found, tensions mount when one of the wealthy inhabitants, young Alejandro encounters the boy who escaped the event and cannot decide whether to let him go as an uneasy complicity develops between the boys.



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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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La Zona is the story of an armed robbery and a manhunt, but above all the story of a broken, divided society made up of two Worlds that fear and hate each other.

What can be done when the inefficiency and corruption of someone whose duty it is to deal out justice leave us unprotected? What can be done in a world where a minority is shamelessly wealthy and the majority, desperately poor? What can be done about the terror of the person who isolates himself behind a wall and about the bitter frustration of the person who lives on the other side?

La Zona sets out to issue a warning about the shape of things to come, to alert the audience to a way of life that is drawing ever closer.

By surrounding themselves with walls, the residents of La Zona prohibit others from entering, without realising that the wall symbolises their own imprisonment. For the sake of protecting themselves, they forfeit the essential right to privacy, a privacy sacrificed to the closed circuit TV that monitor them all. It's too high a price to pay for a security that can never be absolute. However big the fortress, however high the wall, as long as there is rampant inequality, there will always be someone who will climb over the wall.

The story unfolds through the eyes of a young boy, Alejandro, who lives in La Zona and finds himself forced to confront a wider World than that of the comfort he has always known. The violent chain of events that takes place in La Zona, and his subsequent relationship with the young thief, force him to question everything. By gaining an insight into both sides of the conflict, Alejandro builds up an inner ethics of his own and, in the midst of this chaos, encounters his own view of justice: "...perhaps both sides are the same, we are one and the same thing. Perhaps there should be a form of justice that protects us all without turning us into enemies, without forcing hatred and misery upon us". The law should exist as a means of regulating coexistence in a society; even the criminal should have a framework of justice for deciding his punishment.

I felt it vital to exploit the use of the closed circuit cameras in order to create an impression of permanent surveillance, to reinforce a prevailing atmosphere of paranoia as the residents permanently await an "imminent" attack. This paranoia leads them to

adopt a dangerously totalising course of action, a mob mentality that prohibits diversity of thought, and swiftly 'neutralizes' any action that contradicts the majority.

La Zona is a character in itself, the main character of the story. I am interested in delving deeper into exactly what goes on inside those closed universes governed by fear, which end up inventing their own rules regardless of the law that governs others, and examining the way in which moral standards - basic notions of respect and coexistence - gradually degenerate into a primitive and dehumanised form of behaviour, where "the other", the robber, the outsider, is no longer seen as a person but simply as an enemy to be destroyed. My intention was to make the structure of the film work like a choral song, where each character finds a voice in the score, a voice that, by confronting or accompanying the others, contributes to the polyphony that constitutes La Zona. An organic whole which, in its self-absorption, through its inability to look out and beyond, to recognise its own particular contradictions and failings, sows the seed of its own self-destruction.

Rodrigo Plá

## CAST

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**Daniel**

DANIEL GIMÉNEZ CACHO

**Mariana**

MARIBEL VERDÚ

**Gerardo**

CARLOS BARDEM

**Alejandro**

DANIEL TOVAR

**Miguel**

ALAN CHAVEZ

**Comandante Rigoberto**

MARIO ZARAGOZA

**Andrea**

MARIA DE TAVIR

## CREW

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**Directed by**

RODRIGO PLÁ

**Screenplay**

LAURA SANTULLO

**Producers**

ALVARO LONGORIA

PILAR BENITO

**Co-Producers**

RODRIGO PLÁ

RICARDO FERNÁNDEZ-DEU

CHRISTIAN VALDELIÈVRE

**Cinematography**

EMILIANO VILLANUEVA

**Editor**

BERNAT VILAPLANA

ANA GARCÍA

NACHO RUIZ CAPILLAS

**Production Design**

ANTONIO MUNOHIERRO

**Music**  
FERNANDO VELÁZQUEZ

**Sound Editor**  
CHARLY SCHMUKLER

**Costume Designer**  
MALENA DE LA RIVA  
ADELA CORTÁZAR

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## FILMOGRAPHIES

### DANIEL GIMÉNEZ CACHO (selected filmography)

**LA ZONA** (2007) Rodrigo Pla  
**BAD EDUCATION** (2004) Pedro Almodóvar  
**Y TU MAMÁ TAMBIÉN** (2001) Alfonso Cuarón  
**CRONOS** (1993) Guillermo del Toro  
**LOVE IN THE TIME OF HISTERIA** (1991) Alfonso Cuarón

### MARIBEL VERDÚ

**LA ZONA** (2007) Rodrigo Pla  
**PAN'S LABYRINTH** (2006) Guillermo del Toro  
**Y TU MAMÁ TAMBIÉN** (2001) Alfonso Cuarón  
**GOYA** (1998) Carlos Saura

### CARLOS BARDEM

**LA ZONA** (2007) Rodrigo Pla  
**GOYA'S GHOSTS** (2006) Milos Forman