

## OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

It's winter in Valdivia. A mall guard falls in love with an elegant thief. A hard-working employee is trained by his company for unemployment. A blind skier recovers sight and is terrorized by the world he finally sees. The winter advances. Everything feels unreal: Optical Illusions.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

**Original title:** Ilusiones Ópticas

**English title:** Optical Illusions

**Origin:** Chile, Portugal, France

**Running Time:** 105'

**Shooting format:** HD

**Exhibition format:** 35 mm, color, dolby digital SRD

**Aspect ratio:** 1: 1.85

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release Date:** 2009

## PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Retaguardia Films, Jirafa, Roos Film (Chile)

Filmes Fundo (Portugal)

Les Films du Requin (France)

## CAST AND CREW

**Cast:** Paola Lattus, Eduardo Paxeco, Gregory Cohen, Iván Álvarez de Araya, Valentina Vargas, Álvaro Rudolphy, Samuel González, Hugo Medina, Carla Bolito

**Directed by:** Cristián Jiménez

**Produced by:** Bruno Bettati, Andrés Waissbluth, Miguel Ángel Labarca, J.J. Härting, Ignacio Eyzaguirre, Pandora Gagnon da Cunha Telles, Cyriac Auriol

**Written by:** Cristián Jiménez, Alicia Scherson

**Cinematography:** Inti Briones

**Production Design:** Sebastián Muñoz

**Editing:** Isabela Monteiro de Castro, Galut Alarcón

**Sound Recording:** Andrés Carrasco

**Sound Editing:** Elsa Ferreira

**Sound Mix:** Jean Guy Véran

**Original Music:** Cristóbal Briceño

**Production Manager:** Bruno Bettati

**Post-production Manager:** Cristián Freund

**Casting:** Soledad Gaspar

## PRODUCTION NOTES

Co-produced by companies from Chile, Portugal and France, "Ilusiones Ópticas" is the first feature film by Chilean filmmaker Cristián Jiménez (director of the award-winning short films "El Tesoro de los caracoles" and "XX"). The project started its development when Cristián returned to Chile in 2003 after 4 years in the UK and observed how Chile had changed, but specially Valdivia, his provincial hometown in the south where only to start with, a big, empty, shiny mall had replaced a traditional commercial street. All stories are based on strange but real events taking place in Chile, which were then adapted and deformed into the dry, quirky narrative style of the film.

The shoot took place over 4 and a half weeks in Valdivia and in the ski resort of Antillanca, where the snow scenes take place. Among the crew members, production designer Sebastián Muñoz ("Play", "Turistas", "199 recetas para ser Feliz") and DOP Inti Briones ("El Cielo, la tierra y la Lluvia", "Huacho", "Días de Campo") stand out. Usual collaborators of Cristián Jiménez, he developed together with them the particular, frontal, slightly artificial look of this film.

The cast features several great Chilean actors like Paola Lattus ("Tony Manero"), Eduardo Paxeco ("La Buena Vida"), Álvaro Rudolphy ("Chile Puede"), Gregory Cohen and the return to Chile of Valentina Vargas, legendary actress who previously worked with directors such as a J.J. Annaud (in "The Name of the Rose"), Luc Besson (in "Big Blue") and Sam Fuller (in "Street of no Return"). Portuguese actresses Carla Bolito and Carla Chambel also joined the shoot in Valdivia. The cast also includes some non-professional actors like Rosa Calderón (playing Juan's albino girl-friend), Cristian Celis (playing Guatón) and Jiménez himself as a nasty plastic surgeon.

The film was post-produced in Paris, with Isabela Monteiro de Castro ("Madame Satá") in charge of editing, Jean-Guy V éran ("Salamandra", "Cordero de Dios") from MacTari in the sound mix and MacGuff in the making of the visual effects. Before its release, the film has successfully participated in Cinema en Construction in Toulouse and San Sebastián, as well as in the work in progress section of BAFICI in Argentina.

## FUNDS, AWARDS AND SUPPORT

Fondo de Fomento Audiovisual, Ibermedia, Ile-de-France, Cinema en Construction 13, CORFO, Fundación Andes, Consejo Nacional de Televisión, Fundación TYPA, Taller Colón, Mannheim Meetings, Buenos Aires Lab (BAL).

## SPONSORS

Bancoestado, Capel, Kunstmann, Nestlé, Vidasur.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Ilusiones Ópticas" is a film taking place in Valdivia, a town in the south of Chile, half way through between being just provincial and also being modern. This tension between two logics, between two worlds is at the heart of the film. This tension is also a fracture, a gap. The fragmentation in the narrative structure of the film reflects this fracture in the identities and personalities of our characters.

The film speaks frontally about dreams and frustrations of ordinary people. Dreams and frustrations that become confusing, with appearances that are increasingly harder to grasp. With this same material a drama or tragedy could have been made. But together with melancholy, humor rules the tone of the film. It could not have been otherwise. When I was a child I wanted to be a stand-up comedian and later studied sociology. Now I hope for this film to reconcile both my childhood passion and my youth interests. Maybe this is just a bunch of jokes, but following Raúl Ruiz, I think that jokes have to be taken very seriously.

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

**Cristián Jiménez** was born in Valdivia, Chile in 1975. Before becoming a filmmaker, he wrote short stories and studied sociology in Santiago de Chile, Heidelberg and London.

He wrote and directed several short films, among them "El Tesoro de los Caracoles" and "XX", winners of awards at festivals in Chile, Germany, France and the USA. He was also co-writer of the feature films "199 Recetas para ser Feliz" and "Los Debutantes", and worked as a TV producer in the UK during 3 years.

He's currently developing his next feature project, an adaptation of the novel "Bonsai", and working as a lecturer at two Chilean film schools.

## DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

- 2009: "Ilusiones Ópticas" (116', 35mm).
- 2009: "Tiempo Libre" (23', digital).
- 2006: "XX" (10', 35mm).
- 2004: "El Tesoro de los Caracoles" (15', 35mm).
- 2003: "Hong Kong" (15', digital).

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

Jirafa

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