



PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL

presents

LOS ÁNGELES

by Damian Harper



WORLD SALES

PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL GMBH

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MAIN DETAILS

English Title	LOS ÁNGELES
Original Title	LOS ÁNGELES
Genre	Drama, Thriller
Directed by	Damian John Harper
Screenplay	Damian John Harper
Country of Production	Germany
Production Year	2013
Producer	Jonas Weydemann, Jakob D. Weydemann
Produced by	Weydemann Bros. GmbH
Co-producer	cine plus Filmproduktion GmbH, ZDF Das kleine Fernsehspiel
Director of Photography	Friede Clausz
Edited by	Lorna Hoefler-Steffen
Music	Gregor Bonse
With backing from	Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung, Kuratorium junger Deutscher Film, Deutscher Film Förder Fonds
German distributor	Farbfilm Verleih GmbH

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Format	DCP
Running Time	97'00"
Screen ratio	2.35
Frames / second	24
Sound Format	DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1
Original version	Zapotec/Spanish
Subtitled version	English

Title:

LOS ÁNGELES

Tagline:

The price is a life

Short Synopsis:

Mateo, 17, and his family prepare for him to leave their small Mexican village for Los Angeles, like so many before him. In addition to the family savings, he needs the local gang's support to ensure a safe passage and help on the other side. At first, Mateo is willing to do anything to join the gang, that is, until the leader demands that he kills a rival gang member. Mateo refuses to carry out the murder and the gang leader seeks bitter revenge.

Synopsis

MATEO, 17, strives to gather enough money to pay for the coyote who will smuggle him across the U.S.-Mexico border after the yearly fiesta in his small Zapotec village in Oaxaca, Southern Mexico. His dream is to work hard in Los Angeles and support his mom and kid brother back home.

Searching for protection and a sense of belonging on the other side of the border he decides to join the village gang before his departure. After getting "jumped in" he learns the truth about his final initiation: he must murder a rival gang member!

At first Mateo is willing to do anything to earn respect but at the last minute he is unable to carry out the murder and refuses, thus enraging the gang leader who swears bitter revenge!

At the fiesta Mateo barely escapes with his life as the gang lures him into a dark alley and attempts to murder him. The next day

at the local rodeo they surround him outside the ring as he prepares to ride but before they can get him he is thrown from a bull and rushed to the hospital.

Released with a shattered leg his family decides rashly to send his kid brother across the border in his place. Accordingly the gang leader promises to have Mateo's little brother murdered upon his arrival in Los Angeles!

Now forced to save his brother's life Mateo races to catch up with him on the road and send him back home safely. Wanting to finally put an end to the violence Mateo decides to take his brother's place on the road to Los Angeles, thus exposing himself to eminent danger.

- LOS ÁNGELES is a story about the value of family, brotherly love and one hopeful young man's struggle for a better life in a world ruled by violence and injustice.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



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DIRECTOR'S BIO



Damian John Harper was born in 1978 in Colorado, USA. After receiving his degree in Anthropology with Magna Cum Laude he worked as an Ethnologist in Southern Mexico before studying film directing at the Munich Academy of Film and Television (HFF). Harper's graduation short film TEARDROP strikingly shows the state of American Youth with a gang initiation ritual entirely shot from the POV of the main protagonist. TEARDROP won numerous awards in over 50 festival competitions around the world.

With his debut feature project LOS ÁNGELES Harper revisits the Mexican community in which he used to live as a young Ethnologist. LOS ÁNGELES was a quarterfinalist at the prestigious Academy of Arts and Sciences Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting and also selected for the Berlinale Coproduction Market.

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2014	LOS ÁNGELES Feature Film / Arri Alexa	2008	MANIA Short Documentary / DigiBeta
2011	TEARDROP Short Fiction / 35 mm	2007	THE FUEL OF LIFE Short Fiction / DigiBeta
2009	FILM CITY MUNICH – OPERA Theatrical Commercial / 35 mm	2006	THE CYCLE OF HARM Short Fiction / DigiBeta
2008	MOTHER OF EXILES Documentary / DigiBeta	2005	EASTories: A LONGING FOR COLOR Documentary / DigiBeta

CAST & LOCATION

The screenplay is based on 13 years of friendship and observation, on true stories and a very real collective struggle. Almost the entire film was recorded in the rustic setting of the small hamlet. In accordance, the entire cast are local villagers. Non-actors, who rather than drawing on acting experience to portray their roll drew upon their genuine and very personal life experiences bring life and authenticity to the diverse characters portrayed in the narrative. The film is a depiction of the Zapotec struggle in the central valleys of rural Oaxaca, portrayed by those true people who face that struggle every day.

PRINICPAL CAST

MATEO	Mateo Bautista Matías
MARCOS	Marcos Rodríguez Ruíz
LIDIA	Lidia García
DANNY	Daniel Bautista
DONASIANO	Donaciano Bautista Matías (Chamoy)
VALENTINA	Valentina Ojeda

PRINCIPAL CREW

DIRECTOR/WRITER	Damian John Harper
PRODUCERS	Jonas Weydemann, Jakob D. Weydemann
CO-PRODUCERS	Frank Evers, Helge Neubronner, Andreas Eicher
COMMISSIONING EDITOR ZDF	Katharina Dufner
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Linda Ramos
CINEMATOGRAPHER	Friede Clausz
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	Adán Hernández
COSTUME DESIGNER	Abril Alamo, Felicitas Adler
SOUND DESIGNER	Gregor Bonse
COMPOSER	Gregor Bonse
EDITOR	Lorna Hoefler Steffen

WORLD SALES

Picture Tree International GmbH was founded by Andreas Rothbauer and Alec Schulmann and is an internationally aligned and integrated world sales and production company with headquarters in Berlin.

The core business of **Picture Tree International** is the worldwide licensing of film rights and the co-production of

international feature films in an integrated business model.

The company will handle an overall international sales line-up of up to eight films per year and will internally coproduce two projects.

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