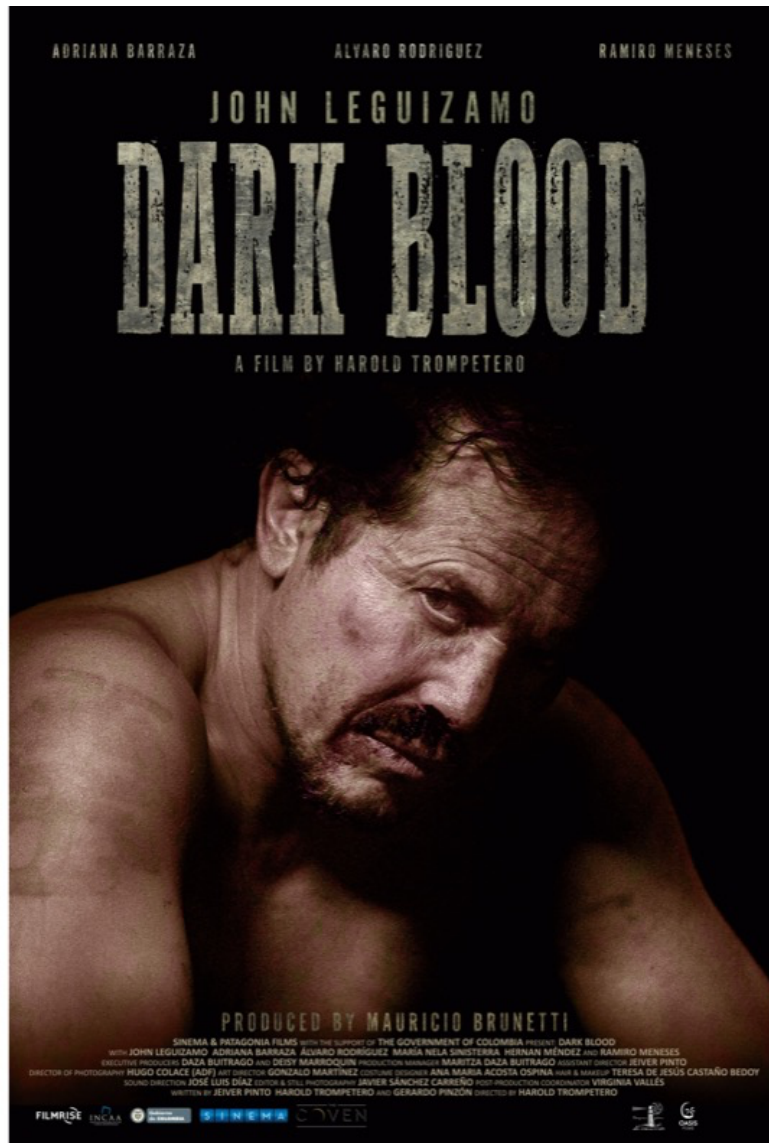




Presents



Directed by Harold Trompetero
Written by Jeiver Pinto, Gerardo Pinzon, Harold Trompetero

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DARK BLOOD
RT: 83 minutes

LOGLINE

While waiting to be sentenced for a revenge crime against his child's killer, an incarcerated man finds solace in the bond he forms with the dog of the prison.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A father (Leguizamo) awaits his prison sentence for a revenge crime against the man who killed his child, meanwhile facing horrible dangers from inmates and prison guards.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Misael is imprisoned, waiting to be sentenced for a revenge crime against the man who killed his child. During his confinement, he must adapt to a new life of abuse, including injury and humiliation by guards and other prisoners. His former life starts to become a distant memory as he is forgotten by his loved ones. Misael, lonely and abandoned, finds affection and tenderness in Sarna, the dog of the prison.

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

Why did you make the film?

"Arriving one day from Puerto Rico to Bogotá, I brought home a sign that said, 'True Love'. I thought of where I could place it and decided that the best spot for it was the doghouse. I began thinking about the love that exists between dogs and humans and, from there, I started to work on the script with Javier Pinto and Gerardo Pinzon, which then later became the film."

What was it like filming in Columbia?

"It was wonderful. The story takes place in a prison, and we were able to shoot in a real abandoned prison. We found former inmates who served sentences there, and who later became actors and collaborators in the film. They brought a lot of weight to the project."

What was it like shooting in a daunting setting like a prison every day?

"It was a difficult but satisfying experience. John Leguizamo, Ramiro Meneses, Álvaro Rodríguez and other actors went to live on a farm near the prison. After the day's shoot, we would rehearse and discuss all of the scenes for the following day. We slept and ate together in that house, and we formed a warm brotherhood among us. This was beneficial because we would then go shoot in a prison, which is a very cold and harsh place."

What was your biggest challenge in making the film?

“There were many challenges. The scenes in which John is locked and punished in his cell were very hard. There was a lot of dirt and dust, we were locked in, and it was very cold and John hardly had any clothes on. The other big challenge was shooting all the scenes with dogs, which are beautiful but very hard to coordinate.”

What was the hardest scene to film?

“There were many difficult scenes, especially the ones involving dog interactions, but there was one scene in which John Leguizamo and Álvaro Rodríguez were fighting and, in the middle of the set, Álvaro crashed against a metal closet and cut his head. That was very difficult.”

What was it like to work with John? What did he bring to set every day?

“It was such a wonderful experience working with John. I had made a film with him in the past, but it was a comedy. Since this is such an intense drama, it was like working with an actor I was totally unfamiliar with. John fell in love with the project. When I sent him the script for notes, he said he wanted to play the role of Misael and truly gave his heart and soul. It was incredible.”

How was John able to bond with the dog?

“It was a long process. We were able to find a trainer who rescued abandoned dogs off the street. This was necessary in case we had to substitute one dog for another during shooting. John would go every day to play with the dogs and their trainer, so he forged a strong bond between them. The trainer was living near the farm where we stayed, so he came by with the dogs all the time at night. It was a beautiful thing for such a complex story like the one in DARK BLOOD.”

There was clearly a distance between Misael & Clara in the film. What was the process like for John and Maria to be able to depict that disconnect between husband and wife?

“The story between Misael and Clara is the story of a betrayal that reaches unexpected limits. What we did was we created a great distance between both actors so that we could translate that distance on screen, even though they did end up becoming very close.”

What's the main message that you want audiences to take away from this film?

“More than a message, what I want is to make audiences think about how animals, specifically dogs, can sometimes be more sensible and have better attitudes and feelings than human beings.”

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

HAROLD TROMPETERO (Director/Writer) — Born in 1971, in Bogotá, Colombia. Trompetero graduated with a degree in Mass Media Studies from Javeriana University, has worked in publicity & advertising at the Jorge Tadeo Lozano University and studied film in Cuba, Spain and France. He was Creative Director of Leo Burnett Bogota for 4 years as well as Siboney USA for 5 years. He has received top prizes at many festivals: Cannes (Golden Lion), FIAP, New York Festival, Moebius Telly, among others. He has also received production grants by the Colombian government. Trompetero has worked in film and television, done commercial work and music videos as well video art and literature. In December of 2000, he debuted his first feature film, DIÁSTOLE Y SÍSTOLE: LOS MOVIMIENTOS DEL CORAZÓN, which was awarded in the categories of Best Actress, Best Actor and more at the Cartagena International Film Festival and also received a prize in Tortono. He has worked on nearly 30 movies as director and producer.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

JOHN LEGUIZANO (Misael) — John Leguizamo is a Colombian-born American actor, stand-up comedian, producer, playwright and screenwriter. He rose to fame with a co-starring role in SUPER MARIO BROS as Luigi and a supporting role in the crime drama CARLITO'S WAY. He later notably appeared in the film TO WONG FOO, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, JULIE NEWMAR, for which he was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor. He has also appeared in SPAWN, MOULIN ROUGE, LAND OF THE DEAD, SUMMER OF SAM, CHEF, JOHN WICK, JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2, THE HAPPENING and ROMEO + JULIET.

He had a recurring role on ER and was a series regular on THE KILL POINT. He is also known for his role as Ozzy Delvecchio on BLOODLINE.

As of 2009, he has appeared in over 75 films, produced over 10 films, starred on Broadway in several productions (winning several awards, including a Special Tony Award), made over 12 television appearances and has produced or starred in many other television shows. He has been nominated for four Primetime Emmy Awards, winning one in 1999 for his performance in FREAK.

ADRIANA BARRAZA (Gloria Vera) — Adriana Barraza is a Mexican actress, acting teacher and director.

In 1999, director Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu cast her as the mother of Gael Garcia Bernal's character in AMORES PERROS, which was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. In 2006, she collaborated with Iñárritu again in BABEL, for which she received a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Barraza is known in Mexico as “Master Barraza,” from her partnership with Mexican director Sergio Jimenez, known as “El Profe.” They created the Actors Workshop in Mexico City, teaching and developing their own version of method acting. Barraza began her career directing telenovela episodes, the actors in which she would also coach. In the 1990s, she decided to step in front of the camera.

She currently operates her own acting school located in Miami, Florida titled “Adriana Barraza’s Black Box.” Instructors at the school include her husband Arnaldo and daughter Carolina.

Other roles include: THOR, RAMBO: LAST BLOOD, CAKE, DRAG ME TO HELL as well as TV roles for THE STRAIN and PENNY DREADFUL: CITY OF ANGELS

RAMIRO MENESES (Antonio) — Ramiro Meneses is a Colombian actor and director with more than 35 years experience in television and film. Directing credits include AMO DE CASA, VICTORINOS, MADRE LUNA, OJO POR OJO and RUTA 35 for Univision. Acting credits include EL BROX: ENTRE EL CIELO Y EL INFIERNO, LA LEY DEL CORAZON and LA VIUDA NEGRA.

CREDITS

CAST

Misael	JOHN LEGUIZANO
Caceres	ALVARO RODRIGUEZ
Clara	MARIA NELA SINISTERRA
Gloria Vera	ADRIANA BARRAZA
Pascual	HERNAN MENDEZ
Antonio	RAMIRO MENESES

CREW

Directed by	HAROLD TROMPETERO
Written by	HAROLD TROMPETERO JEIVER PINTO GERARDO PINZON
Produced by	MAURICIO BRUNETTI
Executive Producer	MARITIZA DAZA BUITRAGO
Executive Producer	DEISY MARROQUIN
Director of Photography	HUGO COLACE
Editor	JAVIER SANCHEZ CARRENO
Sound Designer	JOSE LUIS DIAZ
Head of Sound Direction	NESTOR VELOZ

Sound Mixer

TAURO DIGITAL

Production Designer

GONZALO MARTINEZ

Costume Designer

ANA MARIA
ACOSTA OSPINA

Makeup & Hair Designer

TERESA DE JESUS
CATANO BEDOYA

Assistant Director

JEIVER PINTOS

Pre-Production Coordinator

VIRGINIA VALLES

Production Manager

HUGO COLACE

Visual Effects

GONZALO GUTIERREZ

Digital Composition

JAVIER PAZANO