***ON THE FRINGE****Venice Film Festival 2022 - Orizzonti*

Directed by Juan Diego Botto  
Starring Penélope Cruz, Luis Tosar and Adelfa Calvo

![Imagen borrosa de un hombre

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**SYNOPSIS**

*On The Fringe* is a film about family, love and solidarity. A countdown for three intertwined characters trying to keep it together and get through 24 vital hours that will change their lives. On the Fringe explores the impact of economic stress on personal relationships and how friendship and solidarity can get us through life’s most difficult moments. A thrilling race against the clock on the fringe of a big city.

**DIRECTOR’S NOTES**

Federico García Lorca wrote: "Underneath the multiplications there is a drop of blood..." The Spanish poet was referring to the reality that often lies beneath the statistics. Around 41,000 evictions take place every year in Spain, more than 100 a day. In this film we tell three stories behind those statistics.

On the Fringe explores the impact of an acute external crisis on personal relationships: the way an economic crunch can affect couples, parents and children. And within that, the role that women play in holding families together during hard times; how losing one’s job, one’s income, triggers different reactions in different people.

Our story focuses on a day in the life of three characters. All of them are affected in one way or another by an eviction and all of them have 24 hours to resolve a situation that will change their lives forever.

On the one hand, RAFA, an activist lawyer who has reached the crossroads and will have to decide between his social commitments and his relationship. Until now, he has been prepared to devote all his time to helping others. But that time is taken from his family, as though life were a zero-sum game where no balance is possible.

AZUCENA has 24 hours to try to avoid losing her home and finding herself on the street. She has fought tooth and nail to keep her family together, but she now faces the challenge of her life.

And finally TEODORA, an older woman determined to prevent her son from taking the blame for events he cannot change.

The three intertwined stories share common roots. The characters and plots intersect and entangle as we run down the minutes to the moment of truth and the resolution of our protagonists’ conflicts.

* **Juan Diego Botto**

**DIRECTOR’S FILMOGRAPHY**

JUAN DIEGO BOTTO is a Spanish actor who was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 1978, during the military dictatorship, his family was forced into exile, and moved to Spain. He studied acting at the Cristina Rota School in Madrid and the HB Studio in New York, and at the age of 18 he participated in his first feature film as the main character in Spanish director Montxo Armendariz's 1995 *Historias del Kronen*, which was premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

Botto has acted in more than 50 films, as well as some 10 television productions and several plays. He has featured in films by Spanish directors such as Montxo Armendáriz, (*Broken Silence*, *Obaba*), Imanol Uribe, (Full Moon) Víctor García Leon, (*The Europeans,* *Go Away From Me*) as well as American directors such as John Malcovich (*The Dancer Upstairs*) or James Gunn (*The Suicide Squad*), as well as Argentinean directors such as Adolfo Aristarain *(Martin H., Roma*) or Marcelo Piñeyro (*The Widows of Thursdays*, *Ismael*).

Among his most notable television performances are Good Behavior, directed by Chad Hodge or Pau Freixas’ *Todos mienten*.

He has written six plays, including *Un trozo invisible de este mundo* (MAX Award for Best Show, Best Actor and Best New Playwright) and *Una Noche sin Luna* for which he received three MAX Awards, as well as the National Theater Award 2021.

He has five Goya nominations, including for his performances in Ismael, *Go Away From Me* and *The Europeans*, as well as several Actors’ Union and Feroz nominations.

He directed *Doble Moral*, which is part of the multi-part feature, *With Good Reason*, along with Gourmet, an episode in the series *Tales of the Lockdown* for Amazon Prime Video.

**CAST**

Penélope Cruz Azucena

Luís Tosar Rafa

Adelfa Calvo Teodora

Christian Checa Raúl

Juan Diego Botto Manuel

Font García Germán

Aixa Villagrán Helena

Nur Levi Alejandra

**PENÉLOPE CRUZ Azucena**

Penelope Cruz has proved her versatility playing a variety of compelling characters. She is the first Spanish actress to win an Academy Award.  
Introduced to American audiences in the Spanish films *Jamon, Jamon* and *Belle Époque* in 1998 she starred in her first English language film, *Hi-lo Country*. In 1999, Cruz won the Best Actress Goya Award *For The Girl Of Your Dreams*.

Cruz’s credits include Billy Bob Thornton’s *All The Pretty Horses*, Alejandro Amenabar’s *Open Your Eyes*, Pedro Almodóvar’s *Live Flesh* and *All About My Mother* which was awarded the Golden Globe and Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Cruz has also starred in Ted Damme’s *Captain Corelli’s Mandolin*, *Vanilla Sky*, *Don’t Move (Non Ti Muovere)* for which she received a David Di Donatello Award (Italian Oscar) and European Film Award for Best Actress.

In 2006, Cruz starred in *Volver*, for Pedro Almodóvar and won Best Actress awards at the European Film Awards, the Goya Awards (Spanish Oscar), the Cannes Film Festival, and received both Golden Globe and Oscar nominations. Then for *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* Cruz won an Oscar, a BAFTA, an NYFCC, and an NBR Award for Best Supporting Actress.  
For her performance in NINE she received SAG, Golden Globe and Oscar nominations.

Some of her other credits are *Pirates Of The Caribbean*, Woody Allen's *To Rome With Love*, Ridley Scott’s thriller *The Counselor, Zoolander 2* and Fernando Leon de Aranoa’s *Loving Pablo*.

In 2018, Cruz made her US television debut in Ryan Murphy’s *American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace*. Her performance as Donatella Versace, earned her Emmy, Golden Globe, and SAG award nominations. In March 2018, she was presented with the Honorary César Award by France’s Academy of Arts and Techniques of Cinema for her collective work in film.

More recently, Cruz appeared in Pedro Almodóvar’s *Madres Paralelas* receiving the Volpi Cup for the Best Actress Award and an Academy Award nomination and COMPETENCIA OFICIAL.

Up next, Cruz stars in Emanuele Crialese’s *L’immensita* and Juan Diego Botto’s social thriller *On The Fringe*. Both films are set to premiere at Venice Film Festival in 2022.

**LUIS TOSAR Rafa**

Luis Tosar began his career in theater and short films, later becoming known for his role in the popular Spanish television series *Mareas Vivas*.

Since then he has worked with prestigious directors such as José Luis Borau, Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón, Joaquín Oristrell, Icíar Bollaín, Fernando León de Aranoa, Daniel Monzón, Jaume Balagueró, Gracia Querejeta, Emilio Aragón, Daniel Calparsoro, Kike Maíllo, Ces Gay, Isaki Lacuesta, Julio Médem, Salva Calvo, Daniel de la Torre and many others.

Internationally, he has worked with directors such as Michael Mann in Miami Vice, Clive Gordon in Cargo, Jim Jarmusch in *Limits of Control*, and Bernad Rose in *Mr. Nice*.

He has received many prestigious awards such as the Golden Shell for Best Actor at the San Sebastian Festival, the Gaudí Award, the José María Forqué Award, the Mestre Mateo Award for audiovisual arts and the María Casares Award for theater. He has also been recognized as Best Actor ex aequo at the Biarritz Festival and at the Miami Festival; he received the Honor Award with the Golden Spike at the Seminci, and a career tribute at the Malaga Film Festival. He has three Goyas from the Spanish Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

He has starred on three occasions in the Voll-Damm beer advertising campaign directed by director Daniel Monzón and Dani de la Torre respectively: *Doble o Nada, Apolo y Zeus* and *El arrepentido*, which were widely praised.

After Yucatán, by Daniel Monzón, he has appeared in *La sombra de la ley*, by Dani de la Torre, *Ola de crímenes*, by Gracia Querejeta, *Quien a hierro mata*, by Paco Plaza, *Intemperie* by Benito Zambrano, and *Ventajas de viajar en tren*, by Aritz Moreno. And in television he premiered the series *Los favoritos de Midas*, by Mateo Gil.

His latest television work includes *Adú* by Salvador Calvo, *Hasta el cielo* by Daniel Calparsoro, *Way Down* by Jaume Balagueró, *Maixabel* by Iciar Bollaín, *Emperor Code* by Jorge Coira and *Canallas* by Daniel Guzmán.

**FONT GARCÍA Germán**

Font García Huelva studied with Cristina Rota and continued his training with teachers such as Fernando Piernas and Luís Blat.

He came into contact with the theater with the Huelva-based company La breva where he performed in several of his own productions.

He is a founding member of the Club Caníbal company, premiering the trilogy *Crónicas ibéricas*, *Desde aquí veo sucia la plaza*, *Herederos del ocaso*, *Todo esto algún día será tuyo*, and recently performed in his fourth production at the CDN: Alfonso el Africano.

Other notable theater productions include Golfa by José Padilla, *La valentía* by Alfredo Sanzol, *Monsieur Goya* by Laura Ortega, *Carne viva* by Denise Despeyroux, and *Trampolín reforma 7B* by Fernando Piernas.

He has extensive experience in television, acting in several series, the most recent being *Vida perfecta* by Leticia Dolera, *Mira lo que has hecho* by Berto Romero, and *La chica invisible* by Dysney Plus.

In cinema he has participated in the feature films *The Good Boss*, by Fernando León de Aranoa, *The Fury of a Patient Man* by Raúl Arévalo, *When Angels Sleep* by Gonzalo Bendala, and *On the Fringe* by Juan Diego Botto.

**ADELFA CALVO Teodora**

Adelfa Calvo is a Spanish actress born in Malaga. She was known for her role as a maid in the popular tv series *El Secreto de Puente Viejo*. In the big screen, she was recognized and she won several prizes for her interpretation in *El Autor* aka *The Motive*, starring with Javier Gutierrez: 27th Spanish Actors Guild Award, Award for “Best Supporting actress”, Goya for the “The Best Supporting Actress, Feroz Prize 2018. She worked with prestigious directors such as Pedro Almodóvar, Benito Zembrano, Daniel Guzmán among others.

**CHRISTIAN CHECA Raúl**

Christian Checa was born in Madrid and began his acting career at the age of 12 in television advertising, appearing at the age of 14 in his first short film: Andrómeda. His television debut was in the TVE series Sonata del silencio, playing Eduardo Noriega's son. Among his subsequent works are the short film *Método Pigs*, by Boris Kozlov in 2018 and, that same year, his first film role was in with the film *75 Days*, by Marc Romero. His next film will be *The Consequences*, directed by Claudia Pinto, and he will continue to make television appearances in series such as *Estoy vivo*, *Brigada Costa del Sol*, *Vamos Juan*, or *Desaparecidos*. In 2021 he appeared in *On the Fringe*, directed by Juan Diego Botto, playing Luis Tosar's son and which will be released on September 30. This year he has appeared in *Un largo viaje de corta distancia*, directed by Víctor Nores, alongside Elisabet Gelabert.

**AIXA VILLAGRAN Helena**

Aixa Villagrán is an actress from Seville with extensive training and experience in film, television, and theater.

In television she has starred in two seasons of Vida Perfecta (Movistar +) and participated in such well-known series as *¿Qué fue de Jorge Sanz?* (Movistar +), *Los hombres de Paco* (Antena 3), *Allí Abajo* (Antena 3), *Vergüenza* (Movistar +), *Arde Madrid* (Movistar +) and *Derecho a soñar* (TVE), among others.

On the big screen he has also worked with leading directors such as David Trueba (*Malas Tardes*), Miguel Bardem (*Mortadelo y Filemón*. *Misión salvar el planeta*), Fernando León de Aranoa (*Amador*), Iciar Bollaín (*Mataharis*), Gerard Jugo (*Fashion Victim*), Paco León (*Kiki, Love to Love*) and Nely Reguera (*María y los demás*), among others.

Following the critically acclaimed 2021 international box office success *Crazy About Her*, directed by Dani de la Orden and the theatrical release that same year of the comedy *More the Merrier*, directed by Paco Caballero, in 2022 Aixa has shot *On the Fringe* the Amazon Prime Video film *Mañana es hoy*, directed by Nacho García Velilla and the Netflix series *La chica de nieve*, directed by David Ulloa.

**NUR LEVI Alejandra**

Nur Levi was born in Madrid has been acting since she was a child, starting her training at the age of 12 and graduating from Cristina Rota's Acting School.

When she was only six years old, she appeared in Jaime Chavarri's film *El río de oro*, although her debut had taken place a year earlier, in 1985 in *Teo, el pelirrojo*, directed by Paco Lucio. In 2000 she appeared in Joaquín Oristrell's *No Shame* and John Malkovich's *The Dancer Upstairs*. She has worked with directors such as Félix Cabeza in *El refugio del mal*, Fernando Colomo in *The Near East*, or Peter Greenaway in *The Tulse Luper Suitcases*. Her most recent films are *The Replacement*, directed by Óscar Aibar and *On the Fringe*, the directorial debut of Juan Diego Botto.

Her extensive theatrical experience, with more than twenty years on the stage, has seen her perform in major productions such as Tom Stoppard’s Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are *Dead*, Tamzim Townsend’s production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as Hamlet and *The Fall of the Gods*, both by Tomaz Pandur. Among her most recent appearances are *Los hijos de Vulcano* by Marta Torres, *Ecos*, directed by Livija Pandur, Que no...? by Jesús Cracio and *Ladies Football Club* by Sergio Peris-Mencheta.

Notable television appearances incluido *Doctor Mateo*, for Antena 3, *Diario de una abuela de verano* for Televisión Española, and *Punta Escarlata* for Telecinco. In 2018 she appeared in the BBC series *The Mallorca Files*, and in 2019 she was in the TNT series *The Alienist* alongside Daniel Brühl, Luke Evans and Dakota Fanning. Her latest television project is the TVE series HIT.

**CREW**

Director Juan Diego Botto

Producers Penélope Cruz and Álvaro Longoria

Executive Producers Yana Georgina and Stephen Kelligher

Coproducer André Logie

Production director Josep Amorós

Screenwriters Juan Diego Botto and Olga Rodríguez

Cinematographer Arnau Valls Colomer AEC

Music Eduardo Cruz

Art Director Clara Notari

Wardrobe design Wanda Morales

Makeup and hair design   Pablo Iglesias and Manuela Merino

Editor Mapa Pastor

**PRODUCTION DETAILS**

Shooting schedule Six weeks

Locations Madrid and Madrid region

Language Spanish

Producers Penélope Cruz, On The Fringe AIE and Panache Productions

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