



GIORNATE  
DEGLI AUTORI  
VENICE DAYS

Press Book

# the life of fish

a film by  
**Matías Bize**

**CENECA**  
PRODUCCIONES

# the life

ITALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS

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# of fish INDEX

Credits	4
Storyline	5
Synopsis	6
Director's note	7
Press Review	8
Biographies	9-14
Pictures	15-17

**CENECA**  
PRODUCCIONES

**ARTE Francia**



GOBIERNO DE  
**CHILE**  
CONSEJO NACIONAL DE  
LA CULTURA Y LAS ARTES  
FONDO DE FOMENTO AUDIOVISUAL

# CREDITS

## Production Company

CENECA PRODUCCIONES.  
With the participation from  
ARTE FRANCE and TELEVISIÓN  
NACIONAL DE CHILE

## Cast list

Andrés  
Beatriz  
Mariana  
Pablo  
Ignacio  
Roberto  
Guille  
Caro  
Daniela  
Maca  
Jorge

Santiago Cabrera  
Blanca Lewin  
Antonia Zegers  
Víctor Montero  
Sebastián Layseca  
Juan Pablo Miranda  
Luz Jiménez  
Maria Gracia Omegna  
Alicia Rodríguez  
Francisca Cárdenas  
Diego Fontecilla

## Technical credits

Director  
Producer  
Writer  
Director of photography  
Art director  
Editing  
Music  
Associated Producer

MATIAS BIZE  
ADRIAN SOLAR  
JULIO ROJAS / MATIAS BIZE  
BARBARA ALVAREZ  
NICOLE BLANC  
JAVIER ESTEVEZ  
DIEGO FONTECILLA  
Paulo de Carvalho, Klara Beverly,  
Nathalie Trafford

Genre  
Format  
Running time  
Language  
Production country

DRAMA  
35mm / Colour  
83 minutes  
Spanish  
Chile

## Contact

Adrián Solar (Producer)  
adrian@ceneca.cl

# STORYLINE

Andres has been living in Germany for 10 years. He returns to Chile to bring closure on his past before settling for good in Berlin. During his visit, he attends a friend's birthday party where he rediscovers the world he had left behind, including his long-time love Beatriz. This reunion could change Andres' life forever.



# SYNOPSIS

Andres (33) has been living in Germany for 10 years and is a journalist for a travel magazine. He is constantly traveling and visiting amazing places. However, he leads a lonely life and with no ties to any particular place.

Andres returns to his native Chile to solve pending affairs from his past before starting a new life in Berlin. During his stay, he attends a friend's birthday party and rediscovers the past he has chosen to forget.

The story develops entirely at this party as he is saying goodbye to his friends. We see him interact with his childhood friends, their children, the maid of the house, and with the love of his life, Beatriz, with whom he has unfinished affairs with.

Andres tries to relate to his friends that once were an important part of his life. However, he finds little in common with them now.

The film reflects on relationships, fear of commitment, double standards, and how relationships can often be transitional, this a metaphor of how we relate in today's transitory world.

The reunion of Andres and Beatriz causes them to reassess the life decisions they have taken and how their lives may have turned out had they acted differently. Andres and Beatriz speak of decision, of reencounters, and second chances. They make us question our own lives, how we relate, and what we want to build for the future.

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“The Life of Fish” is a movie that takes place in ‘real time’. The film is about Andrés, the protagonist, who spends 83 minutes confronting his past and his present. And this may well decide the outcome of his future.

Andrés feels like a tourist in his own country and with his own friends. The audience will experience the film through Andrés’ eyes, through the eyes of this tourist who will eventually become part of his scenery.

“The Life of Fish” is a drama that talks about ‘lost opportunities’, ‘old friends’, ‘the second greatest lost opportunities’, and ‘the great love of our life’. The film takes place in a single night at a party. It is a story that occurs in one location, and in a sole narrative period. The audience will follow Andrés, as a voyeur, as he leaves the party.

My idea was to tell the story as simply as possible and follow Andrés through his process.

I wanted to tell the story in an emotional way; using the camera to penetrate deeply into the characters. The dialogue is very important in this film, but in some cases, what is not said: the silences, the looks, are even more important.

‘The goodbyes’ is another important concept that I was interested in working with. It is here where the most important moments in the relationships happen. We don’t know if we will ever see these people again in our lives. The entire film then happens as Andrés leaves the party and says bye.

‘Parties’ in general may be the last remaining activities where we find human interaction. The rest is all internet and virtual relationships. It seems to me then, that the party is a perfect place to analyze society as a whole.

This is my most personal project, a love story that I feel of most magnitude, and also of most complexity. This movie is a reflection of my evolution as a director and is the one who represents me the best.

# PRESS REVIEW

**What the Chilean film critics have said of “La Vida de los Peces (The Life of Fish)” after its national premiere:**

“The result is absolute excellence.”

**Ascanio Cavallo**  
“Sabado” Supplement, El Mercurio  
Newspaper

“Matias Bize does an astounding directing job.”

**Rene Naranjo**  
The Clinic Newspaper

“Matias Bize at this level is by far the most solid and brilliant Chilean filmmaker.”

**Ana Josefa Silva**  
La Segunda Newspaper

“His search advances on solid steps. Incredible.”

**Christian Ramirez**  
Capital Magazine

“In that moment, when stares show frustration and the silences speak, it's where “La Vida de los Peces (The Life of Fish)” reaches genuine emotion.

**Marcelo Macellari**  
El Mercurio Valparaiso Newspaper

“It's the best film he has done up to now, because he carefully selects what he wants to propose, and focuses his energies in the possibilities of his actors, locations, and dialogues.”

**Lidice Varas**  
La Nacion Newspaper

“La Vida de los Peces (The Life of Fish)”, a memorable story with out of sight performances.”

**Ernesto Garrat**  
“Wiken” Supplement, El Mercurio  
Newspaper

“La Vida de los Peces (The Life of Fish)” left me speechless. Santiago Cabrera is the best Chilean actor ever. It is possible to act with only the pupils. Well done Bize!”

**Pablo Illanes**  
Film Director

“La Vida de los Peces (The Life of Fish)” has one of the best endings of Chilean cinema”.

**Alejandro Alaluf**  
La Tercera Newspaper

“Matias Bize does not look at the navel of his world, he enriches and amplifies the horizons of his craft.”

**Antonio Martinez**  
“Wiken” Supplement, El Mercurio  
Newspaper.



# BIOGRAPHIES

## Director

### Matías Bize

Matías Bize is a graduate from the Escuela de Cine de Chile (Chilean Film School). At the age of 23, he directed the film “Sabado” (Saturday) (2003), premiering worldwide in the Official Selection section of the “International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg”. The film obtained 4 awards, including the “Rainer Werner Fassbinder” award. The film went on to participate in various film festivals obtaining multiple awards and excellent reviews.

He later directed the film “En la Cama” (“In Bed”) (2005), a Chilean-German co-production, premiering worldwide at the “Locarno International Film Festival”. It won the “Golden Spike” award, at the Valladolid International Film Festival, converting Matias in the youngest director to obtain the prize. This film has more than 36 international prizes and has been showing commercially worldwide. The specialized magazine “Cahiers du Cinéma”, described Matias as “the most promising filmmaker of Chilean cinema”.

In Barcelona he directed “Lo Bueno de Llorar” (“About Crying”) (2007) a Spanish-Chilean co-production premiering worldwide in the “Locarno International Film Festival”. He received a special Jury award and the Critic’s Choice award in the Valdivia International Film Festival. The film has obtained many awards at several other international festivals.

Currently Matias is working on the promotion of his new film “The Life of Fish” (2010).

# BIOGRAPHIES

## Producer

### Adrián Solar

Between 1977 and 1983 he worked as a line producer of six films produced in Germany (three dramas and three documentaries), all of which were made for the German Television.

Since 1984 he has been the executive producer of over twentyfive films in Germany, Argentina, Brasil and Chile ("La Amiga, Un Viaje hacia Iberá", "Raul Silva Henríquez – Cardenal", "Taxi para Tres", "La Última Huella", "El Huesped" ), with directors such as, Antonio Skármeta, Orlando Lübbert, Gayla Jamison, Jeanine Meerapfel, Alcides Chiessa, Ricardo Larraín, Ignacio Agüero, Jorge Durán, Paola Castillo, Coke Hidalgo, Matías Bize).

He now works as Executive Producer of his own firma CENECA Producciones, and is currently participating in the following projects: "Mi mejor enemigo" (My best enemy) (drama, directed by Alex Bowen, coproduction with Argentina), "El Huesped" (The guest) (directed by Coke Hidalgo), "En la cama" (In Bed) (drama, directed by Matias Bize), "La Vida de los Peces" (The life of fish (Drama, directed by Matias Bize).

He is also coproducer of the films:

- "Dois perdidos numa noite suja" ("Lost in a Dirty Night". Brasil/Chile, 2002, directed by José Joffly)
- "Cuase dois hermanos" ("Two Brothers". Brasil/Chile, 2004, directed by Lucia Murat)
- "Prohibido Prohibir" ("Forbidden to Forbid". Brasil/Chile 2007, directed by Jorge Durán)

In 2007, he is given the Luis Buñuel award of the Federation of Iberoamerican Producers (Federación Iberoamericana de Productores) for the production of: En La Cama (In Bed)

# BIOGRAPHIES

## Cast

### Santiago Cabrera

Santiago Cabrera is currently filming the historic epic CRISTIADA alongside Andy Garcia and Peter O'Toole, playing the lead role of Father Vega, a priest turned General during the Cristero War in 1920's Mexico. He was most recently seen in Steven Soderbergh's film CHE opposite Benicio del Toro, where he won critical acclaim for his portrayal of legendary Cuban guerrilla commander Camilo Cienfuegos.

Santiago trained at London's prestigious Drama Centre under renowned instructors Yat Malgrem and Christopher Fettes, whose students include many great actors, among them Sir Sean Connery and Sir Anthony Hopkins.

During his final year at the Centre, he made his debut with small roles in British television. His first role after graduating from drama school was Montano in Shakespeare's OTHELLO, at the London Greenwich Theatre, directed by Rupert Goold. He also played Romeo on stage in London's Middle Temple Hall production of ROMEO AND JULIET.

Cabrera starred in the films LOVE AND OTHER DISASTERS opposite Brittany Murphy and HAVEN opposite Orlando Bloom and Bill Paxton before making his first appearance on American television in the lead role of Octavius in ABC's epic mini series EMPIRE. Most notably, he is known for his breakthrough role in the highly successful first season of NBC's ensemble drama series HEROES. He played Isaac Mendez, a heroin-addicted artist whose dark, violent and apocalyptic paintings are premonitions of future events.

Santiago can soon be seen in the romantic comedy MEANT TO BE, alongside Kelly Reilly and Mia Maestro.

Cabrera grew up in London, Romania, Toronto and Madrid. Although he considers Santiago, Chile, his hometown, he currently splits his time between London and Los Angeles. In addition to his native Spanish language, he is fluent in English, French and Italian.

LA VIDA DE LOS PECES is Cabrera's first work in his home country Chile.

# BIOGRAPHIES

## Blanca Lewin

Blanca Lewin was born in 1974, Santiago, Chile.

After graduating from Acting at the University (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), she has developed until now a successful career in theatre, television and film since 1997.

Her Filmography includes (all in leading roles), "Angel Negro" (1999) and "Sangre Eterna" (Eternal Blood, 2002), both directed by Jorge Olguín. "Sábado, una película en tiempo real" (Sábado: Das Hochzeitstape, 2003), "En la Cama" (In Bed, 2005) and "La Vida de los Peces (2010), all of them directed by Matías Bize.

Outside of Chile, also in leading roles, "Íntimos y Extraños" (Ruben Alonso, Spain, 2008) and "New Brooklyn" (Chris Cannucciari, U.S.A. 2009).

Along with Matías Bize's works, she's earned awards for both "Sábado" and "En la Cama".

For "Sábado" she earned a "Special Mention for Best Acting Performance" at the 52nd Mannheim International Film Festival (Mannheim-Heidelberg, Germany, November 2003) and the "Best Female Actor" at the Down Under International Film Festival (Australia, 2004).

For "En la Cama" she earned in Chile in 2005 the following awards: "Best Actress Wikén, The best in Chilean Film 2005" by Wikén Magazine; Best Actress by APES (Association of performing arts journalists) and the "Paod" for Best Female Actor on a leading role at the 17th Viña del Mar International Film Festival. And in 2006 the "Pedro Sienna" for Best Leading Actress (National Council for Culture and Arts, Arts Council and the Audiovisual Industry); and the "Altazor" (National Arts Award) for Best Actress.

Outside of Chile, also for "En la Cama" in 2006 she earned a Best Actress award at the 10th "El Cine" Lima International Film Festival (Peru). Later in 2007, the "Silver Afrodita" for Best Female Acting at the 2nd Cyprus International Film Festival (Greece) and the FIPRESCI Award to the Best Female Acting in a Foreign Language at the 18th Annual Palm Springs Festival (U.S.A)

## Cinematographer

### Barbara Alvarez

Born January 3rd. 1970 in Montevideo, Uruguay. From 1988 to 1991 I followed a course of Communication Sciences at the Catholic University of Uruguay. During the same period I also attended courses of appreciation of photography, press photography and Introduction to Filmmaking. In 1992 I began work as a camera assistant for several Production Companies in Montevideo. In 1997 I attended The course of Cinematography II at the International Film and Television School of San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba, given by Raúl Rodríguez DP.

From 1994 I worked as a Director of Photography in tv spots, music videos, documentaries, short and feature films. Some of these works were made in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Feature Films (as Cinematographer and Camera Operator):

- "25 watts"- Uruguay, 2000. Dir. Pablo Stoll, Juan Pablo Rebella
- "El Viaje hacia el Mar"- Uruguay, 2002. Dir. Guillermo Casanova
- "Whisky"- Uruguay, 2003. Dir. Pablo Stoll, Juan Pablo Rebella
- "El Custodio"- Argentina, 2005. Dir. Rodrigo Moreno
- "Acné"- Uruguay, 2007. Dir. Federico Veiroj
- "La Mujer sin Cabeza"- Argentina, 2007. Dir. Lucrecia Martel
- "Rompecabezas"- Argentina, 2009. Dir. Natalia Smirnoff
- "La Vida de los Peces"- Chile, 2009. Dir. Matías Bize

Documentaries (as Cinematographer and Camera Operator):

- "Jaime Roos a las 10"- Uruguay, 1994. Dir. Guillermo Casanova
- "Aiguá, abrevadero del alma"- Uruguay, 1997. Alberto Kurucz
- "Las Lágrimas de Eros"- Uruguay, 1998. Dir. Maida Moubayed
- "Vacuum"- Uruguay-Alemania, 2005. María Teresa Curzio

# BIOGRAPHIES

## Screenwriter

### Julio Rojas

Julio Rojas is a Chilean author and screenwriter. Among his writings are the feature film *Sábado* (Award "Rainer Werner Fassbinder" Best Film Festival Mannheim), "Mi mejor enemigo" and "En la Cama", the latter two, nominated for the Goya, best foreign film.

# PICTURES



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# PICTURES



