

Liteo Pedregal

I am a Madrid-based film director, screenwriter, and writer who likes to define himself as "Euro-African", since I was born and raised in Ceuta, a multiracial Spanish city located halfway between Africa and Europe. I feel like a world citizen because since I was a child I attended school, among others, with Muslim, Jewish, and Indian children. I used to walk the streets of the narrow peninsula framed between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean (i.e., my born town) surrounded by Catholic, Islamic, Buddhist, and Hebrew temples.

Selected in 2016 by the Berlin Film Festival *Berlinale Talents* program, I have directed six short films, including *Imago* (2004), broadcasted on CANAL+, *The Hijra* (2011), broadcasted on the BBC, *Lost in the 5th dimension* (2013), or *Alimezber* (2020), being the two latter ones included in the short film program of the Community of Madrid. My works have been screened in France, UK, USA, Germany, Mexico, Chile, or Italy, among other countries. My feature film script *Nothing is accidental*, co-written with screenwriters José Luis Palomares and Carlos Doria, was selected in the MADRIDCREALAB laboratory, organized by the Community of Madrid Film School (ECAM), the Audiovisual Association of Madrid (AMA), and the New Filmmakers Association (PNR). As a showrunner I am in charge of the TV series project *Cinnamon skin*, a musical comedy about the racial conflict between gypsies and non-gypsies in the context of Spanish crisis.

Memoirs of the woolgatherers is a novel of intrigue set in Toledo that tells the resolution of an enigma through four characters whose lives intersect when getting through the history of the city from the times of Hercules to the 20th century. It is a novel in the purest Agatha Christie style, although without crimes or corpses. My other novel, *The Call of the Void*, tells the emotional and initiatory journey of two characters who due to very different reasons move to two places as diametrically opposed as New York and New Delhi —an emotional journey with a surprising end.

As I comment in my statement, my career path is summarized in stories that deal with the weaker sex —yes, you were right, the *male* sex. My characters are far from the *alpha-male* stereotype that conventional cinema often sells us and they live extreme situations, often in dark or parallel worlds. Such are the characters of Jaime in *The Call of the Void*, Alberto in *Alimezber*, Mohammed in *The Hijra*, Isaac in *Memoirs of the woolgatherers*, or Pelayo in *Lost in the fifth dimension*.

I am also an acting coach specialized in different acting techniques such as the Alexander Technique, which I received from the prestigious acting coach Jean-Louis Rodrigue. I have been a scriptwriter for the Madrid Film Festival, as well as a collaborator in different radio stations such as Onda Fuenlabrada and Onda Madrid as a talk-show guest specialized in cinema and literature. I am a freelance script doctor and I teach creative writing workshops. As a playwright, I am the author of several plays, such as *The law of funnels*, represented at the ETSII in Madrid, and *Troupe*, written for the theater group of the Asturian Center in Madrid.

As Wilder said, nobody is perfect. As Machado said, the road is made by walking.

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