

LUIS
TOSAR

BLANCA
PORTILLO



Donostia Zinemaldia
Festival de San Sebastián
OFFICIAL SELECTION

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

MAIXABEL

A FILM BY ICÍAR BOLLAÍN

A

FILM FACTORY

PRESENTATION

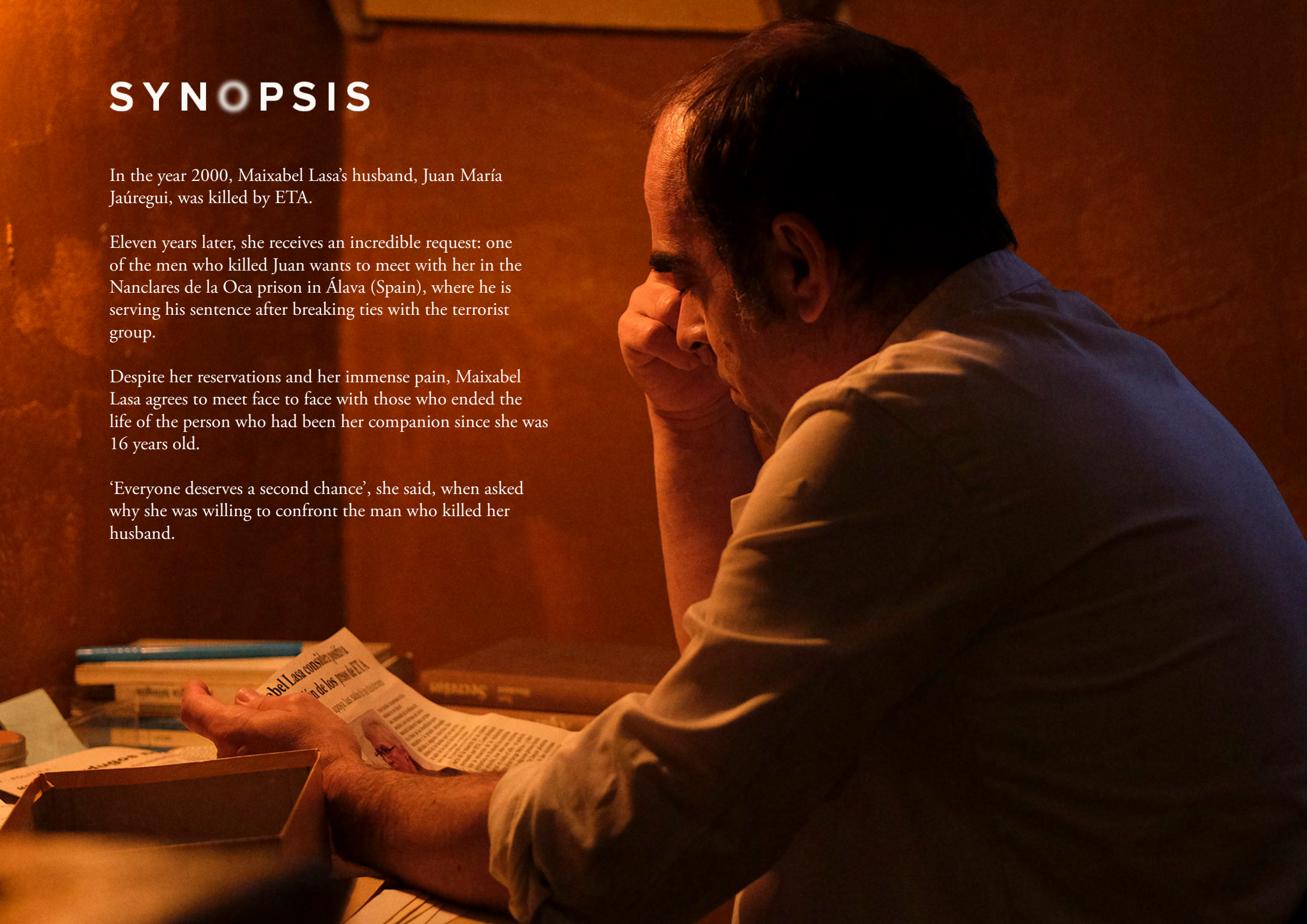
SYNOPSIS


In the year 2000, Maixabel Lasa's husband, Juan María Jaúregui, was killed by ETA.

Eleven years later, she receives an incredible request: one of the men who killed Juan wants to meet with her in the Nanclares de la Oca prison in Álava (Spain), where he is serving his sentence after breaking ties with the terrorist group.

Despite her reservations and her immense pain, Maixabel Lasa agrees to meet face to face with those who ended the life of the person who had been her companion since she was 16 years old.

'Everyone deserves a second chance', she said, when asked why she was willing to confront the man who killed her husband.



A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark jacket, is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with his eyes closed. He is standing in the rain, with numerous raindrops visible in the air around him. The background is a soft, out-of-focus greyish-blue.

S P E C S

Director **Icía Bollaín**
Production Country **Spain**
Genre **Drama**
Language **Spanish**
Status **Post-production**
Length **115 min. approx.**
Budget **3M €**
Production Companies **Kowalski Films**
Feelgood
Theatrical release in Spain **24th September, 2021**
by **Buena Vista Int.**

CAST

Maixabel **Blanca Portillo**

Ibon **Luis Tosar**

María **María Cerezuela**

Luis **Urko Olazabal**

Esther **Tamara Canosa**

Carmen **Arantxa Aranguren**



CREW

Direction **Icár Bollaín**
Screenplay **Isa Campo**
Icár Bollaín
D.O.P. **Javier Agirre**
Music **Alberto Iglesias**
Production Design **Mikel Serrano**
Editing **Nacho Ruiz Capillas**
Sound Direction **Alazne Ameztoy**
Sound Design **Juan Ferro**
Wardrobe **Clara Bilbao**
Makeup **Karmele Soler**
Hair **Sergio Pérez**
VFX **Ana Rubio**
Line Producer **Guadalupe Balaguer Trelles**
Executive Production **Koldo Zuazua**
Juan Moreno
Guillermo Sempere
Guadalupe Balaguer Trelles



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Maixabel Lasa has become a leading figure on the journey that the Basque Country is currently making towards social harmony. Her work in the Basque Government's Office for the Victims of Terrorism is well known, but not so her personal involvement in the Restorative Meetings of 2011.

There is something profoundly human in Maixabel's actions – coming face to face with the men who killed her husband, to make them understand the pain she suffered, to ask questions that only they can answer, to hear them express their deep sorrow at the pain they caused, and to decide whether their words are sincere.

For their part, these two men have undertaken a long and difficult journey, leaving behind the justifications that once caused them to take up arms, now sitting alone, face to face, with what they have done. Three lives brought together one day by terror; three paths that cross. Each individual takes a different journey towards the same destination: hope and reparation. Once face to face, they experience anger, distress, shame, fear, but also gratitude and the hope of being able to create something even the slightest bit good amid so much horror.

Through these people, the film explores the consequences and the human cost of violence, particularly for those who suffer it but also for those who exercise it, and for the society that harbours it.

In *Maixabel*, we wanted to tell the story of our recent past with feeling, sincerity, and the utmost respect for the people at its heart.





DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

Director, screenwriter and actress, Icíar Bollaín (Madrid, 1967) started out as an actress at age 15 under the direction of Víctor Erice in **The South** (1983). In 1991, she founded Producciones La Iguana to develop her own directorial projects. **Hi, Are You Alone?** (1995) was her first feature film. This was followed by **Flowers from Another World** (1999), **Take My Eyes** (2003) – winner of two Goya® Awards for best direction and best screenplay – **Mataharis** (2007), **Even the Rain** (2010), with screenplay by Paul Laverty, and **Kathmandu Lullaby** (2011). The filmmaker tried her hand at the documentary genre with **In a Foreign Land** (2014) before returning to fiction with **The Olive Tree** (2016). Two years later, she released **Yuli** (2018), and in 2020 she directed Candela Peña in **Rosa's Wedding**. Founder of CIMA (Association for Women in Film Making and Audiovisual Media), she is one of a selection of female Spanish directors who has successfully brought together audience intimacy with a unique style that combines sensitivity and elegance.

Maixabel (2021)

Rosa's Wedding (2020)

Yuli (2019)

The Olive Tree (2016)

In a Foreign Land (2014)

Kathmandu Lullaby (2011)

Even the Rain (2010)

Mataharis (2007)

There is Reason! (2004)

Take My Eyes (2003)

Flowers from Another World (1999)

Hi, Are You Alone? (1995)



KOWALSKI ◀ FILMS

Kowalski Films is an independent production house based in Oarsoaldea and represented by Koldo Zuazua. It began producing short films and over recent years has co-produced several of the most relevant feature films of the season. In addition to the historic success of **Spanish Affair** by Emilio Martínez Lázaro (winner of three Goya® Awards), the production house has worked on ten-time Goya® winner **The Giant** as well as **Coven** (five Goya®) and the prestigious films **Fire Will Come** by Oliver Laxe (winner of the Un Certain Regard Special Jury Prize at Cannes, among other awards), **Dying** and **Wounded** by Fernando Franco (winner of two Goya®), and the box-office hits **Heroes Wanted**, **We Are Pregnant**, the **Zip & Zap** saga and **Don't Listen**.

Kowalski Films co-produced the TV series **The Zone** for Movistar+ and has recently released **All the Moons** (2020) by Igor Legarreta.

It seeks out commercial films in addition to more auteurist and daring works, always in a co-production model, as it increasingly tries to attract national and international film production to the Basque Country and to promote Basque talent.

All the Moons (2020) by Igor Legarreta

Coven (2020) by Pablo Agüero

Don't Listen (2020) by Ángel Gómez

Fire Will Come (2018) by Oliver Laxe

The Zone (2017) TV series

Dying (2017) by Fernando Franco

The Giant (2017) by Aitor Arregi, José Mari Garaño

Heroes Wanted (2016) by Joaquín Mazón

We Are Pregnant (2016) by Juana Macías

Zip & Zap and the Captain's Island (2016) by Oskar Santos

Sanctuaire (2015) by Olivier Masset-Depasse

Spanish Affair (2014) by Emilio Martínez Lázaro

Wounded (2013)



feelgood

Feelgood comprises Juana Macías, Guillermo Sempere and Juan Moreno. The trio has been collaborating and working together for more than ten years, brought together by feature films, short films, documentaries and other audiovisual adventures that they have shared, but above all by their passion for what they do. A passion and an attitude that they wished to reflect in the name of their production house: Feelgood. They are convinced that it is possible to produce quality commercial film, and that is exactly what drives them.

Don't Listen (2020) by Ángel Gómez

Under the Same Roof (2019) by Juana Macías

The Zone (2017) TV series

We Are Pregnant (2016) by Juana Macías

Plans for Tomorrow (2011) by Juana Macías

