

# Ciudad Sin Sueño

A film by Guillermo García López

## Ciudad Sin Sueño

*Sleepless City*

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### Guillermo García López

**Email:** guillermo@sintagmafirms.com  
**Tel:** +34 692 024 870

### Technical Information

**Working Title:** Ciudad Sin Sueño  
**English Title:** Sleepless City  
**Director:** Guillermo García López  
**Screenplay:** Guillermo García López  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Length:** 100 min  
**Shooting location:** Madrid, Spain

**Production:** Turanga Films  
C/ Escorial, 14-3D, 28004, Madrid  
**Producer:** Lina Badenes  
**Email:** lina@turangafilms.com  
**Tel:** +34 691 719 141

### Director's Information

Guillermo García López (1985) was born in Madrid. His feature debut, *Frágil Equilibrio* (2016), premiered at IDFA, won the Goya Academy Award for Best Documentary, as well as many other awards at numerous film festivals around the world. In 2017 he created, wrote and co-directed the series *Atlánticas*, made up by 3 x 60' films: *Deshielo*, *Inmersión* and *Oscilación*, that opened on RTVE. He is an alumnus of Berlinale Talents Campus. In 2020, Guillermo received the prestigious Princess of Girona Award for Arts and Literature.

He is currently writing his first fiction feature film, *Ciudad Sin Sueño* – also selected for the Torino Film Lab, the Berlinale Script Station, the Spanish Film Academy Residency, and for Crea Conecta+, where it won Best Project, as well as creating a cinema school for young people in La Cañada, that will also be the setting of his film.

### Festival de Cannes

5, rue Charlot, F-75003 Paris  
Tel. 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 20  
Fax 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 24  
E-mail:  
residence@festival-cannes.fr  
www.festival-cannes.org

Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.





### Synopsis

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La Cañada, on the outskirts of Madrid, is one of the largest illegal settlements in Europe.

Ramon, a 12-year-old Gypsy boy has lived here his entire life, in a family with a strong sense of belonging to the community. He sees his surroundings as an enigmatic sci-fi setting, filming it through his mobile phone. The plot: time travel into the future.

Ramon's family is notified that their house is to be demolished. For the first time, Ramon sees a real chance to leave La Cañada behind, unleashing a hidden desire to live a life different from that of his parents, who will do anything to prevent the eviction.

Ramon's film shifts from a journey to the future to a reflection of his present, revealing a new vision of his universe and himself, offering him a chance to change his family's path.

### Statement of Intent

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Through Ramon's eyes, I want to portray a community with which I have had a deep bond ever since I first visited, when I was researching the evictions that had battered Spain since the 2008 crisis for my first film. I am a member of this community, teaching cinema to young people and witnessing many stories. All of them have a common thread: the dilemma of either establishing roots or abandoning the community.

This dilemma is in Ramon, who is curious, nonconforming and loyal. His loyalty to his family is called into question when the alluring and unattainable world outside La Cañada knocks at his door, albeit via an eviction order.

I seek to explore family relationships and how identity is forged in a displaced world, isolated by a system that sows discord between its inhabitants and within families themselves; a Tower of Babel, midway between rural and urban, natural and magical.

This world is the main character of the film that Ramon makes; its images mature, as does he, by leaps and bounds.

### Synopsis

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La Cañada, dans la banlieue de Madrid, est l'une des plus grandes colonies illégales d'Europe.

Ramon, un jeune gitan de 12 ans, a toujours vécu là, dans une famille avec un sens aigu d'appartenance à la communauté. Il voit son environnement comme s'il s'agissait d'un décor de science-fiction énigmatique, qu'il filme avec son téléphone portable. L'intrigue : un voyage temporel vers le futur.

La famille de Ramon apprend que leur maison doit être démolie. Pour la première fois, Ramon voit une réelle chance de laisser La Cañada derrière lui, libérant ainsi un désir caché de vivre une vie différente de celle de ses parents, qui feront tout pour empêcher l'expulsion.

Le film de Ramon évolue d'un voyage vers le futur à une réflexion sur son présent, révélant une nouvelle vision de son univers et de lui-même, lui offrant une chance de changer le chemin de sa famille.

### Note d'intention

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À travers les yeux de Ramon, je veux dresser le portrait d'une communauté avec laquelle j'ai un lien profond depuis ma première visite, lorsque je faisais des recherches sur les expulsions qui ont frappé l'Espagne depuis la crise de 2008 pour mon premier film. Je suis membre de cette communauté, enseignant le cinéma aux jeunes et je suis témoin de nombreuses histoires. Elles ont toutes le même fil conducteur : le dilemme entre laisser tomber ses racines ou abandonner la communauté.

Ce dilemme se retrouve chez Ramon, qui est curieux, non-conformiste et loyal. Sa loyauté envers sa famille est remise en question lorsque le monde séduisant et inaccessible de l'extérieur de La Cañada frappe à sa porte, quoique par le biais d'un ordre d'expulsion.

Je cherche à explorer les relations familiales et la façon dont l'identité se forge dans un monde déplacé, isolé par un système qui sème la discordance entre ses habitants et au sein même des familles ; une tour de Babel, à mi-chemin entre le rural et l'urbain, le naturel et le magique.

Ce monde est le personnage principal du film que réalise Ramon ; ses images mûrissent, tout comme lui, à pas de géant.