

Lucía Films, Videocine, Stromboli Films & Vamonos Films  
present

# CHRONIC

written and directed by **Michel Franco**

starring Tim Roth, Sarah Sutherland

92 min/ English/Color/5.1 Dolby Digital/1.85/Mexico-France/

## INTERNATIONAL SALES

**wild bunch**

4 La Croisette – 1st floor (In front of the Palais)  
Phone marketing office : +33 4 93 68 56 39  
Phone sales office : +33 4 93 68 56 39  
CAROLE BARATON cbaraton@wildbunch.eu  
EMILIE SERRES eserres@wildbunch.eu  
VINCENT MARAVAL ndevid@wildbunch.eu  
SILVIA SIMONUTTI ssimonutti@wildbunch.eu  
NOEMIE DEVIDE ndevid@wildbunch.eu  
OLIVIER BARBIER obarbier@wildbunch.eu

## INTERNATIONAL PR

Premier PR  
LIZ MILLER  
liz.miller@premiercomms.com  
+44 7770 472 159

## **SYNOPSIS**

David is a nurse who works with terminally ill patients. Efficient and dedicated to his profession, he develops strong and even intimate relationships with each person he cares for. But outside of his work David is ineffectual, awkward, and reserved. It is clear that he needs each patient as much as they need him.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Three years ago my grandmother had a stroke that permanently paralyzed half of her body. Sentenced to spend the rest of her time in bed, she became dependent on support for any activity or basic need. Even talking became impossible.

Relatives were with her every day preventing her from feeling alone. However, the person who really took care of her was her nurse, a stranger who immediately entered in her physical and emotional intimacy, helping her with the most essential and daily activities; such as bathing her, feeding her, changing her diaper and urinary drainage bag, as well as many other difficult, uncomfortable, and often humiliating tasks.

These two women built a relationship through signs, gestures, and words that no one in the family understood. Some of us started feeling frustrated, powerless, and even jealous of the intimate relationship that existed between the two of them. Sometimes this led into conflicts and arguments between her children and grandchildren.

Soon, the nurse also became an emotional support to my grandmother and became a bridge for communication with us.

She was the last person to see her alive and was present during those final moments of agony when she died at three in the morning. She was also the one who fixed her for the funeral, since none of her daughters had the strength or knowledge to move a dead body.

After six months of working with my grandmother, this nurse soon would have a new patient. Although the work with my family was finished, she would visit us during the mourning period as a sign of solidarity and affection. In her eyes we could see a great sadness. She was mourning just like us.

Her visit touched me and I became interested in her story. She showed me things I didn't know about my grandmother. Even though she only met her for a few months. The intimacy that this woman shared with us was so deep that she ended up understanding the family dynamics, our conflicts and, our singularities.

She told me that she has been working with patients with terminal illness for twenty years. Loss and death were part of her life and her job forced her engage with difficult emotions that would eventually lead her into chronic depression.

Despite her depression, she would not do any other kind of work. This was her life and career. She would immediately look for another terminally ill patient to replace her mourning condition and help her connect with life again.

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

As in my previous films, the tone is as realistic as possible. Mixing professional actors with people with no previous experience in cinema will help to get the realistic tone that I've achieved before.

For instance, the nurses are real nurses, this way they will reflect the depth and commitment they have to their work.

Tim Roth who's playing David, the central character, prepared his part by working with real patients and performing the tasks that a nurse normally does.

The character is full of contradictions. His emotional state will change through his relationship with each patient and sometimes he crosses the thin line of what he is supposed to do and what he is not supposed to do.

The camera will focus on the main character and his patients, putting aside anything that can distract the attention from the central conflict, which is the depression of a nurse and the emotional state of his patients.

# DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

## MICHEL FRANCO : PRODUCER – WRITER - DIRECTOR

### Feature Films

A LOS OJOS (2013)

- Morelia International Film Festival.

DESPUÉS DE LUCÍA/AFTER LUCIA (2012)

- Cannes Film Festival - Un certain regard - Best Film Award
- San Sebastian Film Festival - Horizons Award - Special Mention
- London Film Festival (BFI) - Special Mention of the Jury
- During its commercial run in Mexico, the film was seen by nearly one million people.
- Developed with the support of CINÉFONDATION at La Résidence du Festival of Cannes program.

DANIEL Y ANA/ DANIEL AND ANA (2009)

- Director's Fortnight /Quinzaine des réalisateurs
- The film subsequently participated in a variety of international festivals, amongst them the San Sebastian Film Festival. It was distributed in many territories including Spain, France, Mexico.

### Short films

ENTRE DOS (2003)

- Grand Prize at the Huesca International Film Festival
- Best Short Film at the Dresden Film Festival, 2004.

CUANDO SEA GRANDE (2002)

ASI NOS GUSTA VIVIR (2003)

EL SOLDADO (2001)

HUERFANOS (1998)

In 2004 Michel founded Pop Films, a production company that in 2011 became Lucía Films. The most recent production from Lucía Films is 600 MILES written and directed by Gabriel Ripstein. The film opened the Panorama Special section at the 2015 Berlinale, where it went on to win the Best First Feature Award. The film also won the Mezcal Award for Best Mexican Film at the 2015 Guadalajara International Film Festival

In addition to CHRONIC, Lucía Films' recent productions include THE HEIRS, by Jorge Hernandez, and DESDE ALLÁ, by Lorenzo Vigas. The company is also developing several feature film and television projects.

## CAST

### DAVID

**Tim Roth.** The versatile, award-winning British actor is best known internationally for his work in "Reservoir Dogs" and "Pulp Fiction", both directed by Quentin Tarantino.

In 1995, he was nominated for both a Golden Globe® and the Academy Award® for Best Supporting Actor for his unforgettable role as the villain in "Rob Roy". His many feature credits include "Meantime" directed by Mike Leigh, "Everyone Says I Love You" directed by Woody Allen, "Planet of Apes" directed by Tim Burton, "The Incredible Hulk" directed by Ang Lee and 2014 Best Picture Oscar nominee, "Selma" directed by Ava DuVernay.

He made his directorial debut with British Independent and European Film Award winner "The War Zone" starring Ray Winstone.

Roth starred in the television series "Lie to Me" for FOX. He appeared in Gabriel Ripstein's Berlin 2015 first feature winner "600 Miles" and is presently filming Quentin Tarantino's "The Hateful Eight".

As President of the Un Certain Regard jury in 2012, Tim Roth handed the top prize to Michel Franco for "Despues de Lucia".

### NADIA

**Sarah Sutherland.** Trained at the Crossroads Drama Conservatory in Los Angeles where she received the award for Excellence in Drama. She later studied at the Experimental Theatre Wing of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she appeared in a number of stage productions.

On television, she has appeared in "Veep" and "The Newsroom". Her big screen credits include "Shut Up and Drive", "Innocence" and the award-winning teen drama "Beneath the Harvest Sky".

### MARTHA

**Robin Bartlett.** Recently appeared in Joel and Ethan Coen's "Inside Llewyn Davis". Other big screen credits include Martin Scorsese's "Shutter Island".

She was nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award for her outstanding performance in the series "Mad About You". Her numerous television credits also include "American Horror Story", "CSI", "Nip/Tuck", and "The Closer".

### JOHN

**Michael Cristofer.** Actor, director and writer Michael Cristofer received a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for his play, "The Shadow Box". His directing credits include the Emmy and WGA nominated "Gia" and "Original Sin" both of which starred Angelina Jolie. His feature film screenplays include "The Witches of Eastwick" and "Falling in Love".

As an actor, he has appeared in "Die Hard: With a Vengeance" and as a series regular in "Ray Donovan" and "American Horror Story".

### LAURA

**Nailea Norvind.** Ariel Award Nominated for Best Supporting Actress for La otra familia in 2011; Nailea is a well respected actress who has built a solid career in film, tv, and theatre in Mexico. Among her credits include co-starring in the HBO series "Capadocia" and "Sr. Avila". Chronic marks her English speaking film debut.

## CAST

David	Tim Roth
Nadia	Sarah Sutherland
Martha	Robin Bartlett
Sarah	Rachel Pickup
John	Michael Cristofer
Bernard	David Dastmalchian
Lidia	Bitsie Tulloch
Laura	Nailea Norvind

## CREW

Written and Directed by	Michel Franco
Director of Photography	Yves Cape, AFC, SBC
Production Designer	Matthew Luem
Costume Designer	Diaz
Sound Design and Supervision	Frank Gaeta
Edited by	Michel Franco Julio C. Perez IV
Produced by	Gabriel Ripstein Michel Franco Moisés Zonana Gina Kwon
Executive Producers	Emilio Azcárraga Jean Bernardo Gomez Tim Roth Fernando Pérez Gavilán
Co-Producers	Grégoire Lassalle Juliette Sol Chris Stinson Amy Greene Antonio Campos David Zonana
Production COMPANIES	LUCÍA FILMS VIDEOCINE VAMONOS FILMS STROMBOLI FILMS

**LUCÍA** FILMS



STROMBOLI Films

