

a film by JAYRO BUSTAMANTE

 69[■] Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Panorama

TEMBLORES

(TREMORS)



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PRESS CONTACT

Michael Krause | Foundry Communications | (212) 586-7967 | mkrause@foundrycomm.com

FILM MOVEMENT BOOKING CONTACTS

Clemence Taillandier | Theatrical | (201) 736-0261 | theatrical@filmmovement.com

Maxwell Wolkin | Festivals Non-Theatrical | (212) 941-7744 x211 | maxwell@filmmovement.com

In this deeply personal followup to his landmark debut *IXACNUL*, Jayro Bustamante shifts his focus from rural Guatemala to the denizens of Guatemala City but once again set his sights on an individual caught between two seeming irreconcilable worlds.

When handsome and charismatic Pablo arrives at his affluent family's house everyone is eagerly awaiting the return of their beloved son, devoted father and caring husband. A seemingly exemplary pillar of Guatemala City's Evangelical Christian community, Pablo's announcement that he intends to leave his wife for another man sends shock waves through the family. As Pablo tries to acclimate to his new life in the city's gay subculture with the liberated Francisco, his ultra-religious family does everything in its power to get their prodigal son back on track, no matter the cost.



« People who were guided by "love" were capable of selflessly offering themselves and would target their prayers to make someone fail because of their life choices. »

Religious movements have marked me since my childhood, and maybe that's why they fascinate me. Besides being a multicultural country, Guatemala has a diversity of cults. The official Catholic religion was mixed with the ancestral Mayan rites, creating a different syncretism in our people. Other existing main religions were added, including sects, which are fertile in our land, and the range of different churches that Evangelism offers: in divine matters, there's one for every taste. Although, in recent years the Evangelical phenomenon is the favourite.

Under the effervescence of faith, reason has no place. We are a people who have carried submission for a long time and live with social, cultural and political instability. We need celestial laws as guides, in order to not get lost in the chaos that comes with liberty, and which we are not used to.

My encounter with "Pablo" happened in this context. Pablo is a "good man", a practicing evangelical, married with children, a closeted homosexual, and homophobic. His contradictions and his capacity to renounce himself because of his beliefs called my attention to him and made me feel great curiosity. Little by little I discovered that a big part of Guatemalan society blindly obeyed these religious principles. It is evidenced in the power of religious institutions to influence the way of thinking for a whole country.

With IXCANUL, my need was to understand how a young woman could be the perfect victim of a sector of society with interests diametrically opposed to hers.

In TEMBLORES, my need is to understand how a "good man", with a good education, and access to the "outside world", can end up prisoner of a morality, dictated by a religious institution that, not just by chance, represents one of the most important political powers in Guatemala. How far can this dominion reach inside the consciences of men and deprive them of freedom without any resistance being offered?

My curiosity also grew when I tried to understand how it is possible to convince people who don't own anything, to give it all. What extraordinary force can lead people into debt and present it as salvation to one of the poorest populations in Latin America? What could control the conscience and private life of someone like Pablo, who finds love for the first time and decides to respond voluntarily to a much stronger truth than his feelings and his capacity of reason? Evidently, in a country where condemnation and troubles are lived on Earth, the promise of salvation wins followers and the power of religion in my country grows daily.

The influence of religion is not new in human history, nor exclusive to my country. To better understand Pablo and his religion, I began to attend a group in an Evangelical Church, despite my own beliefs. I could observe the achievements of the people at that church and its huge convening power. I "learned" about the causes of the "illness" of loving someone of the same sex and the many treatments that exist to eliminate it. I was a witness to the direct association made between homosexuality and paedophilia, something that the justice system in my country also does not deny.

This experience allowed me to find ordinary people, "good" people who function and reflect according to this morality. People who were guided by "love" were capable of selflessly offering themselves and would target their prayers to make someone fail because of their life choices.

In Guatemala, to be a man is constituted of denying three things: not being a woman, not being a child, and not being a homosexual.

TEMBLORES is a film that speaks about conditional love, shameful love, love that hurts, about the divine and celestial love that is needed in a context where the earth trembles and destroys everything. The love that gives us an excuse for our extraordinary mastery of double standards.

Jayro Bustamante

JAYRO BUSTAMANTE

He was born in 1977 in Guatemala within a community mostly of Mayan descent, on the shores of Lago Atitlan. His professional endeavors as a director began in advertising, working for Ogilvy & Mather. He later moved to Paris to continue his studies in Film Direction at the CLCF (Conservatoire Libre de Cinéma Français). Later, he continued his studies on screenwriting in Rome, at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia.

Upon returning to Guatemala, he created his own production company: La Casa de Producción. With it, he produced his short films and opera prima, IXCANUL. In 2015, Ixcanul crowned him as director after winning a Silver Bear at the Berlinale, and more than sixty awards at international festivals. Later in 2016, he created a cinema d'auteur distribution department as well as one dedicated to artistic representation within La casa de Produccion, which are activities that were not present in Guatemalan industry. Jayro obtained acting contracts in Hollywood and Mexican films for Ixcanul's main actress Maria Mercedes Coroy, boosting her career.

In April 2017, Jayro created La Sala de Cine, the first cinema theater dedicated to independent films in Guatemala. He later produced and directed his second film: TEMBLORES, to be released in 2019. He is currently working on his third film, LA LLORONA, as well as producing various projects by other Guatemalan directors. He has been part of the jury at Berlinale 2016, Brussels Film Festival 2018, Biarritz Festival 2018, Platino and Fenix Awards, and Los Cabos Film Festival.

Jayro Bustamante is *Fondation Gan pour le Cinéma* laureate.



Original title : TEMBLORES

Title in english : TREMORS

Genre : Drama - 107 mins

Language : Spanish

HD 4K

2.40 : 1

Filming location: Guatemala City

Produced by: Tu Vas Voir (France)

Production: Tu Vas Voir (France)

La Casa de Producción (Guatemala)

In coproduction with: Memento Films Production (France)

Iris Productions (Luxembourg)

ARTE France Cinéma (France)

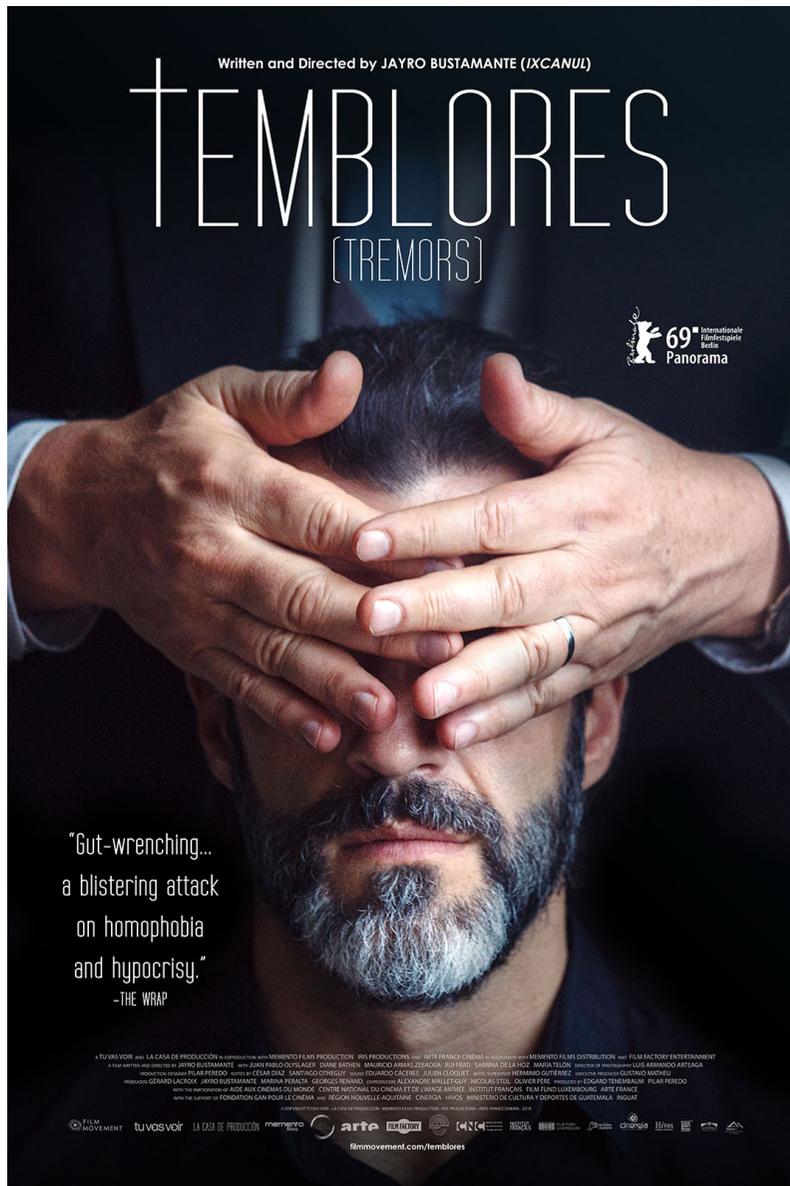
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MAIN CAST

PABLO: Juan Pablo OLYSLAGER

FRANCISCO: Mauricio ARMAS ZEBADÚA

ISA: Diane BATHEN

ROSA: María TELÓN

PASTOR'S WIFE: Sabrina DE LA HOZ

PASTOR: Rui FRATI

CRISTINA: Magnolia MORALES

SALVADOR: Sergio LUNA

ABEL: Pablo ARENALES

EVA: Mara MARTINEZ

Written and directed by Jayro Bustamante

Produced by Edgard Tenenbaum and Pilar Peredo

Producers

Jayro Bustamante

G rard Lacroix

Marina Peralta

Georges Renand

Coproducers

Alexandre Mallet-Guy

Nicolas Steil

Olivier P re

Executive Producer

Gustavo Matheu

Cinematography

Luis Armando Arteaga

Production Design

Pilar Peredo

Editing

C sar D az

Santiago Otheguy



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LA CASA DE PRODUCCION

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