

# salt

the filmmaker's essential ingredient

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## El amor está cañón

LUIS TERESA LUIS DOLORES CHAVITO SILVIA MIGUEL ANGEL  
GUZMÁN HERNÁNDEZ GONZAGA PEDRO MARRERO BRITO ÁLVAREZ



BENICIO DEL TORO PRESENTS

# maldeamores

*lovesickness*

A CARLITOS RUIZ RUIZ AND MARIEM PÉREZ RIERA FILM MUSIC BY OMAR SILVA AND EDUARDO ALEGRÍA CASTING BY PATRICIA ALONSO SOUND ANTONIO BETANCOURT  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER LIZZIE CUELLO WARDROBE SUZANNE KRIM DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY P.J. LÓPEZ FILM EDITOR MARIEM PÉREZ RIERA ASSOCIATE PRODUCER IJIA VÉLEZ EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DONALD RANVAUD,  
ROBERT BEVAN, CYRIL MEGRET EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BENICIO DEL TORO PRODUCED BY LUILLO RUIZ WRITTEN BY JORGE GONZÁLEZ AND CARLITOS RUIZ RUIZ DIRECTED BY CARLITOS RUIZ RUIZ

R RESTRICTED

MAYA RELEASING

LUMINA FILMS

CINE FILM

SONIDO

TRUENA FONDA

DOLBY DIGITAL

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**"MALDEAMORES"  
(LOVESICKNESS)**

**Starring**

Luis Guzmán  
Teresa Hernández  
Luis Gonzaga

**Directed by**

Carlitos Ruiz Ruiz

**Co-Directed By**

Mariem Pérez Riera

**Written By**

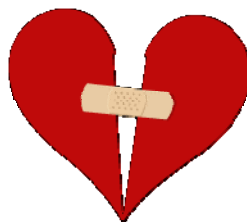
Jorge Gonzalez  
Carlitos Ruiz Ruiz

**Produced By**

Luillo Ruiz

**Executive Produced By**

Benicio Del Toro  
Donald K Ranvaud  
Robert Bevan  
Cyril Mégret



**PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

Genre: bittersweet comedy

Nationality: Puerto Rico

Language: Spanish (English subtitles)

Running time: 83 min

## SYNOPSIS

From executive producer Benicio Del Toro comes a film about love of all kinds and at all ages in the backyards of Puerto Rico. A child's first kiss. A man who can't grasp rejection. An elderly love affair. Passion defeats reason again and again in this film about the eternal masochistic search for love. Directed by Carlitos Ruiz Ruiz, co-directed by Mariem Perez Riera, and written by Jorge González and Carlitos Ruiz Ruiz, the film stars an ensemble of actors that includes Luis Guzmán, Teresa Hernandez, Luis Gonzaga and Silvia Brito.

## MALDEAMORES, CARLITOS AND MARIEM A LITTLE HISTORY.



Despite both being born in Puerto Rico, Carlitos Ruiz Ruiz and Mariem Pérez did not meet until after returning home from studying filmmaking abroad, in Chicago and Cuba respectively. And they did not fall in love until a night out with Benicio del Toro who became interested in their work after watching an award-winning short film directed by Carlitos. But they only had eyes for each other so the story goes.

The new couple then started working with Benicio on different projects such as CortoCircuito (a film workshop for young future filmmakers) and the idea for a film which would later become “Maldeamores” and which Benicio executive produced.

Carlitos and Mariem founded Pajaritos Preñaos Films with producer Lullio Ruiz, Carlitos' brother. Pajaritos Preñaos is part of a saying used in Puerto Rico which means “pregnant birds”. When someone says: you're dreaming of pregnant birds, it means you are dreaming the impossible.

In 2003, “Maldeamores” was one of the first movies chosen to receive funding from the Puerto Rico Film Commission's new incentive law.

The character that Luis Guzmán plays in the film was written for him, which was, at the time, like dreaming with pregnant birds to imagine he would be in the film. Later on Luis read the script and immediately fell in love with it.

Mariem and Carlitos began writing “Maldeamores” at the same time as having a baby, Marcel, who is now nearly 4 years old.

## LONG SYNOPSIS



“Maldeamores” is a cinematic spectacle that establishes a new narrative structure through the interweaving of three stories about love - or lack thereof. Using dark humor as its main vehicle, the film tells the story of people and their quest for love, but who instead are confronted with madness, obsession, and the fear of being alone.

In the first story, a ten-year-old boy named Ismaelito discovers love for the first time. This glorious sensation is set against the backdrop of Ismaelito’s grandmother’s funeral, where he receives his first kiss and where Lourdes (his mother) discovers that his father has been cheating on her with her cousin Tati.

In the second, a disturbed man takes a passenger bus hostage in the hope of forcing the driver he has long been obsessing over to marry him. When confronted by the police, chaos erupts and the situation soon turns into a media spectacle.

In the third, a divorced, elderly couple has been living together for 28 years. Although legally separated, they stay together in the same house out of fear of being alone. One day the couple receives an unexpected visit from her long lost first husband. A love triangle ensues and both men begin to behave like teenagers in a pitched battle for the love of the old woman.



And, as an extra treat for the audience, opening and closing “bumpers” to the film, present a couple, any couple, and their random and pointless arguments which question why on earth we do this to ourselves.

These stories present the evolution of love, from the young to the old, and its often unfortunate stages, through heavy emotions to laugh-out-loud situations. There should be no doubt, however, that this is a dark comedy where the characters are living tragic lives.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT  
CARLITOS RUIZ RUIZ  
MARIEM PÉREZ

*"All love letters are ridiculous; if they weren't ridiculous then they wouldn't be love letters"*

Fernando Pessoa



This quote was our premise for "Maldeamores". It doesn't matter who you are, your social class, your education, your spiritual background; when we deal with love or lovesickness, everybody becomes a bit hysterical, irrational, and absurd.

"Maldeamores" is a trip through some of the more disenchanting aspects of love, with deteriorated characters and absurd situations, framed in an environment of dark humor and cynicism. It's a slice of our Latin idiosyncrasies, which also shows how intense and intensely flawed love can be. This feature is made of

various stories that illustrate, in chronological order, the stages a person goes through in the constant evolution of their ability to love. These are the discovery and disillusion of youth, the search for the object of desire in adulthood, and the confusion between fear of loneliness and compassion in old age. Puerto Rico is a small island in the Caribbean that, because of its small size constantly emanates a feeling of confinement and claustrophobia. A concrete paradise that dreams of being a big city. This gives us the perfect setting to explore, throughout the film, the traumas and foibles of our collective madness. This is the environment in which "Maldeamores" takes place, each story a small island.

For five years Puerto Rican filmmakers have dedicated themselves to commercials or "advertising cinema". As young people, we are characterized with having an aggressive, hip style. A bit dirtier and more deteriorated than is the norm in conventional advertising, this modern style and irreverent point of view is the one I went for in the realization of "Maldeamores".

Puerto Rico is the environment in "Maldeamores", where characters have to deal with each other inside a car, inside a bus, inside a house; representing each story as a small island. "Maldeamores" is a character driven film with delicate crafted performances that resembles a film from the Italian neo-realism with a Latin-American sense of humor.



## PRODUCER'S STATEMENT LUILLO RUIZ

(NB Carlitos Ruiz Ruiz and Luillo Ruiz are brothers, Luillo is the eldest.)

Carlitos and I grew up in the world of theater. Our mother was an actress, our father a photographer. It was only natural to end up doing something along these creative lines, but film? Everybody said we were dreaming. After our parents divorced, my mother had to work a lot, she was rarely at home which meant, obviously, not much supervision and lots of fun. Our imagination took us places, and often got us into trouble, thus when we got grounded, there was always comfort, inspiration and learning from the TV set. Anytime we could escape to the movies, preferably the foreign films at some local cinema festival, we did.



Carlitos went off to the States to study film. He got into the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from where he graduated. But before having to do his thesis, a short film called "Pelota de Papel" (Paper Ball), he came back to Puerto Rico with the idea for the short film and got all of the family involved. We were all "making a movie", it was great! From there, Carlitos went back to finish school. In the meantime, I was already hooked. I was leaving college and starving to get out and make something happen, I remember how much we loved

commercials. At home, I was always in charge of getting things done, so I opened up a production house for commercials. Carlitos came back from Chicago with the urge to tell stories. He started directing and I was already producing and we started with music videos and then moved on to commercials. We were living the dream. One day Mariem (Carlitos' wife) walked in with the idea for a music video and she wanted us to help her create one, this was how Carlitos and Mariem met.

Puerto Rico has a great commercials industry, we call it "advertising cinema". It is kind of evident when you think about it: "we" consume a lot, "we" are part of the US, "we" are Latinos, so lots of consumption plus a lot of marketing equals lots of commercials. As Puerto Ricans we are all artists, or so we feel; so if we have lights camera and action then let's have art. Nevertheless,





Carlitos had a craving to make the long form, the film, Mariem had the encouragement and I had the compulsion. It was a perfect fit. By that time the Corporation for the Development of Arts, Science and Film Industry in Puerto Rico had just approved the Cinema Fund law and were about to open the first calling for projects we decided to participate in it with “Maldeamores” and we WON! We were awarded a grant for its production.

Now we needed to shape up the script, a production, and find a lot of resources to make it happen. Carlitos and Mariem went to work with the story and I went to look for the way to do it. A fair amount of time passed and even though we were celebrating every little “victory”, the struggle of convincing and the knocking on doors was invariable. I was convinced that I had a beautiful project in my hands and Luis Riefkohl, the young and encouraging Film Commissioner agreed. He came with lots of great ideas, vision and desire to start moving things on the local cinema scene.

Puerto Rico was the perfect background to tell stories and we had a lovely one. By then we had a plan, but it wasn't until we met with Donald Ranvaud and the guys at Buena Onda, Robert and Cyril and subsequently Samantha Horley at Lumina Films, Buena Onda's international sales arm, that everything fell into place. As soon as we met we clicked, we shared the same singular vision, we spoke the same language (but with extremely different accents). It was destiny giving birth to a spontaneous family. We laughed so much.



So with the new family together it was just a matter of shooting it. Yeah right.

Production started. The stress, the running, the mayhem, everything that could go wrong, did. But I was loving it. After going through so much but having such a beautiful tale (my brother's by the way) at the heart of it all, I wasn't about to let anything stand in our way.

By that time, like Carlitos, I had also fallen in love with my joined-at-the-hip partner in crime, Belly Torres, who held everything together for me even when the sky seemed to be falling on our heads.

And then, someone sent us yet another archangel, Iliia Velez, our feisty Unit Production Manager, now Associate Producer. Production ran brilliantly and we dared adversity to try and mess with us.

By the end of it all, the overwhelming feeling we had was that no matter how distant or impossible the dream, fate intervened and made it happen. In this case a family love story in front of the camera and behind the scenes called Maldeamores (lovesickness). Now that is pure poetry.



## THE CAST

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| ISMAEL              | LUIS GUZMÁN          |
| LOURDES             | TERESA HERNANDEZ     |
| ISMAELITO           | FERNANDO TARRAZO     |
| MACHO               | NORMAN SANTIAGO      |
| TATI                | EDNA LEE FIGUEROA    |
| MARGARITA           | LAURA ANDUJAR        |
| LOURDES' MOTHER     | IRMA MENDEZ          |
| MIGUEL              | LUIS GONZAGA         |
| MARTA               | DOLORES PEDRO        |
| MIGUEL'S MOTHER     | GEORGINA BORRI       |
| FLORA               | SILVIA BRITO         |
| CIRILO              | CHAVITO MARRERO      |
| PELLIN              | MIGUEL ANGEL ALVAREZ |
| FLORA'S DAUGHTER    | JESSICA DELGADO      |
| CANO (CURLY)        | YAMIL COLLAZO        |
| VALENTIN            | HUMBERTO GONZALEZ    |
| VALIANA             | VALLIE MARIE RIVERA  |
| NEYSHALI            | MARISE ALVAREZ       |
| EDWINO              | ADRIAN GARCIA        |
| SACERDOTE           | ALBERTO ZAMBRANA     |
| TENIENTE            | PEDRO JUAN TEXIDOR   |
| GUY ARGUING IN CAR  | CARLITOS RUIZ RUIZ   |
| GIRL ARGUING IN CAR | YARANI DEL VALLE     |
| OFICIAL RIVERA      | JAVIER ORTIZ         |

## THE CREW

|  |   |
|--|---|
| DIRECTOR                                   | CARLITOS RUIZ RUIZ                          |
| CO-DIRECTOR &<br>EDITOR                    | MARIEM PÉREZ                                |
| SCREENPLAY                                 | JORGE GONZALES<br>CARLITOS RUIZ RUIZ        |
| PRODUCER                                   | LUILLO RUIZ                                 |
| EXECUTIVE PRODUCER                         | BENICIO DEL TORO                            |
| EXECUTIVE PRODUCER                         | DONALD K RANVAUD                            |
| EXECUTIVE PRODUCER                         | ROBERT BEVAN                                |
| EXECUTIVE PRODUCER                         | CYRIL MÉGRET                                |
| ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS/<br>PRODUCTION MANAGER | ILIA VELEZ                                  |
| DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY                    | PJ LÓPEZ                                    |
| PRODUCTION DESIGNER<br>SOUND               | NORMA "LIZZIE" CUELLO<br>ANTONIO BETANCOURT |
| MUSIC SUPERVISOR<br>COSTUME DESIGNER       | OMAR SILVA MELENDEZ<br>SUZANNE KRIM         |



## ABOUT THE CAST

### Luis Guzmán "Ismael"



Born in Cayey, Puerto Rico, Guzmán graduated and started working as a youth counselor at the Henry Street Settlement House. During this time, he began performing in street theater and independent films. He got his first big break in the early 80's with a role on the popular TV series "Miami Vice". He went on to work sporadically in film and television throughout the rest of the decade, appearing in such films as "Family Business" and Ridley Scott's "Black Rain".

In the 90's Guzmán appeared in a Sidney Lumet piece, "Q A"; Anthony Minghella's "Mr. Wonderful", Brian De Palma's "Carlito's Way", and Nigel Finch's "Stonewall". He had substantial roles in "Out of Sight" and "The Limey" both directed by Steven Soderbergh, and both "Boogie Nights" and "Magnolia" directed by Paul Thomas Anderson. In 2002, Guzmán had his busiest year to date as he appeared in more than five films, including a prominent role in the comedy "Welcome to Collinwood" and a re-teaming with director Paul Thomas Anderson for "Punch-Drunk Love".

On television, Guzmán had a recurring role on the HBO prison drama "Oz", as well as appearances on "Law and Order", "NYPD Blue", and "Walker, Texas Ranger". In 2006, for the first time in his native Puerto Rico, he starred in a movie in the role of Ismael in "Maldeamores".

### Teresa Hernández "Lourdes"

Since 1987 Hernández has been working as a dance and contemporaneous theater interpreter in Puerto Rico; in commercial, experimental, and alternative art. She has created her own scenic proposal since 1991, which she produces under the name Producciones Teresa (Teresa Productions). Her repertoire includes the video pieces: "Doña Teatro", "Milagros Vélez", "La Película Extranjera", and "El Último Retrato". "La Película Extranjera" was presented in the "San Juan Cinema Fest" in 2000, as well as the "Trienal Poligráfica de San Juan, América Latina y el Caribe 2005" and "CIRCA: Feria Internacional de Arte 2006".

Hernández has collaborated with choreographer Viveca Vázquez in experimental dance and performance projects.



They both direct and manage “Taller de Otra Cosa Inc.”, a non-profit organization which support, promote, and produce stage experimental art. As a teacher, Hernández gives independent workshops for stage creation and movement to adolescents and young university students; she also gives demonstrative chats about her creation and artistic production process and others in Latin America, the Caribbean, Los Angeles, and Puerto Rico.

Her work has been presented in the United States, México and The Dominican Republic. Local theater critics have recognized her talent as a performer and a creator in many occasions. She has received scholarships by “Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña”, “Puerto Rico Community Foundation” and “Sally Van Lier Foundation” in New York. Her theatric writing has been published by The University of Puerto Rico in books (“Nuestro Autorretrato” and “Saqueo”), a cybernetic magazine (“El Cuarteto del Quenepón”) and the “Holy Terrors – Latin American Women Perform” magazine.

### **Silvia Brito** **“Flora”**



In 1977 Silvia Brito established the first and only bilingual Hispanic theater company in Queens, called Thalia Spanish Theater. She worked as an actress and a director until she retired on December 31, 1999.

As an actress Brito has worked on Portuguese’s films: “Abstracto”, “Lisboa Los Angeles – Sem Destino”; directed both by Rui Goulart, as well as “Payaso Hijueputa” directed by Andres Baiz. Brito has starred in the TV Series “Third Watch” and “Parallel Passage.”

Carlitos and Lullo found Silvia, not in Puerto Rico, but in New York when a local search had not unearthed the perfect Flora and they had started to cast the net wider.

**Dolores Pedro**  
"Marta"



Born in Havana, Cuba; Pedro studied in Escuela Nacional de Artes de La Habana (Havana National Art School). At 17 she began as an amateur actress and at 21 she became a member of the Cuban theater company *Irrumbe* where she grew and developed as an actress.

In Cuba, Pedro worked in radio, TV, and cinema. She worked in various movies such as: "Barroco", "Latin Bar", and "Doral Mambo". In 1994, Pedro arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico and started working as a radio, TV, and as a Cinema actress. In 1998 she established a theater company called "Teatro Iré Inc." in which besides being a theater professor Pedro is also an actress, director, and producer. Pedro, for Puerto Rican television has worked in the miniseries "Las Guerreras" and the movie "Aquelarre" among others.

**Fernando Javier Tarrazo Torres**  
"Ismaelito"

Torres was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico on August 7, 1994, son of the Puerto Rican actress Linnette Torres and Fernando Tarrazo. At present Torres is in the seventh grade in the middle school Colegio San José Calasanz. From a young age he has shown great talent in music, imitation, performance, and sports. His first imitations were of Aaron Carter (winning a talent competition), as well as Marc Anthony and Will Smith.

Torres' first professional experience in theater was the infant piece "La Bella Durmiente" ("Sleeping Beauty"), starring Daniela Droz and Robert Avellanet and co-starring Gilda Haddock, Suzette Bacó and Linnette Torres. Torres appeared in the TV comedy "Día a Día con los Seijo Díaz", starring the first lady in comedy Awilda Carbia and Juan Manuel Lebrón. In 2004 he starred in "Zompi," a made for TV movie part of the dramatic project of Lucy Boscana in the Corporación para la Difusión Pública de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico's government TV channel-WIPR) with the Puerto Rican first actress Gladys Rodríguez and for the first time with his mother Linnette Torres.



Torres has also starred in TV commercials directed towards the Latin market in the United States, specifically for Radio Shack, plus three radio spots. His latest character was Ismaelito in "Maldeamores" with the Hollywood star Luis Guzmán and Teresa Hernández, directed by Carlitos Ruiz Ruiz and Mariem Pérez Riera.

### **José Luis "Chavito" Marrero "Cirilo"**



Born in Puerto Rico, Marrero originally studied to become a doctor. He soon realized he had a new passion, the dramatic arts. Marrero soon began to study in drama department of the Universidad de Puerto Rico (University of Puerto Rico). Marrero worked in the Theater of the University of Puerto Rico in such plays as "Mananita de Sol" by the Alvarez brothers and "Prohibido Suicidarse en Primavera" (Prohibited to Commit Suicide in Spring). During this time he also worked in radio programs with Ramon Ortiz del Rivero.

Marrero became an understudy in Calderon de la Barca's "La Vida es Sueno" of the Lope de Vega Theater Company, traveling across Central and South America. In the 90's Marrero starred in the Spanish Version of "En el Estanque Dorado" (On Golden Pond) with his wife, Mercedes Sicardo. Marrero has also worked in various films like "La Quiebra", "Dios los Cria", "Los Cuentos de Abelardo", "Yuyo", "La Guagua Aerea", "Cuentos para Despertar", "Mi Dia de Suerte" and "Angelito Mio". Off the stage, Marrero has worked as a director, lighting technician and stage designer. He has received the Prize to Excellence by RJ Reynolds, and in 1999 the "Festival de Teatro de Puerto Rico was dedicated to him and his wife.

### **Luis Gonzaga "Miguel"**

Gonzaga studied theater in Universidad de Puerto Rico (University of Puerto Rico). During this period he was a member of various theater groups, and traveled with them to Spain, Texas, Cuba and Mexico. He participated in performances as: "La Celestina", "La Gota Que Horada La Piedra", "Seis Personajes en Busca de un Autor", "Mañana Será Otro Día", "Arlequín Servidor de Dos Amos", among others.

Gonzaga has worked in made-for TV Movies in Puerto Rico such as "En el Día Menos Pensado" and "Cuando las Mujeres Quieren a los Hombres". Gonzaga has also appeared in the films "Havana



Nights", "El Preámbulo", Cimarrón", among others. Gozaga has been featured in the advertising campaigns for Coors Light, Movistar, Ragú, KFC and Centennial. He is now working with a theater group called "Teatro Breve".

## **Miguel Ángel Álvarez** **"Pellín"**



Also known as "El Men", Álvarez is a Puerto Rican comedian and actor. Born in San Juan, his family moved to Bayamón where he attended school and finished his primary and secondary education. Álvarez began his artistic career as a radio announcer, working for radio station WENA. Soon after Álvarez participated in the radio show "El Tremendo Hotel" (The Tremendous Hotel) in which Ramón Rivero "Diplo" starred. Soon Álvarez was contracted to do radio soap operas.

The Puerto Rican playwright, Francisco Arriví invited Álvarez to appear in three of his plays, "Club de Solteros" (Singles Club), "El Caso del Muerto en Vida" (The Case of the Living Dead), and "María Soledad" (Lonely Maria). Álvarez was asked to stand in for Jacobo Morales in the theater production "El Cielo se Rinde al Amanecer" (The Sky Surrenders at Dawn). Álvarez's popularity grew and soon he was filming movies in various countries. In nine years he did 34 movies. Working side by side with big movie stars from Spain, México, Venezuela, Colombia, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico and United States such as Mario Moreno (Cantinflas), Arturo de Córdova, Marga López, Tarzo, Fernando and Mapy Cortés. In Puerto Rico he participated in a comedy entitled Johnny "El Men", which was about the struggles of a Puerto Rican in New York. It was from this comedy that Álvarez got the nickname which would accompany him for the rest of his life, "El Men". Álvarez directed three movies for Columbia Pictures, "Arocho y Clemente", "Dos Contra el Destino" (Two Against Destiny), and "Natas es Satanás". Álvarez participated in important Puerto Rico and other national productions such as: "El Alcalde de Machuchal" (Columbia Pictures), "Largo Viaje Hacia la Muerte", "El Señor Doctor", "Mientras Puerto Rico Duerme", "Luna de Miel en Puerto Rico", "El hijo de Gabriel Barrera", "Whip Lash" and "Counter plot" (in English), "El Reportero" (Venezuela), "Libre de Culpas", "Panchito Rex-Me voy pero no del Todo", "Y Tu Mamá También", "Matando Cabos", and "Paraíso Travel".

## ABOUT THE CREW

### **Carlitos Ruiz Ruiz** **Director**

Born in Puerto Rico, Ruiz studied photography in the University of Puerto Rico and received a scholarship to continue studies in The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; where he received a BFA in Film Direction. Ruiz won the Special Award from the Judges in the San Juan Cinemafest, Best Short Film in the Hamptons Film Festival, Best Short Film in The School of the Art Institute Fellowship, and the Weisner Award for Distribution for his thesis short film “Pelota de Papel”.

Ruiz is a director for commercials, having made international campaigns for: Mazda, Verizon, Subway, Coca Cola, Blockbuster, Pepsi, Cingular Wireless, Coors Light, Suiza Fruit, Armor All, among others. His aggressive aesthetic and ability to tell the story positioned him as one of the most valued directors in Puerto Rico, winning the 2004 Silver Award in the “Ojo de Iberoamérica” festival.

In 2006 Ruiz made his first feature film: “Maldeamores”, winning script from the audience in the “Scene Slam” competition in Puerto Rico.



### **Mariem Pérez Riera** **Co-Director & Editor**

As a child Pérez began her career as a theater and television actress, starring many classical children plays and even hosting a TV show for four years. At the age of nine, she played the main role of the independent film “The Two Worlds of Angelita” directed by Jane Morrison. Through this experience, Mariem decided she wanted to pursue a career as a filmmaker. Pérez obtained a BFA in filmmaking from the University of Miami in 1995, and a post-graduate degree in documentary filmmaking from NYU and the International

School of Film and Television of Cuba (EICTV). Professionally she has explored different roles, from theater stage manager, to directing an editing T.V. sitcoms, several music videos, and T.V. commercials.

“Cuando Lo Pequeño Se Hace Grande” is Pérez’s debut as a feature documentary director, achieving eight “best documentary awards” in different international film festivals including among others the International Havana Film Fest, Cuba 2001; Los Angeles International Independent Film Festival 2002; Festival Iberoamericano of Buenos Aires, Argentina 2002; and the San Juan Cinemafest 2002.

Currently, Pérez continues growing in her two passions: directing and editing. She just finished two major projects, editing “Talento de Barrio” starring Daddy Yankee and editing and co-directing “Maldeamores”. For 2007, she is producing, with her production company Maramara Films, the documentary “Diez en la música”, based on the music scene in Puerto Rico, and will direct “Impulsos”, awarded best short film script, 2006 from the PR Film Foundation. Pérez has received achievement recognition for her work, from the Senate of Puerto Rico 2002, and from the Association of Producers of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean (APCA). She is founding member and professor of the film workshop CortoCircuito sponsored by Benicio del Toro, and held every summer at the Puerto Rico Museum of Art. This workshop has already achieved recognition for two of its short films, “Desconcierto” and “Limbo” which were chosen to open the 2002 Chicago Children’s Film Festival.



## **Luillo Ruiz Producer**

Born and raised in the circles of theater and scenic arts in Puerto Rico, Ruiz inherited his parent’s creative vein which matured into his natural future, a brilliant career as a filmmaker. He studied social sciences and economics at The University of Puerto Rico and almost immediately went on to business.

In 1998 he took charge of the production company Alternative Moving Creations. As executive producer, he managed to position the company as one of the top production companies in the country. He attracted the attention of many of the main advertising agencies obtaining the production of many campaigns from clients like Pepsi, Budweiser, Colgate Palmolive, Coors Light, SC Johnson, Home Depot, Wendy’s, Verizon, among many others. Ruiz, today for advertising represents internationally renowned production company Salado Films.

As an accomplished producer for advertising, Ruiz has also directed his interests to filmmaking as he joined his brother and sister in law to produce "Maldeamores". His vision and his passion for filmmaking is breaking ground from the local cinema offer to international audiences as he is centered on presenting universal stories from a fresh perspective.



**Benicio Del Toro**  
**Executive Producer**

Born in Puerto Rico on February 19, 1967, Del Toro decided to follow the family way and study business at the University of California in San Diego, where an acting class renewed his acting desire. Subsequently he began studying with legendary acting teacher Stella Adler in Los Angeles and at the Circle in the Square Acting School in New York City.

During the late 80's he made a few TV appearances in shows as: "Miami Vice" and "Drug Wars: The Kiki Camarena Story".

His first big screen role was in "Big Top Pee-Wee". After that he landed a role in the James Bond film "License to Kill". Del Toro was the youngest actor ever to portray a Bond villain with 21 years.

He gave creditable performances in many films for the next few years, such as "The Indian Runner", "Christopher Columbus: The Discovery", and "Money for Nothing". His roles in "Fearless" and "China Moon" gained him more critical notices. 1995 proved to be the first "Year of Benicio" as he gave a memorable performance in "Swimming with Sharks" before taking critics and film buffs by storm in "The Usual Suspects", directed by Bryan Singer. It was at this time that he won an Independent Spirit Award for Best Supporting Actor. He then appeared in "The Funeral", directed by Abel Ferrara. And "Basquiat", directed by artist and friend Julian Schnabel. In 1996, Del Toro marked his first truly commercial film: "The Fan", which starred Robert De Niro and Wesley Snipes. Del Toro took his first leading man role in "Excess Baggage", starring and produced by Alicia Silverstone, which he was hand-picked by Silverstone. Del Toro starred with Johnny Depp in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas", directed by Terry Gilliam, and included Del Toro gaining 40 pounds for this, immersing himself totally in his character.

After taking a short break, 2000 proved to be the second "Year of Benicio". He appeared in "The Way of the Gun", directed by "Usual Suspects" writer Christopher McQuarrie. Del Toro worked for actor's director Steven Soderbergh in "Traffic" which won Del Toro an Oscar and the Screen Actor's Guild Award for 'Best Actor'. He later made notable appearances in "Snatch", directed by Guy Ritchie and "The Pledge". Having sleepy good looks reminiscent of James Dean or Marlon Brando, Del Toro has often been referred to as the "Spanish Brad Pitt".

With his newfound celebrity, Del Toro has become a sort of heartthrob, being voted one of People's "50 Most Beautiful People" as well as "Most Eligible Bachelors". A favorite of film fans for years for his diverse and "cool guy" gangster roles, he is now becoming a mainstream favorite respected for his acting skills and choices.



**Donald K Ranvaud**  
**Executive Producer**

Ranvaud, an Anglo-Italian with a French name and a marked tendency toward the Brazilian, taught from 1976-1988 at the Universities of Warwick (Comparative Literature) and East Anglia (Film Studies), where he became Chairman of the Department. Ranvaud founded the Independent Film Magazine Framework in 1975, which he edited until 1988 and freelanced for MFB, Sight and Sound, The Guardian, La Republica, among others. During this period he directed documentary items for Channel Four magazine programs and RAI Uno, including portraits of Paul Schrader, Raul Ruiz, Cui Jian, Laurie Anderson and David Mamet as well as co-directed a feature, 'Visioni Private'.

In March 1989 Don joined Renee Goddard to start the European SCRIPT Fund (part of the MEDIA Programme of the Commission of the European Community) where he stayed on for 18 months reading nearly 5,000 submissions from all over Europe. He completed his Eurocracy period as Media Advisor to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers during the Italian presidency of Europe, during which the MEDIA PROGRAMME was fully integrated into EC policy. Since then, Ranvaud embarked on production full time, with directors and in countries before they become fashionable: China: 1990-1993 (inc. 'Life on a String' and 'Farewell my Concubine') 1994-current (Latin America inc. 'Central do Brasil', 'Vagon Fumador' Lavoura Arcaica', 'Babilonia 2000', 'Madame Sata', and 'Cidade de Deus', which was nominated for four Oscars in 2004). Most recently he acted as Executive Producer on 'The Constant Gardener' directed by Meirelles in Kenya and starring Ralph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz and Danny Huston.

As Buena Onda's Creative Director, Donald is active on many fronts. He is concerned with discovering and nurturing filmmakers and empowering them to find their true creative voices. At the same time he takes this one step further by helping to establish them, their projects and ventures securely on the world cinema stage allowing for sustainable development and growth. Finally, he is a tireless and ubiquitous ambassador for Latin American cinema, campaigning for and raising the profile of lesser known film industries throughout the region in scores of ventures and projects, from film festivals to film funds.

## **Ilia Velez**

### **Associate Producer, Production Manager**

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Ilia Vélez studied marketing at the University of Puerto Rico and then finished a bachelor's degree in Communications. In 1995 Ilia started her career co-producing a series of documentaries for the PBS channel in Puerto Rico titled, "Las Caras de Puerto Rico". Such series was directed by, a three time Emmy Award winner, six time nominated, Eduardo Aguiar. On that same year she produced for PBS London, a documentary titled, "Crusades", directed by renowned British director Allan Ereira.

In 1996 Ilia became Production Manager at Guede Films, producing hundreds of important commercial campaigns for Puerto Rico and the U.S. In 1998 she moved to direct the production department of Magic Films where she co-produced advertising campaigns for "A Band Apart" (Quentin Tarantino's production Company), directed by Wayne Isham. Among those campaigns, the Pepsi world cup campaign with Ricky Martin and Valeria Mazza.

In the year 2000, after working freelance as production manager in various U.S. Films, Ilia partnered with "Maldeamores" sound mixer, Antonio Betancourt and her sister Sonetchka Vélez to open a production company, Resonancia PR/MEX for which she co-produced hundreds of Puertorrican and International advertising campaigns and started her film career.

In year 2000 she co-produced "El Misterio del Trinidad", nominated for a Goya Award and winner of best film and best direction at the Arieles Awards (Motion picture awards in Mexico). In 2003 Ilia was the associate producer and production manager of "Dios los Cría II". Sequel of an internationally acclaimed film of Puerto Rico's only director nominated for an Academy Award, Jacobo Morales. In 2005 she associate produced and production managed for Mr. Morales again in "Angel", scheduled to be released in September, 2007. In 2006 she became part of the team of "Maldeamores". She got aboard as a production manager and through her work became part of the production team as an Associate Producer.

Ilia Velez is currently working in the development of "Flotará Sola", directed by Diego de la Texera, possibly in co-production with Brazil and Vietnam.

## **Lizzie Cuello**

### **Production Design**

Cuello started with one of the oldest and prestigious film studios in South America, "Estudios Baire Films", in Buenos Aires, Argentina. During the years she learned and worked with them doing sculpture, outlines, atmosphere, and making decoration. She backed this with studies: Art History and Equipment and Atmosphere Design in the Architecture faculty in Belgrano University, Buenos Aires.

In Puerto Rico Cuello made the decoration for Il Perugino restaurant. She designed and assembled Ricky Martins' CD Volver presentation stage; has worked in special Banco Popular programs "Siempre Piel Canela" and "El Jibarito", in the annual "Feria Bacardi" (editions 22, 23 and 24), in KW-105 and Ednita Nazario's shows, among others. Cuello has also made the stage for the music video for the rock band Bayanga. Between 1997 and 2006 Cuello worked as Art Director in more than 230 advertising ads such as: Toyota, Suzuki, Budweiser, Heineken, Coors, Banco Popular, Westernbank, Knorr, Banco Santander, Citibank, Sony, Banco de Desarrollo de Puerto Rico, Movistar, Centennial, Singular, Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica, Unilever, Plaza Las Américas, Plaza Carolina, J.C. Penney, Sears, Dove, Ponds, Zion, Chrysler, Medalla, Corona, Old Colony, Tres Monjitas, El Nuevo Día, El Vocero and Presidente (in Dominican Republic).

Cuello has worked in films since 1982, among her films, “The Deathtaker I”, “Amazonian” and “The Deathtaker II”; as atmosphere creator in “La Noche de los Lápices”, “Tango Bar”, “Store Queen”, “El Año del Conejo”, “De los Apeninos a los Andes” and “Evangelio Según San Marcos”; as a decorator in “Matar es Morir un Poco”, “Every Smile”, “Blaue Augen”, “Alambrado”, “Siempre es Difícil Volver a Casa”, “De Eso no se Habla” and “La Dama Regresa”; as costume assistant in “La Peste”; as Art Director in “Guerrero” and “Cinco Siglos de Cristianismo”; and finally Production Designer in “Angelito Mío”, “Los Días de Doris”, “Los Dioses del Desprecio” and “Maldeamores”.



**Omar Silva Meléndez**  
**Music Supervisor**

Meléndez plays guitar and bass; composes and produces. He graduated *Magna Cum Laude* in the Music Department of the Puerto Rico University. He studied classic guitar in Puerto Rico and Madrid between 1993 and 1999. He also studied composition in the Music Conservatory in Puerto Rico with the *maestro* Rafael Aponte Ledeeé. As a bass player, Meléndez was self-taught in popular and folkloric groups. He has worked as a composer, musical collaborator and player in theater, dance, and performances, directed by renowned artists in their respective Medias. Meléndez’ compositions have been presented in classic, contemporary, experimental, and electronic music recitals in Puerto Rico, Madrid and La Havana. He Composed and produced the music for the Puerto Rican feature films *El Clown* (2006) and *Maldeamores* (2007). Meléndez is a founding member of the most respected reggae group in Latin America, *Cultura Profética*, with which has made five successful recordings and several international tours.



**Suzanne Krim**  
**Costume Designer**

Krim graduated with studies in linguistics and teaching experience. She began in costume designs as a co-producer in a low budget short; having there to do the most of the available resorts. Shortly after, Krim started to work in local and international advertising, shorts, and eventually films.

Krim has worked with Warner Brothers, Universal Pictures, Samuel Goldwyn Co., DreamWorks Productions, and Revelations Entertainment. She has been Costume Designer for 24 independent films.

**Luis A. Riefkohl Miranda**  
**Executive Director, Puerto Rico Film Industry Development Corporation**

“Besides the enviable task of promoting Puerto Rico as a fantastic production location thanks to superb natural and human resources, first-class production infrastructure, as well as competitive economic incentives for foreign productions, we at the Film Corporation have been endowed with generous incentives to develop, finance and promote local productions and co-productions. We have been successful on both fronts increasing 150% the foreign production in the island and developing and financing a four-picture slate of local films for 2007 of which “Maldeamores” is our standard-bearer.

Puerto Rico has the peculiarity of having a fertile ground to explore collective subjects from a unique cultural standpoint rarely before offered in film and it’s a joy to be able to be as supportive and encouraging as we can to our own stories, evidently they are ours.

“Maldeamores” is a film about the ultimate collective subject, love, narrated within the contours of our reality. It has the right elements, a great libretto, a huge deal of professionalism and equal measures of drive and passion and the support of Puerto Rican film industry professionals such as Benicio del Toro and Luis Guzman. Of course we jumped in behind it and the outcome makes it all meaningful. As with all our projects, we try to foresee a positive result, because the world is beginning to look in our direction.

That’s for me the key, to strive to create as much genuine and honest work as we can, because at the end people will appreciate it and be attracted to our films and to filming here. This way we can achieve what is The Film Corporation’s mission, the rising of a real and healthy Puerto Rican film industry.”



## **SALT.**

### International Sales

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salt. is part of the international media group International Film Collective (IFC). salt. can work with you at an early stage to pull together finance from diverse sources. Tax breaks in Puerto Rico, US hedge funds or an MG from us. We can help you put your film's financing together in the most cost effective and efficient manner.

If you're a producer, it sometimes feels like there's nowhere to turn. salt. are a friendly, creative, experienced team of people who can help you create finance and sales strategies with your film's market potential firmly in mind that will help get your project made.

Launching a film in the international marketplace is a crucial stage in the filmmaking process. It can only be done once, so it must be done right. salt. can ensure that your film gets shown to the right people at the right time and in the right place. salt. uses proprietary software to help ensure that all stages of the sales process go smoothly, from reporting to monitoring rights and collecting monies.

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**THE END**

