



OFFICIAL SELECTION
tiff50
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2025

Official Selection
**Fantastic
20
Fest 25**

YESSICA GÓMEZ GONZÁLEZ
DIRECTED BY **GONÇALO ALMEIDA**
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY **MIKA ALTSKAN**

Quietness


WITH THE ARTISTIC CONSULTANCY OF
WERNER HERZOG AND PETER ZEITLINGER

A PRODUCTION BY

**la
selva**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

WERNER HERZOG STIFTUNG



Synopsis

The hotel breathes.

It rustles.

It waits.

*Yessica is the only one who hears it,
the only one who sees what's writhing beneath the surface.*

Today, she takes action.

Quietness

Quietud

2025 / COLOUR / SPAIN / 9"

Crew

Screenplay

Gonçalo Almeida / Mika Altskan

Director

Gonçalo Almeida

Cinematography

Mika Altskan

Sound

Filipe Chagas

Editing

Gonçalo Almeida

Ricardo Saraiva

Music

Andrea Boccadoro

Production

La Selva Ecosistema Creatiu SCCL

Cast

Yessica Gómez González

Director's statement

While wandering through a resort in La Palma, I was struck by two recurring presences: cockroaches and drunk tourists. Spending time with the hotel's cleaning staff, I watched them tirelessly try to keep the roaches out, a near impossible task. What fascinated me was the irony: the cockroaches are native to this volcanic island, resilient and adapted. The tourists, on the other hand, are the true invasive species, louder, harder to manage, and far more entitled.

That tension between what belongs and what disrupts, between survival and intrusion, became the seed for this film. As a horror filmmaker, I began to imagine a world, perhaps shaped by the main character's psyche, perhaps not, where something grotesque emerges: a being caught between tourist and cockroach. This fusion led me to revisit Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* and reflect on transformation, alienation, and the grotesque absurdity of modern tourism.

Gonçalo Almeida



Gonçalo Almeida

Director

Gonçalo Almeida is a Portuguese filmmaker and screenwriter from Santiago do Cacém. He began his academic journey in graphic design before shifting to cinema. In 2012, he moved to London to attend the London Film School, completing his MA in Filmmaking in 2015.

During his studies, he directed several experimental and documentary shorts: **Severed Garden**, **Condorong**, and **Phantom**, which already revealed his interest in poetic aesthetics and unconventional narrative structures. His short film **Thursday Night** (2017), a surreal encounter between two dogs, marked his international breakthrough. Selected for the Sundance Film Festival, it went on to win the Méliès d'Argent, Best Portuguese Short at MotelX, and Best Director at Fantastic Fest.

In 2019, Almeida premiered his first feature film, **Keep Me Company**, a minimalist portrait of a deteriorating relationship, shot entirely on the Alentejo coast. The film was selected for Fantastic Fest and theatrically released in Portugal. That same year, he was selected for Berlinale Talents.

He returned to the Alentejo landscape in **The Girl from Saturn** (2021), a metaphysical short nominated for the Sophia Awards and winner of Best Director at Fantastic Fest. In 2024, he released **Atom & Void**, a minimalist sci-fi short selected for Sitges and awarded at HÖFF (Estonia) and Short Shorts Film Festival (Japan).

In 2024, under the mentorship of Werner Herzog, he directed **Quietness**. His second feature, **The Advent**, set entirely on the Alentejo coast, is in advanced development, supported by the Less is More programme and winner of Best Pitch at the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival. Production is scheduled for 2026.

www.goncaloalmeida.com

Filmography

QUIETNESS

2025 / Colour / Spain / 9'

ATOM & VOID

2024 / Colour / Portugal / 9'

THE GIRL FROM SATURN

2021 / Colour / Portugal / 16'

KEEP ME COMPANY

2019 / Colour / Portugal / 88'

THURSDAY NIGHT

2017 / Colour / UK / 7'

PHANTOM

2017 / Colour / UK / 8'

CONDORONG

2016 / B&W / UK / 11'

SEVERED GARDEN

2015 / Colour / UK / 20'

Quietness
Quietud

Mika Altskan

Cinematographer

Mika Altskan is an award-winning cinematographer based in New York, recognized for his poetic visual language and versatility across narrative, documentary, music videos, and commercial work. Born in Washington, D.C. to a Ukrainian father and Russian mother, Mika came up through G&E and camera department crews after early years documenting the capital's underground and skate scenes.

His acclaimed short **Odds and Ends** (2018) won the Webby People's Choice Award and launched a career that's taken him around the globe. His credits include **Wild Nights with Emily** (SXSW Gamechanger nominee), feature **Notice to Quit** (Mubi 2025), and **Smadar**, which earned him the Parajanov-Vartanov Institute's Best Cinematography Award. His collaborations have been honored at festivals such as SXSW, Rotterdam, and DOXA, as well as awards including the Independent Spirit Awards, Clios, D&AD, UKMVAs, 1.4 Awards, among others.

A graduate of the Corcoran College of Art and Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, Mika has further developed his voice through labs and mentorships, including PlayLab Amazon with Apichatpong Weerasethakul, La Selva with Werner Herzog, and ASC and ICG mentorship programs. His latest feature, **Dead Letters** (dir. David Drake), is currently in post-production.

www.mikaaltskan.com

Filmography

DEAD LETTERS

Director: David Drake
2025 / Colour / USA / 90'

NOTICE TO QUIT

Director: Simon Hacker
2024 / Color / USA / 91'

SMADAR

Director: Mayan Toledano
2023 / Color / USA / 86'

WILD NIGHTS WITH EMILY

Director: Madeleine Olnek
2018 / Color / USA / 84'

QUIETNESS

Director: Goncalo Almeida
2025/ Color / Spain / 9'

GRIM ALL DAY

Director: Dylan Pailles Friedman
2025 / Color / USA / 14'

EIGHT WALLS TWO DOORS

Director: Miao Chun Zhang
2025 / Color / USA / 19'

PIKA

Director: Alex Fischman
2025 / Color / Peru / 17'

SUSURRO

Director: Gabriel Gonzalez Acosta
2024 / B&W / Mexico / 10'



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