

Strand Releasing presents

THE AMAZING CATFISH

(LOS INSÓLITOS PECES GATO)

A film by **CLAUDIA SAINTE-LUCE**

Starring Lisa Owen, Ximena Ayala, Sonia Franco

Winner, International Critics' Award (FIPRESCI), Toronto Film Festival
Winner, Junior Jury Award, Locarno International Film Festival
Winner, Best Film, Baja International Film Festival
Nominated, New Directors Prize, San Francisco International Film Festival
Winner, Special Jury Award, Gijón International Film Festival
Winner, Grand Coral - Second Prize, Havana Film Festival

Country of Origin: Mexico
Format: DCP/1.85/Color
Sound Format: 5.1 Surround Sound
Running Time: 95 minutes
Genre: Comedy/Drama
Not Rated
In Spanish with English Subtitles

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<http://extranet.strandreleasing.com/secure/login.aspx?username=PRESS&password=STRAND>

SYNOPSIS

THE AMAZING CATFISH is a heartwarming tale of two unique women who bond while recuperating in a hospital. Martha, a mother of four rambunctious and imaginative children, finds solace when she meets the younger woman, Claudia, and quickly the two build a strong relationship. When Martha invites Claudia to live with her family, Claudia unwittingly takes on the responsibility of becoming a surrogate mother to Martha's children.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I prefer to keep only the heartening details from my past in my memory, rather than the saddening ones. I wanted to tell Martha's story. I met her in Guadalajara when I was 22 and since then, this meeting has become my "bedside story," the story I think about from time to time, whenever I need to cheer up.

When I recall those days of my life, facts and places get fleshed out by fantasized and embellished details... Martha's old sofa appears more sumptuous than it really was, covered with a fabric which probably has nothing to do with the original one, and this is how I like to remember it. The protagonists also take part in the building of this "fake" memory. My memory has succeeded in selecting the most beautiful and striking moments of our time together. The story of my film revolves around Claudia, a solitary young woman who works in a supermarket and who shields herself from any social contact.

When she gets appendicitis, she meets Martha, the woman she shares a room with, who suffers from a serious chronic illness. This woman has four children. She is enthusiastic, warm, optimistic and funny – she lives life to the fullest. Martha develops a fondness for Claudia, she welcomes her into her house and teaches her how to seize the day. Claudia finds in Martha the mother she has never had, and makes a place for herself within the bustling family. *The Amazing Catfish* lies somewhere between drama and comedy. Comedy, because the characters make fun of their misfortunes. Drama, because they don't really have a choice.

The bottom line is we are all alone in life. But the meeting of two people who share the same feelings can make this life sweeter.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Claudia Sainte-Luce was born in Veracruz (Mexico) on December 28, 1982. In 2004, she graduated from the University of Guadalajara in Visual Arts.

In 2005, her film, *Muerte Anunciada (Death Announced)* was selected for the Festival Expresión en Corto in Guanajuato. There, it won the Audience Award, the Award for Best Actor and a Jury Mention.

Since 2007, she has been working as an assistant director for several Mexican feature films.

In 2010, she won the competition organized by IMCINE (Mexican Institute of Cinematography) with *The Amazing Catfish*. In March 2011, the film's script was selected for the 17th Laboratory of scriptwriting supported by Bertha Navarro, the Sundance Lab and the Toscano Foundation. In December 2012, she was awarded the Primer Corte Prize at Ventana Sur (Buenos Aires) for her first feature film, *The Amazing Catfish*, when it was still in post-production.

CAST

Ximena Ayala	Claudia
Lisa Owen	Martha
Sonia Franco	Ale
Wendy Guillén	Wendy
Andrea Baeza	Mariana
Alejandro Ramírez Muñoz	Armando

CREW

Written and Directed by	Claudia Sainte-Luce
Produced by	Geminiano Pineda
Executive Producers	Ruby Castillo Christian Kregel Geminiano Pineda
Co-Producers	Philippe Akoka Alain Peyrollaz
Cinematography	Agnès Godard, AFC
Editor	Santiago Ricci
Sound Design	Frédéric Le Louet
Sound Mixing	Vincent Arnardi
Original Music	Madame Recamier
Production Design	Bárbara Enríquez
Production Companies	Cine CANÍBAL Jaqueca Films Good Lap Production Fondo para la Producción Cinematográfica de Calidad - MÉXICO Instituto Mexicano de Cinematografía - IMCINE