

A film by OLPAMAdiversion Films

Produced by JASKIA VISCHER

Directed by OLIVIER PICTET, PABLO MARTÍN TORRADO, MARC RECUENCO

# LO MÁS IMPORTANTE DE LA VIDA ES NO HABER MUERTO

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE IS NOT BEING DEAD

EMILIO  
GUTIÉRREZ CABA

FRANCISCO  
NORTES

MERCÈ  
MONTALÀ

CARLES  
ARQUIMBAU

ALBERT  
AUSSELLÉ

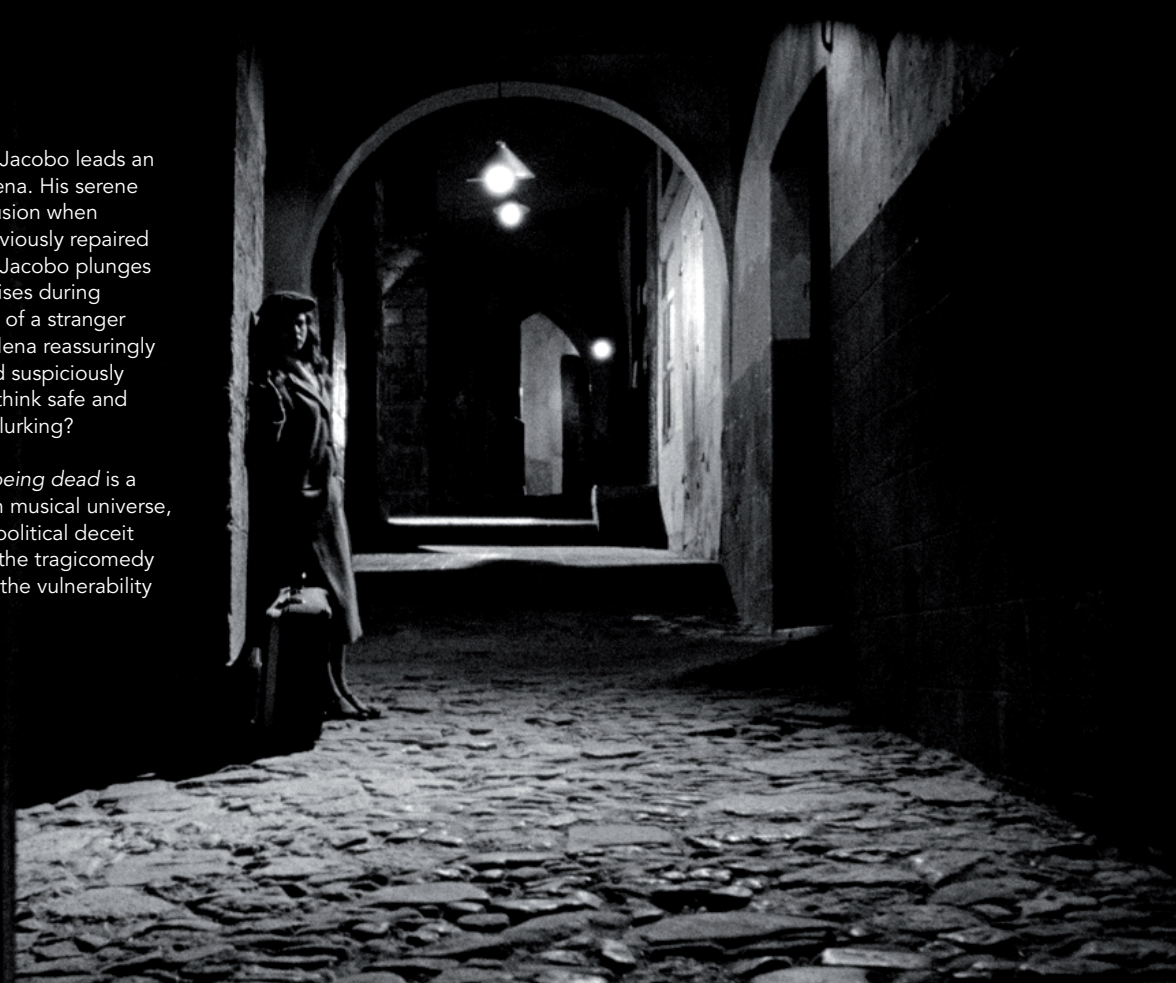
MARIÁN  
AGUILERA



## Synopsis

An esteemed piano tuner and repairer, Jacobo leads an apparently happy life with his wife, Helena. His serene existence is thrown into a state of confusion when insomnia creeps in, and pianos that previously repaired miraculously overnight remain unfixed. Jacobo plunges into paranoia and madness, hearing noises during the night and having ephemeral visions of a stranger roaming the house in a night gown. Helena reassuringly denies anything out of the ordinary, and suspiciously insists he is hallucinating. Is the life we think safe and secure true, or is there a second reality lurking?

*The most important thing in life is not being dead* is a tale of betrayal and forgiveness in a rich musical universe, set against the Franco era, a period of political deceit and distorted reality in Spain. Playfully, the tragicomedy questions our perception of reality and the vulnerability of our human condition.



## Directors' statement

Jacobo is drowsing peacefully in his favourite armchair, when he is rudely awoken by the appearance in his living room of a bearded stranger dressed in boxer shorts and bathrobe. Jacobo is naturally distressed by this peculiar apparition and attempts to follow him, but the intruder is nowhere to be seen.

This invasion of one's private space and the resulting feelings of vulnerability provided the starting point for the film. We wanted to explore the idea of vulnerability, of self-deception and doubt, leading to the breakdown of an entire belief system. Jacobo awakes as if from a long dream and finds that behind his ordered, trouble-free existence, there lies another suppressed, chaotic world. We decided to shoot almost exclusively in closed interiors within a single house, in this way heightening Jacobo's sense of desperation as his comfortable world collapses around him.

An Escheresque landscape provides the backdrop for this tale of colliding worlds and loss of beliefs. We wanted the interior of the house itself to reflect the structure of the film and the inner turmoil of Jacobo. The house is both a refuge where Jacobo plays out his various roles as artisan, father, husband; and a bizarre unexplored territory populated by distorted figures, mirrors, secret passageways, and never-ending spiral staircases. This double reality is reflected in the opposition between over and underground, between conscious and dreamlike states, between science and miracle, symbolising the deep rift between the opposing ideologies of the Franco era.





## Actors and key crew

Jacobo 1980 - Emilio Gutiérrez Caba (twice Goya winner)

Jacobo 1950 - Francisco Nortes

Helena 1980 - Mercè Montalà

Helena 1950 - Marián Aguilera

Gerard 1980 - Carles Arquimbau

Gerard 1950 - Albert Ausellé

Vecino 1980 - Xavier Tor

Vecino 1950 - Jordi Domènech

Director of photography - Pietro Zuercher

Music composer - Julien Painot & Ladislav Agabekov

Director of sound - Marianne Roussy

Costumes designer - Montse Garre Escayol

Hair & make-up - Silvia Pellissa Serra

Animation and croc artwork - Alejandro Martín

Location manager - Fabien Cachin

Editor - Jordi J. Recort

Sound editor & mix - Denis Séchaud

SFX supervisor - Boris Rabusseau

For full list of cast & crew, please contact [info@lomasimportantefilm.com](mailto:info@lomasimportantefilm.com)



## A film by OLPAMAdiversion Films

OLPAMA is a collective of three writer-directors from Geneva, Madrid and Barcelona, who collaborate to create stylised films that are both original and surprising. This new voice in European art offers a fantastic, comical, absurd, magical cinema; an alternative vision to catastrophism that is positive, hopeful and seeks to entertain. The stories are original, intelligently constructed narrative that are accessible to mainstream and cinephile audiences alike. OLPAMA tells their stories with theatrical extravagance, inspired by masters and movements from all forms of art.

OLPAMA's unique collaboration enriches the filmmaking process, from idea to finished film and beyond, in a harmonious manner, taking the story and form to higher and deeper levels of creativity. Each co-director has his areas of expertise: OLivier takes care of the aesthetics of the picture; PABlo writes and directs the actors' performances; and MArC co-writes and designs the sets.

Since meeting at the IDEP film school in Barcelona in 2002, OLPAMA's work has included fiction, short, experimental and documentary films, selected at numerous Festivals internationally (award-winning). *The most important thing in life is not being dead* is their debut feature-length fiction film.



## Individual biographies

### OL

Olivier Pictet (1977), a native of Geneva, followed a typical economics route at the HEC University in Lausanne in preparation for a corporate career. His path underwent a major change in 1997 during an Erasmus year in Barcelona. A couple of years later, he decided to follow his passion for film and photography, living in Spain and New York. In addition to his projects with PAMA, Olivier has directed several mountain and extreme sports films. Since 2008, Olivier has combined his business acumen and passion for film by joining the management team of Freestudios SA, an established production services company in Geneva, Switzerland, where he currently resides.

### PA

Pablo Martín Torrado (1973) was born in Madrid and, as the son of two established artists, grew up surrounded by art, culture and creativity. In 1999, while majoring in English literature and philology at the University of Granada, he began evolving towards cinema and participated in numerous writing, actor directing, directing and editing courses. During the years that followed Pablo also wrote continuously and lived in Dublin, Brussels, Malaga and Barcelona. As well as film directing, Pablo has been teaching and is completing a PhD in cinema theory and criticism at the University of Pompeu Fabra. Pablo currently lives in Montreux, Switzerland.

### MA

Marc Recuenco Bigordà (1978) is originally from Catalonia. The son of a pianist, his first vocation was interior design and architecture, including draftsmanship. He began at IDEP in 2002, studying production and film directing with OLPA. From 2003 he pursued film-directing studies at the Centre d'Estudis Cinematogràfics of Catalonia (CECC). Marc is now totally devoted to film, combining his experience in architecture & design with writing & directing, to develop his specialisation in scenography and narrative structure. Marc lives in Barcelona, Spain.



## Filmography - selection

**THERMOS, 2006**, documentary, 60 minutes, s16mm and s8mm ; selected Capture The Ride Toronto '07, Gijon '07, Frozen Goggles '07 ; European distrib. theatrical, TV, DVD

**ARRENDADOR, 2006**, fiction, 16 minutes, s16mm

**SÍNDROME, 2005**, fiction, 16 minutes, s8mm ; selected UNICA '05 and Girone '05

**BROADWAY 137 (3') / NYC EXPERIMENT (2'), 2004**, experimental, s16mm s8mm

**APTO, 2004**, video art, 3 minutes, s8mm, winner Festival El Rotllo Terrassa

**MECACHIS, 2004**, video art, 6 minutes ; selected Baumann '04, Vila-Real '05

**SERAFÍN, 2003**, fiction, 16 minutes, DVCAM ; selected Sitges '03, Jerez '03, Bahia de Pasaia '03, Cáceres '04, BaseFilm '04, Sabadell '04, UNICA '05

**CATORCE, 2003**, video art, 6 minutes, DVCAM ; selected Baumann '03, Visual Sound '03, AVFAD '03, Vallecas '05, LOOP '05 ; winner SONY 1st prize

For more information and clips of films, please visit [www.barnaestupeli.com](http://www.barnaestupeli.com)



## Produced by Saskia Vischer

**saskia vischer productions** (svp) is an independent Swiss production company that collaborates with talent to create innovative and daring feature-length fiction for audiences worldwide. The company was founded in 2004 by Saskia Vischer, a Swiss-Australian entrepreneur who combines her international business background, artistic sensitivities and management skills to efficiently transform authors and directors' visions into market reality, collaborating with partners in Europe and beyond. International networks include EAVE, IFP, Rotterdam Lab, Cannes Producers Network. **svp** and OLPAMA share a powerful common goal and have enjoyed a successful working relationship since 2007.

For more information, please visit [www.saskiavischer.com](http://www.saskiavischer.com)





## Technical info

80 minutes

Shot on s16mm, DI, 35mm

Completion 2010

Original version: Spanish

Sub-titles versions: English, French, German

Black/white and colour

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Directed by Olivier Pictet, Pablo Martín Torrado and Marc Recuenco

Produced by Saskia Vischer

Screenplay by Pablo Martín Torrado in collaboration with Marc Recuenco

Co-production: Switzerland and Spain

Delegate producer: saskia vischer productions, Geneva, Switzerland

Co-producer: OLPAMAdiversion Films, Barcelona, Spain

National co-producer: Freestudios S.A., Geneva, Switzerland

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[www.LoMasImportanteFilm.com](http://www.LoMasImportanteFilm.com)

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