



amigo



**"a true friend stabs
you in the front"**

– Oscar Wilde



amigo

'a friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity'.

(Proverbs 17:17)

introduction

Amigo is a fiction feature film that brings together psychological thriller and black comedy, bordering on the macabre, all in the form of an intimate drama. An independent production with great potential for international screening, starring **Javier Botet** and **David Pareja**, a comedic duo with a long career path who have taken part in short films, web series and social media.



logline

Following a serious accident, David decides to take his best friend Javi in and look after him. However, it's not long before the quarrels between the two come up to surface, bringing into the open a poisoned and homicidal relationship, closer to insanity than the friendship they appear to hold.





the characters



javier botet

Possibly, the most prolific actor in contemporary horror cinema. His innate talent together with his inimitable physical appearance have led him right to the top with a professional path that seems unstoppable. Since he first became internationally known with his part as the terrifying Tristana Medeiros, part of the [REC] saga, Botet has been involved in one blockbuster after another. He has worked with some of the most prestigious directors of current cinema including Ridley Scott, Guillermo del Toro and Alejandro González Iñárritu in films like *It*, *Alien: Covenant*, *The Mummy*, *Insidious*, *The Conjuring*, *The Revenant*, *Las Brujas de Zugarramurdi*, *Mama* and a long etcetera. He was also involved in the recent smash hit TV series *Game of Thrones* and *Star Trek*. His great popularity has taken him to the top 200 of IMDb searches.

At the same time, he has been pursuing a career as a director, screenwriter and comedian in many short films and online videos hand in hand with David Pareja, series like *El fin de la comedia*, feature films like *Algo muy gordo* with Berto Romero and TV Shows like *El Hormiguero*.



david pareja

Actor, director and screenwriter, known for his award-winning works in competitions like Notodofilmfest (**Lethal Love**, **Nino**, **Mirada Perdida**) and sketches with Javier Botet (**Funny Webcam Effects**, **Suena fatal** and **Tiene eco**) as well as his activity in social networks, David Pareja enjoys great popularity in media such as Vine, Instagram or Twitter with over 30.000 followers. Moreover, he has acted in successful productions like **Magical Girl** by Carlos Vermut (awarded with the Silver Shell at the San Sebastián Film Festival in 2014), **Esa sensación** by Juan Cavestany, **Matar a Dios** (Audience Award at the Sitges International Film Festival in 2017) or the web series **Mambo**, along with the creators of the phenomenon **Malviviendo**. He has also contributed to the television show **Late Motiv** by Andreu Buenafuente.





notes from the director





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"I love the idea of changing the usual role of comedy actors and introducing them into a sad and dark universe, something like what Takeshi Kitano did. I am interested in multifaceted characters, hence humane. In order to do that, in addition to the *tour de force* of Javi and David, we draw on a very talented and experienced cast, with whom we could 'play' during the rehearsals and thus enrich the scenes with their improvisations."

Óscar Martín

"In the same vein, one of the appeals of *Amigo* that you get to see great comedians working in a very different manner from what the audience is used to. This is the case of **Patricia Estremera** and **Alfonso Mendiguchía**, founders of the Theatre Company **Los Absurdos** or **Esther Gimeno**, a veteran of the national stand-up circuit and well known for parts like 'La Jenny' in *Sopa de gansos*. As the final touch, we count with the collaboration of **Luichi Macías** (*Toro*) and the actor and director **Zoe Berriatúa** (*En las estrellas*)."

the house

Amigo is set in the gothic tradition of the old cottage. This gloomy and terrifying atmosphere that, inheriting its take from the Victorian novel, has already become one of the most known icons in our popular culture through the novels of Jane Austen to the Hitchcock's in *Psycho* or *Rebeca*, or more recent productions such as *Mother!* by Darren Aronofsky.







direction's memory



the origin of **Amigo**

“We have wanted for some time to do something big with Javi Botet. We had a marvelous experience with the short film *Bonsai* and some musical videos. As we were discussing a future project together, he talked to us about an idea he had in mind about two friends, one of them disabled, and their sick relationship full with tragicomic events, both being in one single location. This reminded me immediately of films like *Misery* or *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*, a film where the characters are locked...”

Since the challenge of shooting a self-produced in little more than a week was very difficult but not impossible, the production started. Right after, the name of **David Pareja** came up, a friend since childhood and partner to Javi in so many spectacles, short films and internet works, with whom he has won many awards. The screenplay, written by six hands, the director and the actors, was continually embellished, by way of a self-fiction, with personal anecdotes and true situations. Javi and David are the main characters in the film.

visual and sound style

“I am interested in films with claustrophobic atmospheres, just a few characters, and seeing how an initial situation, apparently idyllic, develops and gets more and more complicated, full of secrets and with a dark past. Taking for granted the importance of acting, I like to frame the characters in everyday situations, naturalistic, almost like a documentary, so that slowly the unexpected and surprising can happen. **We want the viewer to suffer and live the situations with them, to get to know both, to understand their motivations. As in real life, there are tragic moments, but also pathetic ones, fun ones and terrifying ones.**”

This is all framed in the low-key photography, backlighting and contrast of **Alberto Morago**, who has the ability to carry us to the tenebrism of painters like Caravaggio. The sound design by **Alex Marais** captures every fright and every crackle of the old cottage where the story takes place. By their side, a small family of professionals, including Oscar-winner **David Martí** and **Montse Ribé - DDT FX** (*Pan's Labyrinth*, *Hellboy*), were able to take the production forward in a record time without losing quality, resulting an independent movie that looks like a studio film.





the production company

el ojo mecánico (Óscar Martín and Elena Muñoz)

With over 20 years experience in the audiovisual field, the duet formed by director Óscar Martín and producer Elena Muñoz have launched their first fiction feature film. An entire life dedicated to producing a great variety of genre and formats: advertising, music videos, short films, documentaries, art videos... Without ever losing their bond to fantastic cinema, they have contributed to documentaries (*The Man Who Saw Frankenstein Cry* on the mythical figure of Paul Naschy), film festivals (Nocturna, Alcine) and TV shows (Calle 13). On the fiction field, their most outstanding works are the short films *Full of Empty* or *Bonsai*, as well as experiments like *Hezomagari*, an interactive science-fiction film that develops between Spain and Japan. Their works have been selected and awarded in international festivals like New York State International Film Festival, Williamsburg International Film Festival (NY), International Open Film Festival (USA), London International Motion Pictures Award (UK), IFFF Cinefantasy (Brasil), Mórvido Film Fest (México), Fantasporto (Portugal), FantaFestival Roma (Italy) or Sitges Film Festival (Spain).

cast

Javier Botet | **David Pareja** | **Patricia Estremera** | **Esther Gimeno** | **Alfonso Mendiguchia**

with the special collaboration of **Ana del Arco**, **Luichi Macías** y **Zoe Berriatúa**

crew

music **Manú Conde** | costume design **Raquel Hormigos** | photography **Alberto Morago Muñoz** | sound **Álex Marais**

art **Óscar D. Gómez** | sfx **DDT Montse Ribé** & **David Martí** | screenplay **Javier Botet, David Pareja** & **Óscar Martín**

director's assistant **José Ángel Lázaro** | production manager **Pedro Toro** | edition **Emilio González**

production **Elena Muñoz** | director **Óscar Martín**

Spain, 2019 | projection format: **DCP 16:9** | audio format: **stereo** | running time: **85"** | expected release date:: **autumn 2019**

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