MOMOTRUP FILMS presents

MARTA BAYARRI

PEPO BLASCO

# VACA

a short film by MARTA BAYARRI



International Short Film Festival

































«A surreal bovine encounter» Edinburgh Intl Film Festival

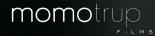
















VACA (COW) is the third work wrote and directed by MARTA BAYARRI.

Produced by Momotrup Films, has Miguel Angel Faura

(Wasp Network, The Kill Team, Enemy, Escobar...)

and Oriol Ruiz (Fugit, One Night) as executive producers.

Shortlisted for the GOYA AWARDS 2020, with more than 80 Selections & 18 Awards in 16 different countries.

VACA has been acquired by HBO to broadcast in the US for two years from January 2020 on the HBO Latino channel and on HBO.com.

VACA has become part of the Shortcat Program 2019.

This is an annual program for the International promotion of Catalan Short Films (by ICEC Official Catalan Films Institution), a selection of 7 Short Films distributed at International Festivals and Markets around the World, such as Clermont-Ferrand Market or Short Film Corner in Cannes.

VACA nationally premiered at 60th ZINEBI, International Festival of Documentary and Short Film of Bilbao, a FIAPF accredited Festival and also an Oscar, BAFTA and GOYA Qualifying Festival.

The International Premiere is at the 34th Santa Barbara International Film Festival, an Oscar Qualifying Festival and one of the TOP 10 US Film Festivals.

In March is nominee by the HBO as one of the 5 finalists for the HBO Ibero-American Short Film Award at the 36th Miami Film Festival, in USA.

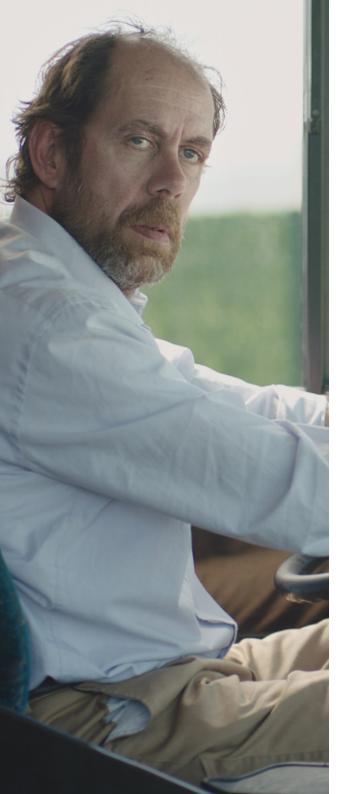
In April takes part in the Official Selection of the **43rd Cleveland International Film Festival**, Oscar qualifier and one of the oldest in the United States.

In June is in the Official Selection of the **Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia**, another Oscar Qualifying Festival and one of the largest and most important in Asia. Later takes part of the Official Selection at the **73rd Edinburgh International Film Festival**, BAFTA qualifier and the world's longest continually-running film festival.

In September is in the Official Selection at 2 Oscar Qualifying Festivals, the 33rd Edmonton International Film Festival, Canada Premiere, and the 16th In The Palace Intl Short Film Festival, Bulgaria Premiere.

In this last one, is one of the five short films subject of research by a committee of experts.





It also takes part of the Official Selection of one of the 20 Qualifying Festivals of the European Film Awards, EFA, the **43rd Intl Short Film Festival in Drama**, Premiere in Greece.

In October is in the Official Selection at the prestigious and well-known Canadian Film Festival, 38th Vancouver Intl Film Festival, and is also selected at the TISFF - Thess Intl Short Film Festival in Greece.

In November, is selected at another Oscar Qualifying Festival, the 35th Interfilm - Berlin Intl Short Film Festival in Germany. One of the two most prestigious Short Film Festivals in the country.

In December is in the Official Selection at the 17th BOGOSHORTS, the most important Short Film Festival in Colombia and Oscar Qualifying too.

In 2020 it starts with new prestigious Official Selections. In February is selected at the 20th CINELEBU - Lebu Intl Film Festival, another Oscar Qualifying Festival, Premiere in Chile.

In March returns to Chile at the 10th FEMCINE, and is selected at the 20th Landshut Short Film Festival in Germany.

In April it is officially selected in its tenth Oscar Qualifying Festival, at the 47th Athens Intl Film Festival & Video in Ohio, USA. And in the same country, in Houston, it wins a REMI AWARD for Best Adapted Dramatic Short, at the 57th WorldFest Houston Film Festival, the oldest Independent Film Festival in the world.

At the national level, VACA is selected in several GOYA Qualifying Festivals, such as Cortogenia where it receives a Distribution Award, Festival Ibérico de Badajoz, Festival de Cine de l'Alfàs del Pi, Festival Intl de Cine Independiente de Elche, Festival de Cine Solidario de Guadalajara, Festival de Cine de Madrid or MECAL PRO Intl Short Film Festival of Barcelona.

It is also selected in relevant festivals such as Palencia Intl Film Festival,
Piélagos en Corto Intl Festival where it receives the nomination for Best National Short Film
and Best Direction, 12th FIC-CAT Intl Catalan Film Festival
or the 45th FILMETS Intl Film Festival where it wins a Jury's Special Mention.

# **LOGLINE**

Marga is trapped in a routine life working in a slaughterhouse. Then, one day, a cow looks straight at her.

# **SYNOPSIS**

Marga works in a slaughterhouse and every day has the same routine, she takes a bus to go home after work at dark, and so day after day.

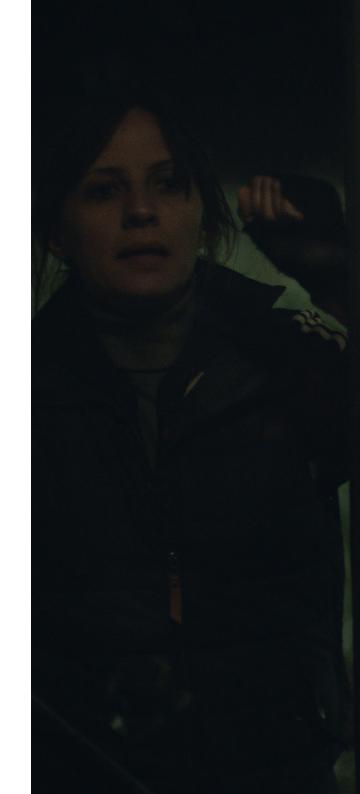
She lost the illusion to live because things already stopped happening a long time ago. However, one day, in a totally unexpected way, something will awaken her. For the first time in her life she realizes what she really wants to do. But, in order to achieve it, she will have to find help, and that will not be easy.

#### **NATIONAL PREMIERE**

60 ZINEBI, International festival of Documentary and Short Film of Bilbao, Spain (FIAPF Accredited. OSCAR®, BAFTA & GOYA Qualifier)

#### INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

34 SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, California, USA (OSCAR® Qualifier)





# **CAST**

Starring Marta Bayarri & Pepo Blasco

> Special Collaboration Cow Mimi

# **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Country of Production: Spain Date of Shooting: April 2018 Year of Production: 2018

Shooting Places: Verges & Celrà, Girona; Spain

Genre: Fiction; Drama Length: 15'

Color: Color

Shooting Format: HD 2K

Camera: ALEXA

Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

DCP 2K / Color / 24 f.p.s.

Sound Mix: Stereo & Digital 5.1

Original Language: Catalan

Available Subtitles: English & Spanish

# **SPECIFICATION SHEET**

Director & Writer
Marta Bayarri

Producer Oriol Ruiz

Production Manager Oriol Ruiz

Cinematographer Andreu Adam Rubiralta

> Art Director Paola González

Makeup Artist & Hairstylist Laura Bruy

> Sound Editor Àlex Vilches

Based on the Original Play by
Marc Guevara

Executive Producers
Miguel Angel Faura & Oriol Ruiz

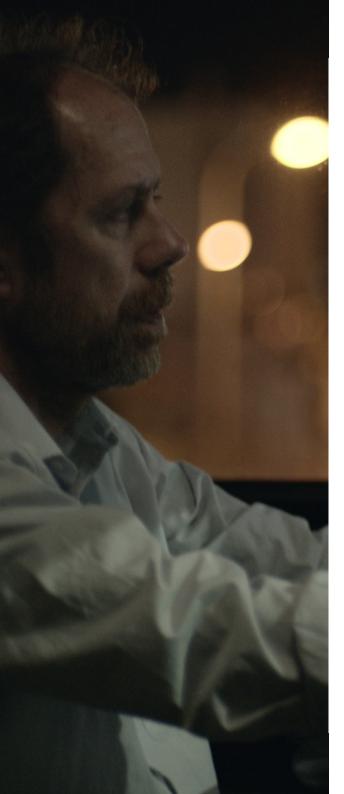
Original Music Miquel Coll i Trulls

> Editor Domi Parra

Costume Designer Maria Armengol

> Sound David Arroyo





#### **DIRECTOR STATEMENT**

"This story came to my life six years ago... and it stayed.

The original text was born in a creation workshop led by the American playwright and director Neil Labute. He, as mentor, was the culprit of uniting the youth and the talent of the author of the original piece, Marc Guevara, with myself as an actress.

The characters represent a great collective of people who live their lives hopeless. They walk in silence and they just do what they're supposed to do...

Marga is one of them. I understood that woman very well and I put myself on her skin. The result was very good and the assembly, directed by Labute himself, worked perfectly.

Marc had written a monologue piece with a deeply meaning, not only for what he said but how he said it. For the vitality that transpired and for the truth that it came off. It was a story that was worth repeating. I wanted to take it to the cinema and give it a wider visual frame that allowed seeing and living the universe that the original text already insinuates. Me, I decided to make a film adaptation and I wrote the screenplay.

And so it has been six years later we have carried it out. To raise this project, we have been fortunate to have a fantastic team, of great human and professional quality.

I am very happy and also convinced that VACA is one of those stories that tell a lot more than it says. A story alive and necessary that gives us the flavour of hope when one has lost the illusion".

Marta Bayarri

#### **DIRECTOR NOTES**

"Often we live our lives without caring what will happen tomorrow. Sometimes things already stopped happening a long time ago. But when we pay attention, the answer might be closer than we expect. Sometimes, you just need to know where to look."

This story has three characters. This woman, Marga who life's her live hopeless; the bus driver who drives every day the same road, and the cow...

Working on the script, again and again, I asked myself a question:
Who is who in this story? Marga, the bus driver, the cow...
First, I saw it this way: "Marga" spends many hours in a slaughterhouse
and her life is just as monotonous and sad as her reality. The "Bus Driver" makes the same route, day
after day, for more years than he is able to remember...

The "Cow" decides nothing about its destination...

But then I twisted it up: The "Cow" spends many hours in a slaughterhouse and her life is just as monotonous and sad that its reality.

"Marga" makes the same route, day after day, for more years than she is able to remember...

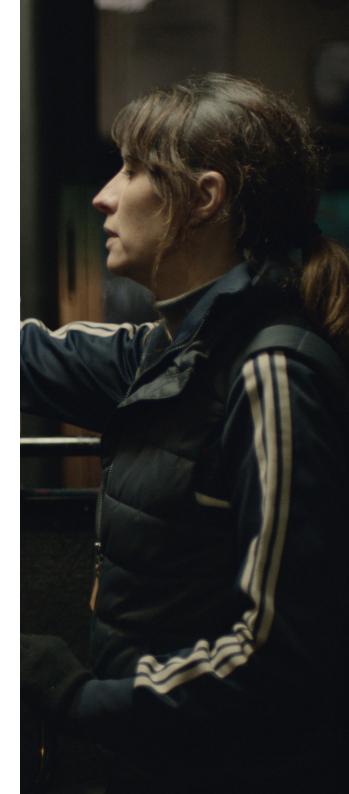
The "Bus Driver" doesn't decide on his destination...

So...Who is who in this story? Who is the COW actually?

The conclusion I reach is that the three characters, for different reasons, are trapped within the same routine that brings them nothing. There is no illusion. There is no hope. But suddenly something shakes their whole world up side down.

A look will change everything

Marga: "If we give her this opportunity, it will mean that people like you and me still have a chance, too..."





#### **PRODUCTION NOTES**

\_ Film Camera Treatment: As in my previous work, I believe in a camera at the service of the story and characters. In this case, the wide shot will play an important role when we describe the environment and the scenario. And the close up on the characters would be first with over-the-shoulder shots and then without, as they get closer and closer together.

\_ Sound & Music: One of the main characteristics of this story is that dialogues are not just words, but sound and music that participate very actively in the narration.

The characters live isolated from each other and do not talk to each other until they really connect. So, everything that surrounds them tells us so many things.

Therefore, especially at the beginning, the real sound of the different spaces (the slaughterhouse, inside the bus, ...) has a lot of presence and evokes essential sensations to immerse us in the universe of the story. For this reason, taking full advantage of the Direct Sound during the shooting was fundamental to me.

\_ Actors: On the other hand, because of my training, I love the work with the actor. Discovering the characters that the actors embody and establishing particular relationships between them is my goal. I like to give freedom to the actors so we can tell the story we want together with them. In this particular case, it has been a pleasure working with the actor Pepo Blasco and with the necessary and invaluable collaboration of our cow, Mimi.

VACA is a drama & comedy about being, it's the beginning of a road movie... a realistic drama with a tragicomic connotation.

#### **DIRECTOR**

Marta Bayarri is an actress, writer and director resident in Barcelona.

She has a long career as an actress in theater, musical theater, film and television. Simultaneously to her work as an actress, since 2010 she has immersed herself into the world of writing and directing.

She received training in the field of dramaturgy and script in several International Dramaturgy Workshops, and film skills at the University of Catalonia. In 2014, she founds the production company MOMOTRUP FILMS together with Oriol Ruiz and start telling their own stories.

Since April 2017, she comes part of the New Filmmakers Platform (PNR). She is also a member of the "Catalan Cinema Academy" and the Association of Women Filmmakers (CIMA).

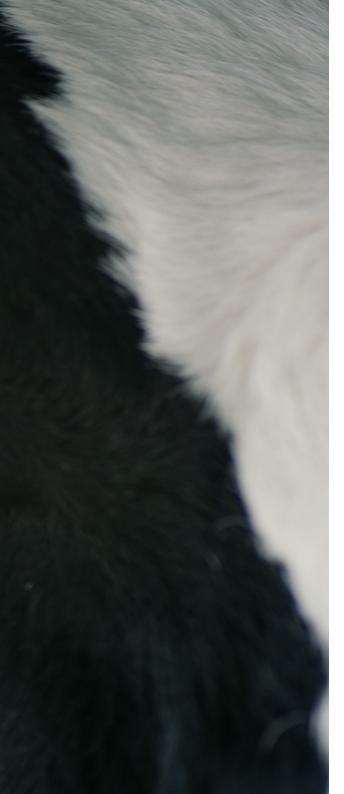
Her first short film ONE NIGHT (2014) received more than 50 Selections and 6 Awards, including the Critics Award for Best New Director in the FIBABC 2016 (Spanish American Short Film Festival ABC).

With her second short film, FUGIT (2016), has Miguel A. Faura and David Victori as executive producers. It received more than 65 selections, 8 Awards and achieves the Candidacy for Best Live-Action Short Film at the 32 Spanish Goya Awards in 2018.

VACA (COW) is her third work as a scriptwriter & director and, in this case, also starring. The short film has Miguel A. Faura and Oriol Ruiz as executive producers.

Currently, she has finished the script of her first feature film, HERA, and is in the development phase.





#### PRODUCTION COMPANY: MOMOTRUP FILMS

In 2014, Oriol Ruiz and Marta Bayarri founded the production company MOMOTRUP FILMS with the purpose to carry out their own artistic projects. Both, actors, have a common goal: make projects in which story is above everything. Where screenplay and characters have their own dimension, and that allows us to work many layers within the narrative.

We are interested in the use of a camera at the service of story. We like to create through the work with the actors a specific and necessary relationship of the characters in order to make their own universe. The one about the movie we want to tell.

Throughout the last 5 years they have produced three short films, "Una Nit" (2014), "Fugit" (2016) and "Vaca" (2018). And now they have the first feature film screenplay on the table, "Hera".

UNA NIT (One Night), 2014 \_ National Premiere in Cortogenia Film Festival in October 2014 and International Premiere in the Cinequest Film Festival of California, USA (qualifying festival of the Oscars and whose selection allowed us to present candidacy for the 30th edition of the Goya Awards in 2016). It has been selected in more than 50 national and international festivals and won 6 Awards, among which the Best New Director Award at the FIBABC'16.

FUGIT, 2016 \_ After the good reception of "Una Nit", Miguel Angel Faura (producer of films such as Enemy, Escobar, Mine ...) and David Victori (director and screenwriter of El Pacto, Zero by Ridley Scott, Pulsaciones, Son of Cain, La Culpa ...) join this project as executive producers betting on the value of Marta Bayarri as director and screenwriter. Starring Nil Cardoner and Oriol Ruiz, it has the National Premiere in the 28th Aguilar de Campoo Film Festival in December 2016, and the International Premiere in the 32nd Santa Barabara International Film Festival. Getting more than 65 Selections, twenty of them of first national and international level, it is selected by the Spanish Academy of Cinema as one of the 15 Candidates for Best Live-Action Short Film for the Goya Awards 2018.

VACA, 2018 \_ With this project, Marta carries out the adaptation of a theater text, taking the risk of trying new narrative languages different from those she had used in her previous projects, always within an audiovisual framework. To this end, she counts again with the complicity of Oriol Ruiz and Miguel Angel Faura, as well as that of a team of great human and professional quality throughout the entire process. Starring Marta herself and Pepo Blasco. It is right now in distribution.

