

TITLE: SISTIAGA, A BASQUE STORY, 100'

DIRECTOR: Manuel Sorto

WRITER: Manuel Sorto, Camilo Sorto-Cazaux

PRODUCER: Manuel Sorto, Xabi Hiriart, Camilo Sorto-Cazaux

PRODUCTION COMPANIES: Ekide Productions, otrosfilms

EDITING: Camilo Sorto-Cazaux

KEY CAST: José Antonio Sistiaga

OVERVIEW: José Antonio Sistiaga is one of the greats in basque contemporary art. Through lively exchanges begun in 1993 with his Salvadorean friend Manuel Sorto, we plunge into Sistiaga's intellectual intimacy and travel through a basque history, following the steps of this experimental filmmaker and artist. This nearly two decades-old project is taken up again in 2011, with the filming of the installation of Sistiaga's retrospective exhibition in San Sebastian, Basque Country, Spain.

DIRECTOR: Manuel Sorto, was born on November 25th, 1950 in Sensuntepeque, El Salvador. He is a writer, a poet, a man of the theater and a Salvadorian filmmaker. He has lived in El Salvador, in Guatemala and in Mexico, before moving to Bayonne, Basque Country, France, in 1987. His theatrical career began when he interpreted Clov in Samuel Beckett's play Endgame. In 1969, he cofounded and played for a theatrical group called El Taller de los Vagos. On the following year, he became professor, then director of the National School of Theater of El Salvador. Manuel Sorto participated in the literary group La Masacuata. In 1977, he discovered the art of editing by picking up a post of assistant editor for commercials at AFI (Associated Filmmakers International), where he also received a training in the treatment of soundtrack. In 1979, he turned El Taller de los Vagos into a film collective with his friend and teammate Guillermo Escalón, elaborating and shooting a project of short fiction film. They also decided to record some of the historic events that were happening in El Salvador on those years. This documentary material gave birth to the collective Cero a la Izquierda. In 1980, forced to exile, he took refuge in Mexico where he edited, co-wrote and co-realized the short film La Zona Intertidal and the documentary Morazán. Those movies will be awarded in La Havana, Bilbao, Oberhausen and Leipzig, and presented to the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs. Those works signed his definitive exile. Manuel Sorto then became a student at the CCC (Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica) of Mexico City, where he obtained a scriptwriter's diploma. Still in Mexico, he edited, co-wrote and co-realized the documentary Los primeros frutos (la decisión de vencer). This feature length won the Golden dove at the 24th Leipzig International Film Festival, the Grand Coral Prize at the 3rd Havana Film Festival and obtained the Novaïs-Teixeira prize of the Syndicat français de la critique de cinéma in 1982. Settled in France, he worked for the Biarritz Festival Latin America and taught hispanic cinema at the Audiovisual BTS (two-year technical degree) of the High school René Cassin of Bayonne at the beginning of the 90s. Since 2000, he has been working as a reflection implementer (metteur en réflexion) with the company Androphyne on "non-identified choreographic" shows. In 2014, he directed his first personal documentary full-length film as a director, about the Basque painter and experimental filmmaker José Antonio Sistiaga: Sistiaga, a basque story. He was also a member of the jury in various film festivals, such as the 6th edition of the FIPA (International Festival of Audiovisual Programmes) in Cannes, the 25th Bilbao International Documentary and Short Film Festival and the 5th Havana Film Festival. Moreover, he has written and published several texts from

all kinds (opinion pieces, film critics, illustrations, collections of poems, short story, etc.)
wherever he has lived.

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