

Ten Talents Spread Their Wings

By Emilio Mayorga



ESTEBAN CRESPO

Oscar-nominated for his short “That Wasn’t Me,” about aid workers in Africa. Following six shorts and 100-plus kudos, Crespo is returning to Africa for his first feature, “a thriller in the style of ’70s U.S. action cinema. It turns on an executive dispatched to Africa to solve an oil company engineer’s kidnapping,” explains the CAA-repped Crespo.



CARLES TORRENS

His first feature, “Apartment 143,” premiered at Spain’s Sitges Fest to positive response. Returning to shorts, “Sequence,” centering on a man who wakes one day to discover everybody is terrified of him, competed at Tribeca. Torrens has just finished the short “Hide & Seek.” Based in L.A., Torrens is repped by UTA.



DAVID SAINZ

Broke through with Web series “Malviviendo,” a dark comedy. Sainz then created cult film “Obra 67,” a film made in 24 hours with a crew of 10, produced by Different Entertainment, his label with partner Teresa Segura. Prepping thriller “The Shadow Inside,” produced by Gervasio Iglesias’ La Zanfona Producciones (“Juan of the Dead”).



JOSE SKAF

Zentropa Spain has picked Skaf to direct “Vulcania,” an intriguing thriller set in an industrial dystopia starring Aura Garrido and Miquel Fernandez. The film becomes a “quest for love, freedom and self-acceptance,” says Skaf.



MARTA VELASCO

Spain’s Producer on the Move at 2014’s Cannes, her credits include Jose Ortuno and Laura Alvea’s “The Extraordinary Tale” and Patricia Ferreira’s “The Wild Children,” which won best film and screenplay at 2012’s Malaga Spanish Fest. She has just wrapped production on “Innocent Killers,” a thriller from helmer Gonzalo Bendala.



ALEX LORA

New York-based Lora has gained acclaim for shorts “Only Salomon Lee,” “Odysseus’ Gambit” and “Us.” His shorts “Odysseus” and “A Hole in the Sky,” co-helmed with Antonio Tibaldi, screened at Sundance. Now prepping his feature debut “Beyond the Red Shore,” “about the first alien encounter, in a way we never imagined,” he explains.



CARLOS MARQUES-MARCKET

La Panda’s first director to make a splash, with his first feature, “Long Distance,” about a young couple’s trans-Atlantic relationship, conducted via video-chat, texts and Facebook: The L.A.-based, UTA-repped Marques-Marcet is developing a feature with “Distance” co-producer Lastor Media and Panda.



RODRIGO SOROGOYEN

His crowd-funded “Stockholm” won Spain’s 2014 breakthrough actor Goya, plus multiple other Spanish plaudits. Sorogoyen’s now developing “The Five Senses,” a romantic comedy written with Isabel Pena, which tips its hat to Noah Baumbach; and “The Present,” another romantic comedy co-written with Daniel Remon starring Marian Alvarez and Andres Gertrudix.



LA PANDA

Maria Aceves, Jon Aguirresarobe, Pau Brunet, Jana Diaz, Guillermo Escalona, Julia Fontana, Pablo Gomez-Castro, Elisa Lleras, Elia Urquiza, Carlos Marques-Marcet and David Martin-Porrás. They’re not members of a soccer team, but they

are all Spanish. A result of Spain’s crisis-driven creative diaspora, L.A.-based La Panda co-produced Nacho Vigalondo’s “Open Windows” and SXSW prize winner “Long Distance.” Now developing Martin-Porrás’ “Inside the Box,” a feature spin-off from his short.



LUIS MINARRO

Already one of Europe’s most creative arthouse producers, his credits include award winners at Cannes, Karlovy Vary and Rotterdam. Now turned director, he has just opened his first narrative feature “Stella Cadente,” a historic fable about a sensible king trying to modernize an intractable country (Spain). His sophomore effort: a contemporary version of Salome.

