

PRESS BOOK



A film by Abel Folk and Joan Riedweg

Co-produced by:

**Animals Films, S.L.
Televisió de Catalunya, S.A.**

ANIMALS FILMS
Riedweg & Folk produccions audiovisuals



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PRESENTATION

Xtremis is the first venture into film-making for the multi-faceted artists Abel Folk and Joan Riedweg. Their task has been Herculean: from the development of the original idea, to directing the film as a two-man team, the process has brought out the best in both, drawing on their wide-ranging professional experience.

Xtremis is an original concept, in terms both of the nature of the production and the technical challenges it posed. The desire to experiment, to explore new possibilities, has driven the creators to go to "extremes," pushing the visual and narrative limits of film as a medium.

Working with actors who are responding not only to the directors' notes, but also to the real-life characters they are playing, gives the stories a third dimension, establishing a powerful connection with reality for the viewer.

This makes *Xtremis* a difficult film to categorize. The directors did not set out to invent a new genre, or a new method of filming, or to experiment with different ways of working, but running up against the limitations of more traditional cinematic techniques, they were prompted to try. *Reality-fiction*, *Freestyle*, *Work-in-Progress*: these are all attempts to define a compelling style that the directors have made their own.



PRODUCTION DETAILS

Title	Xtremis
Runtime	107 minutes
Format	D-Cinema
Number of Reels	6
Aspect Ratio	1:1.85
Frame Rate	24 fps
Sound	Digital 5.1
Production Date	July 2009
Weeks of Filming	4
Color	Color
Audience	13 years and older
Genre	Drama / Reality fiction
Original Language	Catalan
Subtitles	Spanish & English



ARTISTIC CREDITS

Screenplay	Marta Molins Abel Folk Joan Riedweg
Art Direction	Josep Massagué
General Production Director	Mercè Canturri
Technical and Artistic Director in Postproduction	José M ^a Aragonés
Director of Photography	Pol Turrents
Film Editor	Joan Riedweg
Original Soundtrack	Dept Núria Canturri Joan Riedweg
Executive Producer / ANIMALS FILMS	Glòria Casanova
Executive Producer / TVC	Elisa Plaza
Directors	Abel Folk Joan Riedweg

CAST

Gerard	Aleix Albareda
Anna	Anna Azcona
Helena	Sílvia Bel
Biel	Eduard Farelo
Joana	Marta Marco
Ester	Sílvia Munt
Quim	Pep Planas
Iñaki	Miquel Sitjar



Natàlia	Mireia Aixalà
Ruth, as a girl	Rut Avellaneda
Young Biel	Dafnis Balduz
Young Diego	Jofre Borràs
Young Anna	Clàudia Cos
Lola	Àngels Gonyalons
Xano	Santi Ibáñez
Pere	Roger Pera
Rut, as an adult	Beth Rodergas
Young Quim	Jordi Rubio
Young Ester	Mar Ulldelins
Young Natalia	Paula Vives
Iñaki's Mother	Marta Angelar
Ester's Psychiatrist	Anna Barrachina
Army Gynecologist	Ricard Borràs
Joan	Alex Casanovas
Ester's Mother	Mercè Comes
Doctor	Abel Folk
Iñaki's Mother's Doctor	Enric Majó
Doctor Maria	Rosa Novell
Quim's Father	Joan Pera
Iñaki's Father-in-law	Anna Briansò
Make-up Artist	Juli Fàbregas
God Boy	Carles Goñi
Diego	Juan Carlos Gustems
Dealership Owner	Carles Martínez
Clairvoyant	Dolo Beltrán



CREW

Medical Adviser	Dr Maria Àlvarez
Researcher	Marc Saus
Assistant Director	Núria Canturri
Script	Patrícia Font
Wardrobe	Laia Muñoz Rosa Planas
Makeup	Karol Tornaria
Hairdresser	Martha Marín
Camera Operators	David Arasa Gabi García
2 nd Focus Puller	Thais Batlle
Camera Assistant	Núria Pérez
Video Assistant / Assistant Editor	Enric Barba
Sound Recordist	Aleix Cuaresma
Boom Operator	Xavier Carrera
Extras and Young Actors Casting	Sandra Sànchez (ROL, S.L)
Set Decorator	Montse Soler
Assistant Set Decorator	Eli Borrell
Set Dresser	Ivette Massip
Props Master	Peio Vizcaya



Construction Foreman	Alger Civís
Second Construction Foreman	Asier Herreros
Construction Assistant	Gerard Martínez
Second Construction Assistant	Àlex Fernández
Graffiti	Lian
Second Assistant Director	Àurea Millan
Production Assistant	Virgínia Sánchez
Chief Electrician	Xavi Sarassa
Electricians	Carlos Santamaría Víctor Sarassa
Camera Assistants	José M. Guilera Manolo Nova
Best Boy Grip	Manuel Fernández
Assistant Editor	Àlex G. Serentill
“Xtremis” Music Video Editor	Núria Canturri
Production Assistants	Marta Esparbé Mireia Masó
Production Secretary	Elisabeth Peralta
Wardrobe Assistant	Mariana Henderson
Auxiliary Makeup	Gemma Asensio
Production Runners	David Marin Xavi Vives
Administration	Jordi Folk



Making Of	Enric Barba
Image Postproduction	Apuntolapospo
Postproduction coordinators	Óskar Pérez Neus Hernández
Color Correction	Pepín
Red One Transcoding	Miky Girón
Digital Conformation	Miky Girón Jordi Aguilà
Digital Effects Composition	Lluïsa Cuchillo
R & D Manager	Xavi Tribó
Senior R & D	Modesto Rodríguez
SAN & VTR management	Oriol Viñolas Joaquín Ruíz Oriol Bernáldez
3D Visual Effects	Entropy Studio
Effects Coordinators	Jaime Cebrián Ignacio Lacosta Jordi Costa
Production	Susana Ruberte
Animation	Carlos Ayala David Notivoli Pati Delgado
3D Camera Operators	Jesús Marín Fernando Jiménez Paul Lacruz José M. del Fresno



Audio Post-production

'I' NFINIA

5.1 Sound Design

Àlex Pérez

Foley Artist

Marc Gonell

Foley Mixer

Fernando Poyatos



OUTLINE

A large cast of actors depict a group of real people, all linked by their struggles with different kinds of addiction. These real-life characters appear in the film alongside the actors, offering them guidance in their roles, and discussing their experiences.

SYNOPSIS

Xtremis is a film based on real-life events. It uses the techniques of fiction to tell the true stories of lives that have been shattered and broken.

The testimony of the real-life protagonists becomes the basis for a series of interwoven stories. The actors, the characters they play, and the real people these characters are based on, describe "extreme" experiences, revealing what it means to hit rock bottom and survive.

The border between reality and fiction is elided, and the two worlds interact, feeding off one another to recreate the excesses of individuals leading double lives under the guise of normality. These are human stories, full of mistakes, conflict and confessions that give pause for thought.

One more step... reach the *Xtremis*, and you may discover your limits.



DIRECTORS' NOTES

From Documentary Fact to Fiction

Facts, real-life experiences, true stories that break down boundaries, demanding to be told. *Xtremis* follows the lives of six apparently normal people, to expose the way surface appearances can hide cruel realities.

Multiple Leads

It's true. We didn't make things easy for ourselves. If it's hard to make a film with just one storyline... imagine a film with six.

And if these six main characters also have to grow up, aging and developing as individuals... The number of actors skyrockets. Suddenly we were working with more than seventy actors. Pure madness.

A Work in Progress

On one hand, we had the real-life protagonists, who had shared their most intimate experiences freely and openly. On the other hand we had the vision of that reality as recreated by the actors.

When we decided to bring these two sides together, the idea arose naturally: why not let the two visions feed back, one into the other?

Freestyle

During filming, we deliberately set out to encourage a sense of risk, which we called *freestyle* – it meant filming without rehearsals or too much preparation. This gave both cast and crew a special level of motivation, which helped us achieve extremely powerful images, creating a documentary feel that was fresh, honest and realistic.



The risks of innovation

Today's digital technology opens up possibilities and techniques unknown in traditional film-making. In the process of making *Xtremis* we have tried to break with established canons, deploying narrative techniques taken from video, and using the latest digital technology in post-production.

To tell stories on film, you have to take risks, and seek out new ways of working. This is what we've done.



DIRECTORS

Abel Folk

(Barcelona, 1959)

An internationally renowned actor, with a wide-ranging professional career. He combined his first acting jobs with his studies at Barcelona's Theatre Institute. Since then he has combined work in theatre, film and television.

His career in theatre, which began with Núria Espert, has continued with Josep M. Flotats, Mario Gas, Pierre Romans, John Malkovich, and José Tamayo, among others.

As a screen actor, he has been directed by Bigas Luna, Josep M. Forn, Ventura Pons, John Malkovich, Kenny Ortega, Woody Allen and Brian Goers, to name only a few.

His experience in all these areas has led naturally to his work as director and producer in both theatre and film.

Joan Riedweg

(Granada, 1959)

Joan studied journalism in the Autonomous University of Barcelona, and Cinema and Television Production at RTVE's Official Institute of Radio and Television.

Specializing in post-production techniques, special effects and new digital technology, he has worked as a director, editor and special effects technician. At the present time, he is an independent producer at his own company RIEDWEG PRODUCTIONS, where he has expanded his range of activities to include directing commercials, video clips, TV programs and many collaborative projects.

He has worked with Pierce Brosnan, Demi Moore, Gwyneth Paltrow, Penélope Cruz, Alejandro Sanz and Pilar López de Ayala.



A pioneer in High-Definition and Digital Imaging, he directed the first music video to be shot in Spain in the HD 1.080 format, with flamenco virtuoso Vicente Amigo, as well as the first music video to be shot in digital 3D (stereoscopic digital images), at the DIBA2008 festival, with the group Pastora.



PRINCIPAL ACTORS

Ester



Sílvia Munt



Résumé available as PDF

Biel



Eduard Farelo



Résumé available as PDF

Iñaki



Miquel Sitjar



Résumé available as PDF

Anna



Anna Azcona



Résumé available as PDF



Quim



Pep Planas



Résumé available as PDF

Gerard



Aleix Albareda



Résumé available as PDF

Joana



Marta Marco



Résumé available as PDF

Helena



Sílvia Bel



Résumé available as PDF

To request actor's résumés, please contact Animals Films at this email address:
mmaso@animalsfilms.net