



**ZINEMA**  
CINEMA

06

Joxean Fernández

**BASQUE.**

ETXEPARE  
EUSKAL INSTITUTUA



ZINEMA  
CINEMA

Joxean Fernández

BASQUE.

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Etxepare Euskal Institutuak sortutako bilduma honek hamabi kultura-adierazpide bildu ditu. Guztiak kate bakarraren katebegiak dira, hizkuntza berak, lurralte komunak eta denbora-mugarri berberekin zeharkatzen dituztelako. Kulturaren eskutik, euskararen lurraldean tradizioa eta abangoardia nola uztartu diren jasoko duzu. Kulturaren leihotik, bertakoaren eta kanpokoaren topalekua erakutsiko dizugu. Kulturaren taupadatik, nondik gatozen, non gauden eta nora goazen jakiteko aukera izango duzu. Liburu sorta hau abiapuntu bat da, zugan jakin-mina eragin eta euskal kultura sakonago ezagutzeko gogoa piztea du helburu.

This collection created by the Etxepare Basque Institute brings together twelve cultural disciplines, all of them intertwined as they share language, land and history. Hand in hand with our culture, we invite you to witness the fusion of tradition and innovation, the melding of local and foreign. In short, we invite you to learn where we come from, where we are now and where we're heading. This set of books is a launchpad intended to spark your curiosity.

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Nola lortu du Europan bizirik dagoen hizkuntza zaharrenak berezko lekua hartzea XXI. mendean? Zertan datza euskal kultura gaur egun eta zertan bereizten da besteengandik? Zer presentzia merezi du nazioartean?

Liburu hauen bidez, Etxepare Euskal Institutuak erantzun batzuk proposatu nahi ditu, beste kultura eta identitate batzuei eskua luzatzeko asmoz. Elkar ezagutzea baita elkar estimatzeko eta ulertzeko modu bakarra. Ongi etorri.

How has the oldest living language in Europe achieved its own place in the 21st century? What is Basque culture and what sets it apart from others? What international presence does it deserve?

Through the books that make up this collection, the Etxepare Basque Institute would like to offer a series of responses to reach out to other cultures and identities. The better we know each other, the more we appreciate each other. Ongi etorri.

**Mel-i, Enekori eta Mikeli**

**Amari, *in memoriam***

2011. urtean, Etxepare Euskal Institutua euskal zinemaren historia labur bat idaztea proposatu zidanean, liburu hartako sarreran ohartarazi nuen jada zer-nolako omisio mingarrietara behartzen duten era honetako proiektuek. Zerbait egon behar du horretan historiak «sintesiari dion beldurretik» eta, beraz, zinemaren historiak dionetik. Hala ere, beldur horrek ez gintuzke geldiarazi behar azalpen-lanak abiarazteko orduan, alegia, ikerketak biltzen dituzten eta osterako hurbilpen zehaztuagoak egiteko abiapuntu gisa balio dezaketen azalpen-lanak. Euskal Herriko zinemaren historiaren kasuan, hor diraute hainbat adituren hainbat orotariko lanek, hau baino luzeagoak, hala nola, Alberto Lopez Etxebarrieta, Jose Maria Unsain, Santos Zunzunegi, Santiago de Pablo, Carlos Roldan Larreta, eta oraintsuago bildu zaizkie Maria Pilar Rodriguez, Rob Stone, Jaume Martí-Olivella, Joseba Gabilondo, Josu Martinez eta abarrenak.

2012ko testu haren oraingo eguneratzea, hein handi batean, haren berridazketa bat da, gutxienez bi arrazoirengatik. Lehenik eta behin, azterlanaren xedeari buruz ditugun ezagutzek aurrerapen nabarmena izan dute, urteotan azaldu den historiografiari esker, alde batetik aurkikuntzetan aberatsa (Josu Martinez, Andoni Elezcano, Argibel Euba) eta, bestetik, interpretazio edo hurbilketa berrieta joria (lehen aipatutako Stone eta Rodriguez-ena, Miren Maniasena, edo, adibidez, UPV/EHU 2014an egindako Euskal Filmategiaren kongresutik sortutako talde-lana: *Euskal zinema: Hiru zinemagile-belaunaldi*). Bigarrenik, azken hamarkadan euskal cinematografiak bizi izan duen une paregabeagatik; batez ere euskarazko zinemarentzat, titulu mordoxka batentzako nazioko eta nazioarteko aitortzek ez baitzuten aurrekaririk.

Euskal Herriko zinemagintzaren jatorria aztertuko dugu berriro, aro mutuaren amaierara arte, Gerra Zibilaren hasiera eta euskal zinema-propagandaren ahalegina, errepresio frankistak eragindako eremuak diktaduraren aro agonikoaren esnaldira arte, Trantsizio euskal zinemaren izaerari buruzko eztabaideak, etapa autonomikoaren eklosio irmoa, eta, azkenik, laurogeita hamarreko hamarkadako zinemagileen zerrenda sendoa errepasatuko da, azken bi hamarkadetako emaitza nabarmenetara iritsi arte.

Euskal zinemari dagokionez, argi eta garbi mugatutako corpusaren definizioarekiko kezka da haren historiaren eskuliburueta lehen kezketako bat. Zer ote zen, eta zer ez, euskal zinema: horren inguruan piztutako polemikak biziki kezkatu zuen euskal intelektualitatearen zati handi bat Franco diktadorearen heriotzaren ondoren. Une hartatik aurrera sortu zen ikuspegi askotariko –politika, estetika, hizkuntza– debate bat, eta, zalantzak gabe, oso ikuspuntu ezberdinakoa, nolabait esan, haur-oihaletan zegoen zinema hari buruz. Bere unean helduko diogu, beraz, problematika horri, zinema baten eta berori sortzen duen gizartearen arteko uztartzearen ispilatze fidela baita; hala ere, uko egingo diogu «euskal zinema» kontzeptuari buruzko hurbiltze teoriko bat egiteari, hemen ez baitugu horretarako lekurik. Adiera nahita lauso batean, arreta jarriko dugu Euskal Herrian jaiotako zuzendarien ibilbideetan, nahiz eta haien lanak gure geografiatik kanpo ekoitziak eta filmatuak izan. Interesa jarriko dugu, baita ere, euskal lurradeekin eta hemengo giza geografiarekin lotutako lanen batean edo bestean, nahiz eta lan horien arduradunak hemendik urrun jaioak izan.

Asko dira liburu honen idazketan lagundu didaten pertsonak, eta hemen ez dugu denak aipatzeko lekurik. Eskerrik zintzoenak adierazi nahi dizkiet, eta testuak izan ditzakeen akatsen ardura guztitik libre utzi. Guziarekin, derrigorra da Euskadiko Filmategiko lankideei, eta bereziki Maria Lopetegiri, baita Irene Larrazari eta Imanol Otaegiri ere (Etxepare Euskal Institutua) berariaz eskerrak ematea, egitasmoa bultzatzeagatik eta lan honen ardura berriz emateagatik. Balioko al du lan honek, bere neurri apalean, euskal zinemari buruzko ezagutza eta jakin-mina bultzatzeko.

When in 2011 the Etxepare Basque Institute asked me to write a short history of Basque cinema, I warned readers at the time in the introduction to that book of the painful omissions that projects like this compel authors to make. There must be something in that of the “fear of synthesis” in history and, therefore, in the history of cinema. However, this should not immobilise us when it comes to taking on explanatory works which include research and which may serve as a starting point for subsequent more detailed approaches. For the case of the history of cinema in the Basque Country, there are still more extensive general works than this by specialists like Alberto López Echevarrieta, José María Unsain, Santos Zunzunegui, Santiago de Pablo and Carlos Roldán Larreta, who have, more recently, been joined by María Pilar Rodríguez, Rob Stone, Jaume Martí-Olivella, Joseba Gabilondo, Josu Martinez, and so forth.

This update of that 2012 text implies in large part its rewriting, for two reasons. First, on account of the striking progress made in our knowledge about the object of study thanks to the emergence of a historiography both rich in discoveries (Josu Martinez, Andoni Elezcano, Argibel Euba) and in new interpretations or approaches (by the already cited Stone and Rodríguez as well as that of Miren Manias and, for example, the collective work which emerged out of a conference organised by the Basque Film Archive at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) in 2014: *Basque cinema: three generations of filmmakers*). Second, due to the extraordinary moment through which Basque cinematography has gone in the last decade, in which, and above all for films in the Basque language, there has been unprecedented national and international and recognition for a good handful of works.

We will revisit here the origins of cinema in the Basque Country up to the end of the silent era, the outbreak of the Civil War and the efforts of Basque cinematographic propaganda, and the bleak years resulting from Francoist repression until the awakenings associated with the dying years of the dictatorship, the debates surrounding the nature of Basque cinema in the Transition, the purposeful dawn of the autonomous era and, lastly, there will likewise be a recap of the impressive list of filmmakers in the 1990s until we reach the most striking results of the last two decades.

The preoccupation with defining a clearly delimited corpus like that of Basque cinema is one of the first concerns in history manuals on the topic. The controversy which emerged around what was or what was not Basque cinema troubled much of the Basque intelligentsia deeply following the death of the dictator Franco. It was from that moment on that a debate began which took on many forms—political, aesthetic, linguistic—and, naturally, many different points of view about a cinema which, to some extent, was only just coming into being. We will, then, address this problem at that time since it was a true reflection of the interweaving nature between a cinema and the society which produced it; however, we will avoid going on to carry out a theoretical approach to the concept of Basque cinema, which space precludes here. In a necessarily generalised sense, we will focus of the careers of directors born in the Basque Country, even when their works have been produced and filmed outside our geographical boundaries. We will even be interested in some works connected to the Basque lands and their human geography even though those responsible for making them were born elsewhere.

Many people have helped me in the process of writing this book and there is no space here to mention them all. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and absolve them of responsibility for any errors the text may contain. Nevertheless, I would also like to thank my colleagues at the Basque Film Archive, in particular, María Lopetegui, as well as Irene Larraza and Imanol Otaegi from the Etxepare Basque Institute for promoting the project and entrusting me once again with this assignment. Hopefully this work will serve in some modest way to promote knowledge and curiosity about Basque cinema.

## Zinemaren hastapenak Euskal Herrian

Euskal Herrian, aldaketa ugarik markatu zuten XIX. mendearen azken laurdeña, ekonomiaren, gizartearen eta politikaren ikuspegitik. Errestaurazio-aldean abian jarritako modernizazio-prozesu orokorrak hiru masa-erantzun politiko izan zituen aurrean: tradizionalismo karlistaren erreakzioa, langileen asoziazionismo sozialista eta euskal nazionalismoa<sup>1</sup>. 1895ean, Sabino Aranaren eskutik, Euzko Alderdi Jeltzalea (EAJ) sortu zenean, euskal nazionalismoa eta lehendik baten sozialismoa bi korronte politiko aurkari bihurtuko ziren, eta horiek gabe ezin dira azaldu XX. mendeko lehen lau hamarkadak euskal hiri nagusietan. Ludger Mees esanetan, euskal nazionalismoa sortu zen «*hiri-klase txiki-burges batzuek ezegonkortasun-egoera berriari emandako erantzun gisa, eta laster atxiki zitzakien burgesia aberatsaren geruzak, oligarkia industrialak ekonomikoki eta politikoki baztertuak»<sup>2</sup>.* Alegia, Bizkaia eta, neurri txikiagoan, Gipuzkoa (Araba eta Nafarroa) protagonista izandako industria-garapena eta hazkunde demografikoa izan ziren errestaurazio-aldearen ezaugarri nagusiak. Modernizazio sozioekonomikoa bat etorri zen, beraz, euskal nazionalismoaren jaiotzarekin, eta, aldi berean, zinema mundu mailan jaio zen urtearekin: 1895. Urte hartako abenduaren 28an, Lumière anaiek beren asmakizun harrigarria aurkeztu zuten Parisko Kaputxinoen Bulebarreko Indien Aretoan. Laster hasi zen Europan zabaltzen. Euskal Herriko proiekzio publikoen lehen albistea Biarritzten gertatu zen, handik zazpi hilabete doira. Ikusleengän zirrara handia sortu zuen, eta aukera apartak aurreikusi zitzakion hasiera-hasieratik.

Saio harten erakutsitako filmetako bat *L'arrivée de la cour espagnole à St. Sébastien* izan bide zen, itxura denez Alexandre Promio operadoreak hiri horretan filmatua, Lumière anaien izenean zinematografoa aurkezteko Madrilera egindako bidaiatik bueltan. Antza, Euskal Herriko zinemaren historialari nagusiek gezurtatu dute informazio hori. Bada, ordea, uztailaren amaieran Donostian eta 1896ko<sup>3</sup> abuztuaren hasieran Bilbon izandako proiekzioen berri. Kinematografoak aurrenik Donostian piztutako suharrak laster izango zuen Bilbora zabaltzeko aukera; Gimeno anaiek abiarazi zituzten proiekzioak, Arriaga Antzokian. Iruñean, urriaren 24ra arte itxaron behar izan zuten<sup>4</sup>; Gasteizen, berriz, azaroaren 1ean izan zen, nahiz abuzturako iragarria zen Rousbyren animatografoa.

Jon Letamendik eta Jean Claude Seguin-ek arlo honetan egindako ikerketak giltzarri gertatu dira, eta bertan behera ere utzi dute Spainiako zinemaren jaiotza Zaragozako Pilarreko hamabietako mezaren irteera filma (1897ko urria) hasi zelako ustea<sup>5</sup>. Haien iritziz, Antonio Salinas eta Eduardo de Lucas-ek urte horretako ekainaren 12a baino lehenago filmatu zituzten, Lumière kamera batekin, Gasteizko gaur egungo Andre Maria Zuriaren enparantzako irudi batzuk<sup>6</sup>. Nolanahi ere, zinema Euskal Herrira iritsi zenerako, jendeak ondo ezagutu zuen haren aitzindari batzuen tradizio garrantzizko bat, bai ferietan bai postu ibiltarietan. Kinetoskopioak 1895ean iritsi ziren, kinetografoa 1896. urtearen erdi aldera, eta askoz lehenago helduak ziren linterna magikoaz, dioramaz eta panoramaz egindako ikus-

## The origins of cinema in the Basque Country

For the Basque Country, the last quarter of the twentieth century was marked by multiple economic, social and political changes. The widespread modernisation process launched during the period of the Spanish Restoration encountered three mass political responses: the reaction of Carlist traditionalism, working-class socialist associationism and Basque nationalism<sup>1</sup>. With the emergence of the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) at the hands of Sabino Arana, Basque nationalism and the already existent socialism would, moreover, become two rival political movements without which it is impossible to explain almost the first four decades of the twentieth century in the main Basque cities. According to Ludger Mees, Basque nationalism was created “as the response of some urban petty bourgeois classes to the new situation of instability, to which layers of the wealthy bourgeoisie marginalised economically and politically by the industrial oligarchy soon joined”<sup>2</sup>. Clearly, the industrial development and demographic growth led mainly by Biscay and, to a lesser extent, Gipuzkoa (Alava and Navarre remained stagnant) characterised the Restoration period. Socioeconomic modernisation coincided, then, with the birth of Basque nationalism and, in turn, the latter with the year cinema emerged at the global level: 1895. On 28th September that year, the Lumière brothers presented at the Salon Indien on the Boulevard des Capucines in Paris their surprising invention. Soon it began to spread throughout Europe. The first news of public screenings in the Basque lands cites Biarritz just seven months later. Audiences experienced an intense impact and right from the beginning extraordinary possibilities were envisaged.

One of the films which seems to have been part of that session was *L'arrivée de la cour espagnole à St Sébastien*, which was filmed in this city by the projectionist Alexandre Promio on his return from a trip to Madrid to present cinematography there in the name of the Lumière brothers. It would appear that this information has been refuted by the principal historians of cinema in the Basque Country. There is news of projections in San Sebastian in late July and in Bilbao in early August 1896<sup>3</sup>. The enthusiasm generated by the cinematographer initially in San Sebastian would very soon gain an opportunity to expand to Bilbao, where it was the Gimeno brothers who began projections in the Arriaga Theatre. Pamplona had to wait until 24th October<sup>4</sup>, while Vitoria-Gasteiz did so on 1st November, in spite of the fact that Rousby's theatrograph had been announced for August.

Research in this field by Jon Letamendi and Jean Claude Seguin has been crucial and has even discredited the belief that Spanish cinema was born with *Salida de misa de doce en el Pilar de Zaragoza* (October 1897)<sup>5</sup>. In their opinion, prior to this, on 12th June, Antonio Salinas and Eduardo de Lucas filmed some images in today's Virgin Blanca Square in Vitoria-Gasteiz with a Lumière camara<sup>6</sup>. Whatever the case, cinema did not arrive in the Basque Country before an important tradition of some of its precursors was already well known by the public at fairs and travelling stands. Kinetoscopes had arrived in 1895, the kinetograph in mid-1896 and magic lantern, diorama

kizunak<sup>7</sup>. Eta zinemak ia hamarkada batez iraun zuen euskal lurretan, ferietako ikuskizunekin nahasirik, arte hori gero eta ezagunagoa egingo zuten etxola ibiltarietan. Langileek harekiko interesa izango dute, ez baitzen garestiegia, baina baita klase sozial aberatsagoak ere, hartzaleen artean mugarik ezagutzen ez zuen entretenimendu haren bila. Jenderteratze ukaezin hori berehala sortu zen, nahiz eta baziren aurre egin beharreko arriskuak ere. Askotan aipatzen dira horietako hiru: suteak, antzerkiaren garbizalekeria, eta zentsura, batez ere katolikoa.



**1. El cine en el País Vasco**  
Santos Zunzunegi. Bizkaiko Foru Aldundia, 1985.

**1. El cine en el País Vasco**  
Santos Zunzunegi. Provincial Council of Biscay, 1985.

and panorama shows dated from much earlier<sup>7</sup>. And cinema in the Basque lands survived for almost a decade by mixing with fairground shows, in travelling fairs which would make this nomad an increasingly popular art. The working classes became interested in the phenomenon, since it was not too expensive, but also more well-to-do social classes in search of entertainment that truly knew no boundaries amongst its target group. This irrefutable popularisation grew rapidly in spite of the dangers it had to face. Three of these are typically cited: fires, theatre purists and (mainly Catholic) censorship.

## Zinema mutuaren alditik Gerra Zibilera

Orain arte, batez ere Euskal Herriko zinema-emanaldie buruz aritu gara. Denboran aurrera eginez, egokia da ekoizpen propioko lehen saiakerez hitz egitea, nahiz eta zinemak, industria gisa, ez zuen lortu tokiko burgesiareneko interesa piztea. Urte horietan, hori bai, halako irakite kultural bat zegoen, batez ere Bilbon. 1910ean, Bilboko Euskal Artisten Elkartea sortu zen, eta bertan euskal kulturako izen garrantzitsu batzuk izan ziren, eta 1917an gerora interesa piztuko digun norbait sartu zen, Nemesio Sobrevila. Urte horretan berean, Bilbon bertan, *Hermes* aldizkaria sortu zen, Santos Zunzunegiren ustez, Euskal Herriko kulturan aurrekaririk ez zuen dinamizatzailea izango zena.

Urtebete geroago, 1918an, Eusko Ikaskuntzaren I. Kongresua egin zen Oñatin, eta bertan era guztietako gaiak eztabaideatu ziren: etnografia, filología, folklore eta artea. Zinemarako gune bat ere izan zen, eta kongresu horretatik sortu zen, Eusko Ikaskuntzaren eskutik, Euskal Herriko eskuadre ezberdinak dantzak jasoko zituzten zine-zintak inprimatzeara proposatu baitzen, gero horiek aztertu eta kontserbatzeko<sup>8</sup>. Manuel Ynchausti arduratu zen dokumental etnografiko primitibo haiek filmatzeaz 1923 eta 1928 bitartean<sup>9</sup>. *Eusko Ikusgayak* izenpean egindako film laburrok ohitura, danza, joko eta kirolen erretratu goiztiarra egin izanaren meritua dute. Haientzak hedapena, praktikan, Eusko Ikaskuntza elkarrekin berak egindako proiekzio pribatuetara mugatu zen.

### TRIANGELU POLITIKO BAT FIKZIOZKO EUSKAL ZINEMA MUTUAN

*Pour don Carlos-en* (*La capitana Alegría*, 1921)<sup>10</sup> zaharberriak, 2016an aurkitutako kopia osatugabeetatik abiaturik, zenbait galdera birplanteatzea ekarri du Euskal Herrian filmatutako fikziozko lehen film luzea izan zitekeenari buruz, euskal jatorriko norbaitek zuzenduta, zati batean euskal diruarekin ekoitzia eta nagusiki euskal gai batu buruzkoa<sup>11</sup>. Film hau sarritan Jaime de Lasuen eta Musidora elkarrekin zuzendua izan balitz bezala aipatu bada ere, egiletan askoz ere paper garrantzitsuagoa egotzi izan zaio emakumeari. Arrazoiaok pisuzkoak dira: zuzendaria, gidoigilea, ekoizlea eta interpretea izan zen; surrealisten musa, Louis Feuillade-ren *Les vampires* (1915) filmean vamp rola jokatu zuenetik.

Musidora bere askatasun sortzailearen bila zebilen artista izan zen, 1918an Société des Films Musidora sortu zuenean; geroago, Henri Languois-en kolaboratzailea izan zen Frantziako Zinematekan<sup>12</sup>. Jaime de Lasuen karlista bat izan zen, jatorri euskaldunekoa Viareggio-n (Italia) jaio zen arren; Pierre Benoit izen bereko eleberriaren egileari Hirugarren Karlistaldiaz dokumentatzen lagunduko zion, eta horregatik Musidorarentzat ere baliagarria izan bide zen lokalizazioak, tokiko konplizitateak, uniformeak eta finantziazioa bilatzeko orduan. Lasuenek zinemagile gisa egindako ibilbidea Musidorarekin egindako kolaborazioetara mugatzen da<sup>13</sup>. Hala

2. Pour Don Carlos  
(*La capitana Alegría*  
(Jaime de Lasuen,  
Musidora, 1921)



### From the silent era to the Civil War

Up to now, reference has essentially been made to cinematographic exhibition in the Basque Country. Moving ahead in time, it is now appropriate to talk about the first attempts at self-production in spite of the fact that cinema as an industry had not managed to interest the local bourgeoisie. These were years, it is true, of a certain cultural ferment, above all in Bilbao. In 1910, the Association of Basque Artists in Bilbao had been created, in which would figure several important names in Basque culture, and in 1917 its ranks were joined by someone who will interest us later, Nemesio Sobrevila. That same year, the magazine *Hermes* was also founded in Bilbao, which, in the opinion of Santos Zunzunegui, would go on to play an unprecedented role in invigorating culture in the Basque Country.

A year later, in 1918, the First Congress of Basque Studies was held in Oñati, in which matters of all kinds were debated: ethnography, philology, folklore and art. There was also space for cinema, because through the Society for Basque Studies (Eusko Ikaskuntza), which also emerged from this congress, a proposal was made to print cinematographic tapes on which dances from different parts of the Basque Country would be recorded for their subsequent study and preservation<sup>8</sup>. Manuel Ynchausti was commissioned to film these primitive ethnographic documentaries between 1923 and 1928<sup>9</sup>. The short films, titled *Eusko Ikusgayak*, are valuable in that they knew how to depict, at such an early date, customs, dances, games and sports. Their diffusion was in practice limited to private screenings which the Society for Basque Studies itself carried out.

ere, Jaime de Lasuenek (Jacques Lasseyne kreditu-titulueta) zuzendari gisa Musidorak baino pisu handiagoa izan zuelako teoria ere defendatu izan da, hala adierazten duten filmaren afixak daudelako (beharbada, garai hartan, oro har eta, zinema-industrian bereziki, zegoen matxismoagatik); filmaketaren tarte batzuetan Musidora ez zegoela frogatzen zuten gutunen aurkikuntzagatik (zuzendaritzak idetasunarekin bateragarria zen hori), eta Musidoraren hasierako lekukotzengatik, hori berretsiko luketelako (ez ordea urte batzuk geroago, autoreta indar handiagoz aldarrikatzen zuela zirudien garaian)<sup>14</sup>. Laburbilduz, ikerketa sakonagoak merezi ditu oraindik 1875 eta 1876 bitartean Don Karlosen defendatzale sutsua izan zen Alegria kapitainaren abenturen istorio honek.

1923an Enrique Santos-ek *Hispania Films Akademia Zinematografikoa* sortu zuen Bilbon, eta horrek ia berehalako ondorioak izan zituen ekoizpen propioari dagokionez. Arazo ugari sortu ziren arren, ikasle talde batek zinema egiten tematuta jarraitu zuen. Lehen saiakera Alejandro Olabarriak zuzendutako *Un drama en Bilbao* (1923) izan zen. Arrakasta komertzial es-kasa izan zuen, nahiz eta ikusleak erakartzen saiatu ziren, bertako aktoreen parte-hartzea iragarriz. Gaur egun hamalau minutu pasatxo baino ez dira geratzen melodrama bat izan zela dirudien filmetik, eta arazo ekonomikoak hasieratik nabaritu ziren. Produktoreak, Aureliano Gonzálezek, berriz ere zortea probatzea erabaki zuen *Lolita la huérfana* (1924) filmarekin, eta bera arduratu zen zuzendaritzaz. Beste melodrama bat zen, ustez hunkigarritasunez betea, eta hamar bat minuto baino ez dira geratzen. Komertzialki estreinatu ere ez zen egin.

Aipatu baldin badugu karlismoak, sozialismoak eta euskal nazionalismoak osatzen zuten triangulo politiko horrek XX. mendearen lehen hereneko Euskal Herriarentzat izan zuen garrantzia, zinemak horren berri ematen digulako da, nahiz eta euskal industria zinematografikoa benetan urria izan. Bere enbrioi-egoerak ez du eragozten hamarkadako fikziozko hiru film mutu garrantzitsuenek euskal gizartearen hiru ikuskera desberdin horiek nolabait islatzea. Jada aipatutako *Pour Don Carlos* atzean utzita, *Edurne, modista bilbaína* (Telesforo Gil del Espinar, 1924) Euskal Herri urbano eta industrial bateko langileen munduari errepresatzen zion, eta *El Mayorazgo de Basterretxe-k* (Mauro Azcona, 1928), berriz, baserritar kutsuko euskal giro idealizatu bati. Lehenengoak kutsu tradizionalista agerikoa dauka; bigarrenak, ordea, ez luke sozialismoaren ikuspuntutik ikuspegi ortodoxoa izango, eta hirugarrena ere ez litzateke zehazki euskal film nazionalista izango. Baino egia da azken biek bi norabide horietako bideak seinalatzen dituztela eta horrek 20ko hamarkadako euskal ekoizpen ahula inguruko errealitate sozialari oso atxikia kokatzen duela.

Telesforo Gil del Espinar postetxeko langile bat zen, Bilbon bizi zena eta zinemaren mundua biziki maite zuena. Bizkaiko hiriburuan gutxieneko industria bat sortzeko egin zituen ahaleginen emaitza izango da *Edurne, modista bilbaína* (1924) fikziozko film luzea, Bizkaiko Langileen Batasun Orokorra eratu eta urtebete eskasera. Aureliano González Hispania Films-eko gerentearekin elkartuta, eta *El Sitio* gizarte liberallean lagunekin egindako apustu batetik abiatuta, Gil del Espinarrek gidoi bat idazteari ekin zion, euskal zinemaren historian lehen aldiz langileen mundua protagonista izango zuena. Eta hautapen hori ez zen inola ere menturazkoa izan, ondo jabeturik hartutako erabakia baizik. Filmaren argumentuak berretsi egiten du pantailan aurrez inoiz agertu gabeko euskal errealitate soziala heldutasun betean islatzeko ahalegin hori. Garaian hain ohikoa zen elementu melodramatikoren batekin, filma *happy end* batekin ixten zen, klasearteko ezkontza bat barne.

## A POLITICAL TRIANGLE IN BASQUE FICTION SILENT FILM

The restoration of *Pour Don Carlos* (*La capitana Alegria*, 1921)<sup>10</sup>, on the basis of a 2016 discovery of incomplete copies, has forced us to reconsider some questions in regard to what could be the first fiction feature film shot in the Basque Country, whose co-director was someone of Basque descent and which was produced in part with Basque money and addressed an obviously Basque topic<sup>11</sup>. Although the film has frequently been cited as co-directed by Jaime de Lasuen and Musidora, she has often been attributed a much more important role in its authorship. This is because of her greater importance: she was a director, screenwriter, producer and actor; the muse of the surrealists since ever since she played the role of vamp in *Les vampires* (1915) by Louis Feuillade. Musidora was an artist in search of her own freedom as a creative when she founded the Société des Films Musidora in 1918; subsequently, she was a collaborator of Henri Langlois in the French Film Archive<sup>12</sup>. Jaime de Lasuen, a Carlist descended from Basque families although born in Viareggio (Italy), assisted the author of the homonymous novel, Pierre Benoit, to document the Third Carlist War and thus could also have been useful to Musidora when it came to seeking locations, local involvement, uniforms and financing. His career as a filmmaker was limited to collaborations with her<sup>13</sup>. However, the theory has also been advanced that Jaime de Lasuen (Jacques Lasseyne in the credits) was more important as a director than Musidora, on account of the existence of posters for the film which credit him as such (explicable, perhaps, due to the sexism of the era in general and of the cinematographic industry in particular), the discovery of letters which verify Musidora's absence during parts of the filming (which is compatible with the notion of two directors) and her own initial account which confirm this to be the case (although not some years later, when she appeared to defend her predominant role more forcefully)<sup>14</sup>. In sum, this adventure story about Captain Alegria, a fervent defender of Don Carlos between 1875 and 1876, still merits more thorough research.

The founding of the *Hispania Films Cinematographic Academy* by Enrique Santos in Bilbao in 1923 would have an almost immediate effect in regard to self-production. In spite of the various problems that ensued, a group of students remained determined to make films. The first attempt was *Un drama en Bilbao* (1923), directed by Alejandro Olabarria, which frankly had little commercial success although it had attempted to attract an audience by announcing the participation of local actors. Today, little more than fourteen minutes of film remain of what seems to have been a melodrama whose financial problems were evident from the beginning. The producer, Aureliano González, decided to try his luck again with *Lolita la huérfana* (1924), taking charge of directing the film himself. It was another melodrama supposedly brimming with emotiveness of which only ten minutes have been preserved. It was not even premiered commercially.

If the importance of the political triangle made up of Carlism, socialism and Basque nationalism in the Basque Country of the first third of the twentieth century has already been alluded to, it is because film was going to reveal this in spite of the fact that the Basque cinematographic industry was frankly tiny. Its embryonic state did not hinder the three most important fiction silent films from reflecting, to a certain extent, those three different conceptions of Basque society. Moving on from the already mentioned *Pour Don Carlos*, *Edurne, modista bilbaína* (Telesforo Gil del Espinar, 1924) would fix its gaze on working-class life in an urban industrial Basque Country while

*Edurne, modista bilbaína* Euskal Herriko zinema-areto askotan estrenatu zen (hiru hiriburueta, baita Gernikan eta Irunen ere) eta diru-sarrerak inbertitutako kapitala baino bost aldiz handiagoak izan ziren. Euskal prentzaren kritika ere nahiko atsegina izan zen filmarekin, nahiz eta bere akats batzuk ez ziren oharkabeen pasatu, askotan filmak izandako aurrekontu-zaitasunenei egotziak. Batzuek *Edurne, modista bilbaína* filmean ikusi dute historia guztian oinordekoak aurkitu dituen euskal zinemaren bide bat<sup>15</sup>. Gil del Espinarren ideia, Euskal Herrian oso ugaria zen baina, aldi berean, zinemak oso ahaztuta zeukan langile klase hiritar bat kamera eskaiztea, anbizio ez batere baserritaraz hornitu zuen<sup>16</sup>.

Telesforo Gil del Espinarrek, lehen ekoizpenaren ondoren, zinemaren mundua utzi bazuen ere, bere gogo beroaren hazia argazkilari gazte bat-tengen hazi zen: *Edurne, modista bilbaína* filmean zuzendari laguntzailea izandako Mauro Azcona-rengan. Berak eta bere anaia Victorrek Estudios Azcona ekoiztetxea sortu zuten Barakaldon. *El Mayorazgo de Basterretxe* bezalako asmo handiko proiektu bati ekin aurretik, Azcona anaiek hainbat dokumental eta publizitate-film labur filmatu zituzten 1925 eta 1928 bitartean. Aipatzeko da azken horietako batzuk spot primitibo modukoak zirela, eta aldi berean hainbat produktu sustatzeko originaltasuna zutela (*Los apuros de Octavio*). Esan bezala, *El Mayorazgo de Basterretxe* izan zen Azcona anaien ekintzarik handiena. Pierre Lhande jesuitaren *Mirentxu* nobelatik abiatuta -frantsesez 1914an argitaratua eta gaztelaniara 1917an itzulia-, Esteban Muñozek XIX. mendearren erdialdean girotutako istorio baterako gidoia idatzi zuen.

3. *Edurne, modista bilbaína* (Telesforo Gil de Espinar, 1924)



3

*El Mayorazgo de Basterretxe* (Mauro Azcona, 1928) would prefer an idealised Basque village life. In regard to all three, the first possessed an obvious traditionalist imprint, although the second would not exactly represent an orthodox socialist view and nor would the third be strictly a Basque nationalist film. Yet it is true that the latter two pointed in those respective directions and that this situated the paltry Basque production of the 1920s very closely to the social reality which surrounded it.

Telesforo Gil del Espinar was a postal employee who had settled in Bilbao and was a devotee of the world of cinema. His efforts to create the minimum structure of an industry would result, barely a year after the formal constitution of the General Union of Workers of Biscay, the fiction feature film *Edurne, modista bilbaína* (1924). An associate of Aureliano González, the head of Hispania Films, and following a bet with friends at the liberal association El Sitio, Gil de Espinar started writing a screenplay that, for the first time in the history of Basque cinema, would have as its protagonist working-class life. And this choice was not at all by chance but, rather, made wholly consciously. The plot of the film confirmed this attempt to reflect a fully mature Basque social reality which had however never appeared on screen. With a melodramatic element which was so common at the time, the film closed with a happy ending that included a cross-class wedding.

*Edurne, modista bilbaína* premiered in numerous cinemas in the Basque Country (in the three capitals as well as in Gernika and Irun) and its takings were five times more than the capital invested. Reviews for the film in the Basque press were also quite favourable, although they did not overlook some of its defects, which were often attributed to the funding difficulties that it had run into. Some people have seen in *Edurne, modista bilbaína* a road map for Basque cinema with heirs throughout its history<sup>15</sup>. Gil de Espinar's idea of offering the camera to the large urban working class in the Basque Country that had, at the same time, been overlooked by films to that point, endowed him with an ambition which was far from provincial in scope<sup>16</sup>.

Although Telesforo Gil de Espinar abandoned the world of film following his first production, the seed of enthusiasm grew in a young photographer who had been an assistant to the director on *Edurne, modista bilbaína*, Mauro Azcona. He and his brother Víctor created the Estudios Azcona production company in Barakaldo. Before embarking on such a considerably ambitious project as *El Mayorazgo de Basterretxe*, the Azcona brothers shot several documentaries and short publicity films between 1925 and 1928. It is worth pointing out that one of these latter films was a kind of primitive advert which was original in promoting several products at the same time (*Los apuros de Octavio*). As noted, the most significant endeavour that the Azcona brothers embarked on was (*Los apuros de Octavio*). Based on the novel *Mirentxu* by the Jesuit Pierre Lhande, published in French in 1914 and translated into Spanish in 1917, Esteban Muñoz created a script for a story set in the mid-nineteenth century.

Several film historians have seen in this work a clear expression of Basque nationalism. As such, Emmanuel Larraz contends that it is a melodrama which praises the virtues of Basque peasants and testifies to the strength of Basque nationalism at that time<sup>17</sup>. It is true that a lot of evidence points to this ideology and undeniably the film would have been inconceivable if nationalism had not taken strong root in the Basque Country by this point in the century. This theory is supported by the following points: the clear pro-Basque sentiment in the script, publicity and intertitles; the *antimakismo* (an anti-Spanish immigrant attitude) which was characteristic of early

Hainbat zinema-historialarik euskal nazionalismoaren adierazpen argia ikusi dute film honetan. Hala, Emmanuel Larraz-ek dio euskal nekazarien bertuteak goraipatzen dituen eta une hartan euskal nazionalismoak zuen indarraren testigantza ematen duen melodrama bat dela<sup>17</sup>. Baiki, ez dira gutxi ideologia horretara garamatzaten datuak, eta, zalantzak gabe, filma pentsaezina izango litzateke nazionalismoa Euskal Herrian, mende hura hain aurreraturik, ondo ezarrita egon izan ez balitz. Teoria horren oinarriak honako hauek lirateke: kontzientzia euskaltzale argia gidoian, publizitatean eta tartekako tituluetan; lehen euskal nazionalismoaren maketoen aurkako jarrera; eta landa-giroaren idealizazioa, tradizioei, Jainkoarekiko fedeari eta baserriarekiko maitasunari lotua.

Aipatutako datu horiek guztiek *El Mayorazgo de Basterretxe*-k filiazio nazionalista duela pentsatzen eraman gaitzakete. Hala ere, merezi du hipotesi hori zalantzan jar zezaketen beste batzuk gogoratzea: Mauro Azconak uste zuen bere filmak «Euskal Herrian zein handik kanpo gustatu behar zuela»<sup>18</sup>, euskal giro tradizionalaren idealizazioa ez zen nazionalismoaren indarren monopolioa<sup>19</sup>, eta haren datu biografikoek ez dute pentsarazten euskal abertzaleen ideiekin hertsiki konprometitutako gizona zenik (Pasionaria Erregimentuko komisario politikoa izan zen, Gerra Zibilean hango sail zinematografikoa antolatzeko, eta SESBen hil zen, 1982an<sup>20</sup>).

Espaniako Bigarren Errepublikaren sorrera Euskal Herriari estuki lotuta egon zen. Donostiako Itunak, 1930eko abuztuaren 17koak, handik kilometro gutxira, Eibarren, Bigarren Errepublika aldarrikatu zen lehen herrian, 1931ko apirilaren 14an gorenera iritsi zen bidea prestatu zuen. Hala ere, erregimen berriaren bost urteko bizitza oso gatazkatsua gertatu zen euskal lurretan. Are gehiago, erregimen hura eraisteko ahalegin handienak egin zituzten indarrek hemen aurkitu zituzten beren euskarririk sutsuinetako batzuk. Euskal hiriburuek bozkariozko adierazpenenkin hartu zuten: sozialistak, errepublikanoak eta nazionalistak nahasian, etorkizunari buruzko oso ideia desberdinak. Indar politiko horietako bakoitzak erregimen berrian ikusi nahi izan zuen bere irrika politikoak berehala lortuko zirela, nahiz eta sarritan bateraezinak izan. Laster iritsi ziren desengainuak<sup>21</sup>.

#### EUZKADI (1933) ETA BESTE DOKUMENTAL BATZUK

Testuinguru zala partatsu horretan sortu zen euskal film bati buruzko xehetasunak emango ditugu, garai honetaz aritzeko. Hainbat arrazoik justifikatzen dute arreta berezi hori; *Euzkadi*, Teodoro Ernandorenarena, aurrekari argia da Gerra Zibileko euskal propaganda nazionalistaren zinemari dagokionez, eta Errepublika garaian borroka ideologikoaren tresna kontziente gisa ekoitzitako lehen film luzea ere bada. Hain eduki politiko handiko pelikula baten sorrera ere gertaera politikoen ondorio da. Teodoro Ernandorenak berak Santos Zunzunegiri kontatu zionez, guztiaren jatorrian, 1933ko Aberri Egunaren ospakizuna egon zen. Espero zen elkarretaratze nazionalista handiaren testigantza bizia eta ukaezina lortzea zen kontua<sup>22</sup>. Filma, bere alderdiaren laguntza ekonomikoari



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5. Teodoro Hernandoren irratiaren, 1935.



4. *El Mayorazgo de Basterretxe* (Mauro Azcona, 1928)  
5. Teodoro Hernandoren on the radio, 1935.

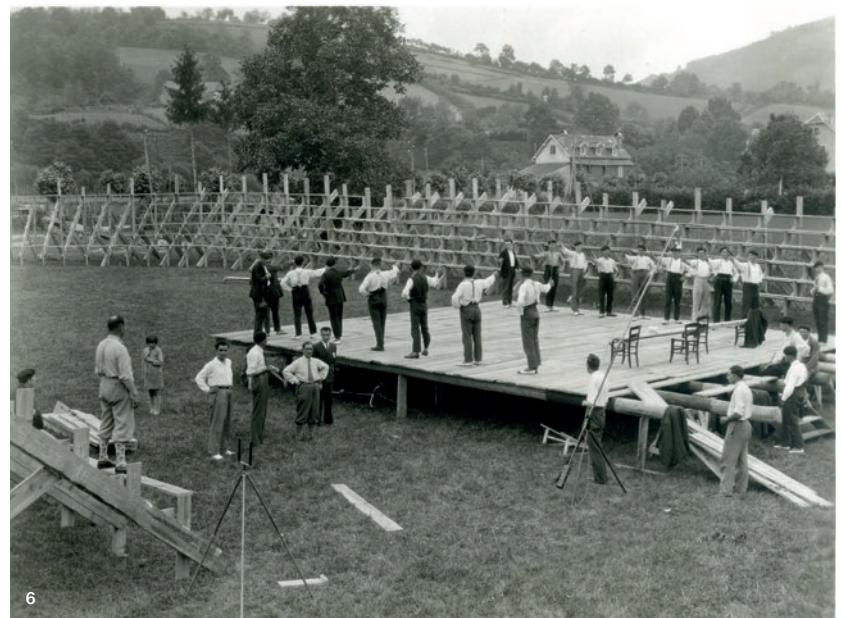
Basque nationalism; and the idealisation of rural life associated with traditions, faith in God and love of the farmhouse.

All the evidence outlined above could, in effect, lead us to consider a nationalist connection with *El Mayorazgo de Basterretxe*. Nevertheless, it is worth recalling other points that could call such a hypothesis into question: Mauro Azcona thought that his film "had to appeal both in and outside the Basque Country"<sup>18</sup>, the idealisation of traditional Basque life was not limited to the forces of nationalism alone<sup>19</sup> and the biographical data available for him do not suggest that he was a man who was closely committed to Basque nationalist ideas (he was a political commissar in the Pasionaria Regiment charged with organising its cinematographic section during the Civil War and died in the USSR in 1982<sup>20</sup>).

The coming of the Second Spanish Republic was closely associated with the Basque Country. The Pact of San Sebastian on 17 August 1930 had paved the way for what would culminate on 14 April 1931 not many kilometres from there, in Eibar, the first town to proclaim the Second Republic. However, the five-year life of the new regime would be extremely conflictive in the Basque lands. What is more, the forces that worked the hardest to bring it down would find their most ardent support here. The Basque capitals had received it with demonstrations of joy in which socialists, republicans and nationalists who harboured very different ideas with respect to the future mixed together. Each of these political forces wanted to see in the new regime the immediate achievement of their political goals which, however, were often incompatible. Disappointments were soon to come<sup>21</sup>.

#### EUZKADI (1933) AND OTHER DOCUMENTARIES

Amid this unruly context came a Basque film on which we will concentrate in some detail for this period. Such special attention is justified for several reasons: *Euzkadi*, by Teodoro Ernandoren, constitutes a clear antecedent with respect to the cinema of Basque nationalist propaganda during the Civil War and was also the first feature length film produced during the Republic as a conscious instrument of ideological combat. The birth of a film so full of political content was likewise the result of political events. As Teodoro Ernandoren himself told Santos Zunzunegui, the holding of the first Aberri Eguna (Basque national day) in 1933 was at the root of everything. It was a question of achieving a live and irrefutable testimony of the expected large nationalist gathering<sup>22</sup>. The film was more a reflection of its director's iron personal will than the financial support of his party. The role of the Gipuzko Buru Batzar (the Gipuzko section of the Basque Nationalist Party, PNV) was limited to a nominal patronage and it is clear that, at the outset, the PNV was incapable of seeing any propagandistic value the film may have



6. *Au Pays des Basques*  
(Maurice Champreux,  
1930)

baino gehiago, zuzendariaren borondate pertsonal sutsuari zor zitzaita. Gipuzko Buru Batzarraren papera babes nominal batera mugatu zen, eta begien bistakoa da hasieran EAJ ez zela gauza izan filmak izan zezakeen propaganda-interesa ikusteko. Ernandorenak, lanbidez dentista, bere baliabide propioekin egin behar izan zien aurre gastu guztiei. Alde horretatik, proiektua, oro har, ekimen pribatua baino ez zen izan, nahiz eta islatu nahi izan zuen dokumentu-errealitatea EAJren ikuspegiarekin guztiz bat zetorren ikuspegia baten ondorio izan. Komertzialki, *Euzkadi* Donostian estreinatu zen, 1933ko abenduaren 22an. Prentsa nazionalistak gogo biziz hartu zuen filma. Dokumentala eta egia uztartuz, *El Día* egunkari nazionalistak honela laburbildu zuen: «*Euzkadi es Euzkadi*»<sup>23</sup>. Hala ere, Teodoro Ernandorenaren abenturak ez zuen ez ondorengorik ez erreplikarik izan Errepublikak artean bizirik iraungo zuen bi urteetan. Euskal Herrian gerraren azken hilabeteak iritsi zirenean, EAJk, Euzkadiko Gobernu autonomoaren alderdi nagusiak, propagandarako makineria jarri ahal izan zuen martxan zinemaren bitarte, Ernandorenak jorratutako gai batzuk berriro hartuz, hiru urte lehenago etenda geratu zen bide ireki hartatik.

Labur-labur bada ere, aipatzekoak dira zinema soinudunerako transizio-urteetan agertu ziren beste titulu batzuk, arrazoi bategatik edo besteagatik hemen aztertzen ari garenerako interesa dutenak. Maurice Champreux-en *Au Pays des Basques* (1930) filmak, batez ere landa-eremuetan filmatuak, euskal herriko elkarritzetako erregistratu zituen lehen filma izatearen meritua du, eta euskal gaiei buruzko geroko beste dokumental batzuetarako iturria izan zen<sup>24</sup>.

Tokiko albistegien adibide ona dira *Reportajes Mezquiriz de última hora* (*Azken orduko Mezquiriz erreportajeak*); Bilbon bizi zen Miguel Mezquiriz tafallarrak 1935ean eginak, Gerra Zibilean bere kamera matxinatutako indarren zerbitzura jarririk. Azkenik, 36ko maiatzean *Sinfonía vasca* estreinatu zen, Adolf Trotz-ek zuzendua eta José Luis Durok ekoitzia. Azken

had. Ernandoren, a dentist by profession, had to cover all the expenses with his own money. In this regard, the project as a whole was a private initiative, for all that the *documentary* reality it tried to capture represented an outlook which mirrored that of the PNV perfectly.

*Euzkadi* premiered commercially in San Sebastian on 22 December 1933. The nationalist press enthusiastically embraced the film. Associating the documentary with the truth, the nationalist newspaper *El Día* summed it up thus: "*Euzkadi* is Euzkadi [the Basque Country]"<sup>23</sup>. Even so, Teodoro Ernandoren's adventure was never followed up or repeated in the two years that the Republic would still exist. Only in the last months of the war in the Basque Country was the PNV, the main party in the autonomous Government of the Basque Country, able to launch a propaganda mechanism through film which picked up some of the subject matter addressed by Ernandoren in an open way which had been left on hold three years earlier.

Mention should be made, however briefly, of some other works which date from the years of the transition to the sound era and which, for one reason or another, are of interest in regard to what we are considering here. *Au Pays des Basques* (1930) by Maurice Champreux, comprising mainly rural locations, has the merit of being the first film to record dialogues in Basque and of having served as a mine of information for subsequent documentaries about Basque topics<sup>24</sup>. In 1935, the *Reportajes Mezquiriz de última hora* constituted a good example of a local news source created by Miguel Mezquiriz, from Tafalla in Navarre although he resided in Bilbao. During the Civil War, he placed his camera at the service of the rebel forces. Lastly, *Sinfonía vasca* premiered in May 1936. It was directed by Adolf Trotz and produced by José Luis Duro, whose nationalist sympathies were widely doubted until the historian Santiago de Pablo concluded that, without being so, his pro-Basque idealisation could indeed serve, some years later, the interests of the PNV in exile<sup>25</sup>. It was believed that the film had been lost until the researcher Andoni Elezcano discovered a copy in the Spanish Film Archive in 2013<sup>26</sup>.

## PROPAGANDA CINEMA IN THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War in the Basque Country took on unique characteristics in the republican zone. While it is true that the period in which certain particularities took shape was not very long, one can speak about profound differences with other areas fighting fascism after 18 July 1936, when the rebels attempted to overthrow by force of arms the democracy represented by the Second Republic. Professor José Luis de la Granja has pointed out four aspects in which these were obvious, especially after the formation of the first Basque Government in history in October 1936<sup>27</sup>. All of them can help us to understand the cinematographic panorama which emerged in the Basque lands: respect for the Church and a war of Catholics against Catholics; the absence of a social revolution; greater political diversity than in other areas under republican rule; and a moderate emergency justice system. It is very significant that the political party that assumed control of the struggle against the rebels (the PNV) did so, not so much on account of its loyalty to the Spanish Republic, but because the latter had passed the Statute of Autonomy (in October 1936); something that had been impossible when the right was in power and as had previous experiences been demonstrated. In reality, each of the particularities highlighted was essentially reflected in the very nature of the Basque Nationalist Party: its members had been Catholics since the

honeni filiazio nazionalistaz salantza ugari izan dira, harik eta Santiago de Pablo historialariak ondorioztatu zuen arte, hala izan gabe, haren idealizazio euskaltzaleak balio zezakeela, urte batzuk geroago, erbesteko EAJren interesetarako<sup>25</sup>. Filma desagertutzat eman zen harik eta Andoni Elezcano ikertzaileak, 2013an, Spainiako Filmategian kopia bat aurkitu zuen arte<sup>26</sup>.

## GERRA ZIBILEKO PROPAGANDA-ZINEMA

Euskal Herriko Gerra Zibilak ezaugarri paregabeak hartu zituen eremu errepublikarrean. Berezitasun batzuk mamitu ziren aldia oso luzea izan ez baten ere, beste eremu batzuekiko desberdintasun sakonak zeudela esan daiteke, 1936ko uztailaren 18an matxinatuak Bigarren Errepublika ordezkatzetan zuen demokrazia armaz eraisten saiatu ziren faxismoaren aukako borrokan. Jose Luis de la Granja irakasleak berezitasun horiek age-riko ziren lau alderdi nabarmendu ditu, batez ere 1936ko urrian historiako lehen Eusko Jaurlaritza osatu ondoren<sup>27</sup>. Horiek guztiek lagun diezagukete euskal lurralteetan planteatu zen panorama zinematografikoa ulertzen: Elizarekiko errespetua eta katoliko gerra katolikoen aurka; iraultza sozialik ez izatea; aniztasun politiko handiagoa, legeria errepublikarraren mende zeuden beste eremu batzuetan baino; eta salbuespenezko justizia moderatua. Guztiz garrantzitsua da matxinatuen aukako borrokaren lidergoa hartz zuen alderdi politikoak (EAJ) hori egin izana, ez hainbeste Spainiako Errepublikarekiko leialtasunagatik, baizik eta hark onartu zelako Autonomia Estatutua (1936ko urrian), eskuindarrak boterean izanik ezinezkoa baitzen, aurreko esperientziek erakutsi zuten bezala. Egia esan, aipatutako berezitasun bakoitzak, funtsean, Euzko Alderdi Jeltzalearen izaera politikoan du bere isla: katolikoak ziren jatorriz alderdi gisa, eta XIX. mendearren amaierako izaera kontserbadore eta antikapitalistak bilakaera nabarmena izan zuen demokrazia kristau eta liberalaren postulatuaren onartze aldera (horrek gerra humanizatzeko ahalegina ere azalduko luke).

Eusko Jaurlaritzaren jardunak bederatzi hilabete eskas baino ez zuen iraun bere kontrolpean zeukan lurraldean. Hala ere, ez litzateke ahaztu behar Gobernu autonoaren lanak ez zirela amaitu Bizkaia frankisten eskuetan erori zenean, baizik eta Spainiako Gerra Zibila amaitu arte luzatu zirela, baita erbestean ere. Are gehiago, euskal zinema-propagandaren proiekturik garrantzitsuenak Bilbo erori ondoren sortu ziren. Santiago de Pablo Euskal Herriko Unibertsitateko irakaslearen ikerketak aurrerapauso itzela izan dira gaiari buruz dugun ezagutzan. Komeni ere komeni da hemen azpimarratzea, etorkizuneko edozein ikerketa haren irakaskuntzen zordun izango baita, batez ere bere *Tierra sin paz* [Bakerik gabeko lurra] (2006) lana argitaratu zenetik, eta, jakina, ondorengo ildoak ere horren zordun dira. Propagandarako ahalegina esandakoa baino askoz ere garrantzitsuagoa izan zen, eta ekimen horretatik sortutako, bukatuta egon ala ez, film eta erreportajeen zerrenda batek lehen ideia bat eskain dezake: *Entierro del benemérito sacerdote vasco José María de Korta y Uribarren, muerto en el frente de Asturias* (1937), *Semana Santa en Bilbao* [Aste Santua Bilbon] (1937), *Guernika* (1937), *Elai-Alai* (1938), *Euzko Deya* (1938). Bestalde, amaitu gabe edo osatu gabe bide daude: *Euzkadi y su primer Gobierno I y II* [Euzkadi eta bere lehen Jaurlaritza I eta II], *La guerra en Euzkadi. Su organización militar I, II y III* [Gerra Euskadin. Orduko antolaketa militarra I, II eta III], *Gobierno Euskadi. Asistencia social I, II y III, Sanidad militar (1ª y 2ª parte)* [Euskadiko Gobernua. Gizarte-lagunza I, II eta III, Osasun militarra (1. eta 2. zatiak)]<sup>28</sup>.

beginnings of the party itself, and its late nineteenth-century conservative anticapitalistic nature had evolved notably towards an acceptance of Christian democratic and liberal postulates (which would also explain its attempt to humanise the war).

The activity of the Basque Government in the territory under its control lasted barely nine months. However, one should not forget that the work of the autonomous Government was not eradicated with the fall of Biscay into Francoist hands, but, rather, extended to the end of the Spanish Civil War and even into exile. What is more, the most important projects associated with Basque cinematographic propaganda had already been forged by the time Bilbao fell. The research of the University of the Basque Country professor, Santiago de Pablo, has implied an extraordinary step forward in our knowledge of the subject. It is worth underscoring here, since any future study will be indebted to his teachings, especially following the publication of his work *Tierra sin paz* (2006) as, of course, is the text which follows below.

The propaganda effort was much more important than had previously been claimed and a list of the films and reports which emerged out of this initiative, whether finished or not, may offer an initial idea: *Entierro del benemérito sacerdote vasco José María de Korta y Uribarren, muerto en el frente de Asturias* (1937), *Semana Santa en Bilbao* (1937), *Guernika* (1937), *Elai-Alai* (1938) and *Euzko Deya* (1938). Meanwhile, the following were unfinished or incomplete: *Euzkadi y su primer Gobierno I y II, La guerra en Euzkadi. Su organización militar I, II y III, Gobierno Euskadi. Asistencia social I, II y III and Sanidad militar (1ª y 2ª parte)*<sup>28</sup>.

Some of the people behind this effort were: Manuel Irujo (PNV), Nemesio Sobrevida (director), Eduardo Díaz de Mendibil (PNV), Petiot (cameraman), José María Beltrán (cameraman) and Agustín Ugartechea (amateur filmmaker and member of the PNV). The main person in charge was the architect and director Nemesio Sobrevida, who had emerged in the late 1920s with two frankly original films: *Al Hollywood madrileño* (1927) and *El sexto sentido* (1929). He left his residence in Biarritz in 1937 to get down to work. The political leanings of this director of *Guernika* remain unknown, but he did seek to collaborate with his knowledge to the antifascist cause<sup>29</sup>. By mid-1937, then, the Cinematographic Office of the Basque Government Propaganda

7. Nemesio Sobrevida,  
1937.



Ahalegin horren protagonistetako batzuk honako hauek izan ziren: Manuel Irujo (EAJ), Nemesio Sobrevida (zuzendaria), Eduardo Díaz de Mendibil (EAJ), Petiot (operadorea), José María Beltrán (operadorea) eta Agustín Ugartetxea (zinemagile amateurra eta EAJko kidea). Arduradun nagusia Nemesio Sobrevida arkitekto eta zuzendaria izan zen, 20ko hamarkadaren amaieran bi film benetan originalekin nabarmendu zena: *Al Hollywood madrileño* (1927) eta *El sexto sentido* (1929). 1937ko martxoan Biarritzeko bizilekua utzi, eta lanari ekin zion. Ez dakigu Gernikako zuzendariaaren atxikipen politiko zehatza, baina kausa antifaxistan lagundu nahi izan zuen bere ezagutzekin<sup>29</sup>. 1937. urtearen erdialdean, abian jarri zen Eusko Jaurlaritzako Propaganda Saileko Kabinete Zinematografikoa: handik aurrera, bi egoitza berri izango zituen (Paris eta Bartzelona), eta Bilboko galdu zuen, erortzeko zorian baitzen ordurako. Helburua zen, batez ere *Guernika [sic]* film dokumentalari esker, Europak nazien bombardaketaren berri izatea eta gerraren izugarrikeria pantailletan ikustea. Ikus zezaten kultu katolikoa errespetatzen zuen eta ordenako alderdi batek iraultza sozialik gabe gobernatzen zuen herri bereizi baten aurkako eraso hura. Eta hori egin zen Bilbo jada erorita zegoen arren, eta filmen helburua atzerrirratutako euskaldunentzako nazioarteko elkartasuna bultzatzea besterik ez zen. Eusko Jaurlaritzak Bartzelonatik eta Paristik zinema-propagandarako talde bat sortzeko egin zuen ahalegina uste baino askoz handiagoa izan zen. Lan-talde murritza izan zen, oso aktiboa bere lanean, eta nazioarteko testuingurura egokitutako filmak egiteko talentua bazuena. Guztiek erbestearen zigorrax ordaindu zuten Euzkadi eta Espainiako Errepublikarekiko konpromisoa. Hain zuen ere, Sobrevida amorraturik atera zen lan-taldetik, Jose Antonio Agirre lehendakariari egindako eraso eta Eusko Jaurlaritzak bere filmei buruz izan zuen jokabide orokorrarekiko haserrearen ondoren. Irmotasun ideologikoak eta liderrarekiko leialtasunak, gerraren amaieran Agirrek Euskaldunen Emigracio Zerbitzuen buru izendatu zuen Julio Jauregiaren (EAJ) erantzun sendoa eragin zuten: berak ez zuen bere bermea emango Sobrevida Txilerantz ontziratzeko, eta herritar espainiar gisa eskaera Espainiar Errefuxiatuak Ebakuatzeko Zerbitzuari (SERE) egitera gonbidatu zuen<sup>30</sup>. Hala ere, azkenean Txilera joatea lortu zuen, Eduardo Díaz de Mendibil eta Concepción Zaracondegui senar-emazte gazteekin batera. Elkarrekin abiatu ziren, 1939ko uztailaren 15ean, La Pallice-tik (La Rochelle) Valparaíso<sup>31</sup>. Gero, Venezuelara aldatu zen Sobrevida, Txilen ez baitzuen gustuko lanik aurkitu. Geroago, Argentinan bizi izan zen, eta azkenik Euskal Herrira (Donostiarra) itzuli, eta bertan hil zen, 1969an. Ez zuen zinema gehiagorik egin.

Bost izan ziren Euskal Herriko gerrarako propaganda frankistaren zinemaren adibide nagusiak. *Frente de Vizcaya y 18 de julio* (1937), FET y de las JONSeK (Ofentsiba Nazional-Sindikalistako Batzarren Espainiako Falange Tradizionalistak) ekoitzia, propaganda oldarkorra, amorratua, iraingarra. Kontakizunaren zatirik handienaren filiazio karlistak ez zuen barkatu euskal nazionalismoaren traiziona, *piztiaren* aliatua egina baitzen. Begien bistakoa da filmaren katolizismoa faltsua zela: elizak suntsitu izanaren irudiak agertzen ziren, ikusleak ikus zezan Euskal Herrian ere antiklerikalismoa nahierara zebilela. *Bilbao para España* (1937), Cifesak ekoitzia, oldarkortasun apur bat gutxiago du hizkuntzaren erabilera, baina manikeismotik tanta bat ere ez. Kamerak Bilborako bidean aurkitzen zituen txikizio ugariak *marxismo suntsitzaleak* eraginak ziren. Euskal separatistek beren zaurituak abandonatzen zituzten, hildakoak lurperatu gabe, eta haurrak eta zaharrak *fardelak balira bezala* sartzen zituzten itsasontzietan, ebakuatzeko. Aldiz, Espainiako soldaduek zaurituak artatzen dituzte, hildakoak lurperatzen, eta

**8. Guernika** (Nemesio Sobrevida, 1937)



Section was up and running, and it would from this time on have two main offices (in Paris and Barcelona), losing that of Bilbao, whose fall was imminent. It followed that, thanks in the main to the documentary film *Guernika*, Europe came to know about the Nazi bombing of the Basque city, that it saw on screen the horror of the war. That it saw the attack on a distinct people who respected the Catholic faith, whose ruling party governed without involving any social revolution. And this was done in spite of the fact that Bilbao had by now fallen and the films only attempted to encourage international solidarity for expatriate Basques. The efforts of the Basque Government to create a cinematographic propaganda team from Barcelona and Paris were far greater than was believed. It was a team short on staff, extraordinarily active in its work and not lacking in talent in order to make films which were appropriate for the international context. All of them paid for their commitment to the Basque Country and the Spanish Republic by going into exile. Specifically, Sobrevida left the team frankly bitterly following his attacks on the *lehendakari* (Basque president) José Antonio Aguirre and his anger with the general behaviour of the Basque Government with respect to his films. Ideological conviction and loyalty to the leader meant that the response of Julio Jauregui (PNV), who at the end of the war had been appointed by Aguirre to the post of Chief of Emigration Services, was telling: he would not give his backing for Sobrevida to leave for Chile and invited him to make the request as a Spanish citizen to the SERE (Servicio de Evacuación de Refugiados Españoles, Evacuation Service for Spanish Refugees)<sup>30</sup>. Nevertheless, he finally managed to embark for Chile together with his family and a young married couple, Eduardo Díaz de Mendibil and Concepción Zaracondegui. They left together from La Pallice (La Rochelle) on 15 July 1939 for Valparaíso<sup>31</sup>. From Chile, Sobrevida went to Venezuela, when he could not find any work to his liking there. Later, he lived in Argentina, and ended up returning to the Basque Country (San Sebastian), where he died in 1969. He never made any films again.

haur eta zahar gosetiei jaten ematen diete. Miguel Mezkiriz-en *Bilbao en el segundo aniversario de su liberación* [Bilbo, askapenaren bigarren urteurrenean] filmean (1939), gauza bera dugu, baina gerra irabazi beharraren presiorik gabe, ordurako gerra irabazita baitzegoen. Galtzaileei ez zitzaien ahaztuko. Francok Labe Garaietako langileei hitz egiten die engainatuak izan direla esateko. Erregimena gerra-garaipenaren oroitzapen biziaren gainean kokatzen da. Azkenik, bi adibidek Nafarroa bihurtu zuten erabateko protagonista, kausa frankistarekiko atxikimenduari esker: *Homenaje a las Brigadas de Navarra* (1937) eta *Los conquistadores del Norte* (1937).

Euskal erretagoardia frankistan, Donostian zehazki, *Celuloïdes cómicos* izeneko film labur komiko batzuk ere filmatu ziren. Salbuespena dira, propaganda politikoak monopolizatutako erretagoardiako zinema frankistaren arauarekiko. Jardiel Poncelak, filmeon egileak, irudian baino gehiago hitzaren boterean oinarritutako ariketa zinematografikoak eraiki zituen. Haren diskurtsoak, ia beti berak irakurriak, eusten diote narrazioaren pisuari eta ikusizko diskurtso landuagoa sortzeko ezintasun materialetatik eratorritako gabeziak ordezten dituzte. Nolanahi ere, egileak estimu handian izan zituen beti zinemaren munduari berak egindako ekarpenak<sup>32</sup>.

There were five main examples of Francoist propaganda cinema regarding the war in the Basque Country. There is the aggressive, rabid, insulting propaganda of *Frente de Vizcaya y 18 de julio* (1937), produced by the FET y las JONS (Franco's sole legal party). The Carlist leanings of most of the narration did not forgive the treason of Basque nationalism, allied as it was with *the beast*. It Catholicism was clearly false: images depicting the destruction of churches were shown so viewers could see that anticlericalism was rampant in the Basque Country too. *Bilbao para España* (1937), produced by the Cifesa film studio, lost some of aggressive use of language but not a drop of Manicheanism. The numerous cases of destruction the camera came across in its advance towards Bilbao had been caused by *destructive Marxism*. The Basque separatists abandoned their wounded, did not bury their dead and packed their children and old people off on ships *like bales* to evacuate them. In contrast, the soldiers of Spain attended to the wounded, buried the dead and fed the starving children and old people. In *Bilbao en el segundo aniversario de su liberación* (1939), by Miguel Mezquíriz, there is more of the same, but by this time without the same pressure to win the war because it had already been won. The losers were not going to forget. Franco spoke to the workers of the Altos Hornos metallurgy manufacturing company in order to tell them that they had been deceived. The regime was installed on the living memory of victory in the war. Finally, two examples put Navarre front and centre thanks to its adherence to the Francoist cause: *Homenaje a las Brigadas de Navarra* (1937) and *Los conquistadores del Norte* (1937).

In the Basque Francoist rear-guard, specifically in San Sebastian, some humorous short films were also made which were termed *Comic celluloids*. They were the exception to the rule of rear-guard Francoist cinema which was monopolised by political propaganda. They were made by Jardiel Poncela, who constructed cinematographic exercises based more on the power of words than images. His discourse, which he almost read out himself, supported the weight of the narration and made up for the deficiencies which derived from the material impossibilities of providing likewise a more elaborate visual discourse. Whatever the case, this author always held his contributions to the world of cinema in high esteem<sup>32</sup>.

## Frankismoko basamortutik piztuerara

Errepublikaren erabateko porrotaren ondorio nagusietako bat diktadura luze eta odoltsu bat ezartzea izan zen, Julián Casanova historialariak «bake ez-zibil luzea» deiturikoa<sup>33</sup>. Eusko Jaurlaritzan erantzukizunak izan zituztenei erbestea, kartzela edo heriotza ekarri zien. Hitz egin dugu gerra osteko euskal propaganda zinematografikoaren arduradunen patuaz. Hurrengo hiru hamarkadetan, Eusko Jaurlaritzak erbestean hartu zituen arlo honetako ekimen bakarrak gerra garaian egindako material sakabanatuak berreskuratzen saiatzen mugatu ziren<sup>34</sup>. Manuel de Irujok eta Eduardo Díaz de Mendibilek ohiko tratua izaten jarraitu zuten, adiskidetasun harreman sendoei esker. Lehenak bigarrenari 1940ko apirilean idatzitako gutun bat oso argigarria gertzen da orain:

«Gerrari buruz hemen bezainbeste dakizue hor (Valparaíso, Txile). Eta Spainiatik egiazko gauza bakarra da kartzelek beteta jarraitzen dutela, jendea marmarrean, atzerriko lagunarte txikietan monarkiaz eta diktadura militarraz hizketan, Falangea buruzagi gisa agintzen. Karlistak erabat ilunduta eta dagoeneko konspiratzen, gose handia jare eginik, alemanak eta italiarrak negozioen, komunikazioen, poliziaren eta abarren aginpidean... Gerrak Francori eusten dio. Eta gerrak akabatuko du, lehenago bere politikaren baldarkeriak garbitzen ez badu. Baina espero izatekoa da Franco izatea, gerra bezala, denbora luzean<sup>35</sup>.»

Eta halaxe gertatu: bai Francok bai gerrak luze iraun zuten. Hala ere, II. Mundu Gerraren amaierak (1945) ez zuen erregimen frankista erortzea ekarri, politikari nafarrak, gerra garaian euskal buruzagi nazionalista baliokoz eta aktiboenetako hark, aurreikusi bezala. Bere politika baldarraren ondorioz ere ez zen Franco erori. Diplomazia aldetik ardatzeko indarrekin lerrokatu arren, gerran sartu ez bazea, ez zen izan, historiografia frankistak sinetsarazi nahi izan zuen bezala, Francok Hitlerrekin 1940ko urriaren 23an Hendaian egindako bileran egin zuen euste-maniobra trebearen ondorioz<sup>36</sup>. Spainia lehenik «neutral» eta gero «gerran ez parte-hartziale» deklaratu bazea, premia hutsagatik izan zen. Francok Afrika iparraldean zituen asmo kolonial neurrigabeek ez zeuden parekaturik fronte ezberdinatan aldeko egoera zeukan alderdi faxistari eman ziezaiokeen laguntza militarrarekin.

Espaniak, Gerra Zibilaren amaieratik II. Mundu Gerraren amaierara arte, hegemonia nazional-sindikalisten aroa deitu izan dena zeharkatu zuen, hau da, Estatu faxista bat sortzeko saiakera, proiektu falangista inposatuz eta erregimenaren jarduera-eremu zabaletan FETen (Espaniako Falange Tradizionalistaren) nonahikotasunaren bidez<sup>37</sup>. Zinematografia Sail Nazionalaren sorrera (1938) paradigmatikoa da: «Francoren buruzagitzaz egiaten ezarri, eta Estatu Berriaren oinarri faxistak irakatsi nahi zituen zinema ofizial bat ekoizteari ekin zioten<sup>38</sup>». Abian jarri zen egitura burokratiko errepresiboaren xedea kontrol-mekanismoak ezartzea izan zen (zuzeneko zentsura, gidoiak gainbegiratzea, nahitaezko bikoizketa, filmatzeko baimenak edo erakusteko lizenziak), paternalismoa eta autarkia nagusi ziren

## From the desert of Francoism to the awakenings

One of the main consequences of the unremitting defeat of the Republic was the installation of a long and bloody dictatorship which the historian Julián Casanova has termed “the long uncivil peace”<sup>33</sup>. For those who held positions of responsibility in the Basque Government it meant exile, prison or death. We have already spoken about the destiny of those in charge of Basque cinematographic propaganda after the war. For the next three decades, the only initiatives in such matters taken by the Basque Government in exile were limited to trying to regain scattered materials made during the war<sup>34</sup>. Manuel de Irujo and Eduardo Díaz de Mendibil continued to maintain regular contact by virtue of their strong friendship ties. A letter from the former to the latter in April 1940 now seems truly perceptive:

“You know as much about the war there [Valparaíso, Chile] as here. And the only effective thing in Spain is that the prisons continue to be full, people speaking in whispers, cliques abroad speaking about the monarchy and the military dictatorship, the Falange in command. The Carlists totally overshadowed and already plotting, much unleashed hunger, Germans and Italians holding the reins of business, communications and police, etc. ... The war kept Franco going. The war will finish him off, if the ineptitude of his policies does not finish him off first. But the truth is that we’ll have Franco, like war, for some time”<sup>35</sup>.

There was, in effect, Franco and war for some time. However, the end of the Second World War (in 1945) did not lead to the fall of the Francoist regime, as the Navarrese politician, one of the strongest and most active Basque nationalist leaders during the war, had expected. Nor did Franco fall as a result of his inept policies. In spite of his diplomatic alignment with the Axis forces, his non-entry into the war was not due, as Francoist historiography made believe, to a skilful containment manoeuvre carried out by Franco in his meeting with Hitler in Hendaia on 23 October 1940<sup>36</sup>. If Spain declared itself first “neutral” and then “non-belligerent”, it was out of pure necessity. Franco’s exorbitant colonial aspirations in North Africa were not in tune with the military support he was able to lend a fascist bloc which was in a favourable situation on different fronts.

Between the end of the Civil War and the end of the Second World War, Spain went through what has been termed the national-syndicalist stage, that is, the attempt to create a fascist state through the imposition of the Falangist project and the omnipresence of the FET in widespread spheres of the regime’s activity<sup>37</sup>. The creation of the National Department of Cinematography in 1938 was paradigmatic: producing an official cinema that attempted to “effectively establish Franco’s leadership, as well as lecturing on the fascist bases of the New State”<sup>38</sup>. The repressive bureaucratic framework which was launched would have as its mission the establishment of control mechanisms (direct censorship, the supervision of scripts, mandatory dubbing, filming permits and screening licenses) combined paternalistically and

babes-mekanismo batzuekin uztarturik<sup>39</sup>. Jakina, horrelako zinema baterako hizkuntza posible bakarra gaztelania zen. Garaiko benetako kultur eremu horren adibide adierazgarrietako bat euskal zinema izan zen: besterik gabe, garai mutuko eta soinuaren lehen hamarkadako euskal zinema ekoizpen berez txikia ia hutsera murriztu zen.

Hala eta guztiz ere, berrogeita hamarreko hamarkadan zinemarekiko gero eta interes handiagoa sortu zen: erakusketa-aretoak ugari egin ziren, zinema-aldizkari berriak agertu ziren, zine-klubak ugaldu ziren eta, besteak beste, Donostiako Zinemaldia (1953) sortu zen merkatari ausarten talde baten ekimenez, udako denboraldia luzatzeko eta zinemaren argumentuarekin Donostia sustatzeko asmotan. Hamar fundatzaileei ez zaie garrantzirik kendu behar –lehen edizioan Informazio eta Turismo Ministerioaren laguntza txikia eta jokabide permisiboa izan zuten–, baina azpimarratu beharra dago diktadura frankistak 1954tik aurrera egin zuen fagozitatzea<sup>40</sup>. Denborak aurrera egin ahala, Zinemaldiak gizartearen bide paraleloa egin zuen, demokratizatu egin zen, tentsioak eta gorabeherak izanik ere. Joerak sendotu eta berezitasunak sortu ziren: aipagarrienetako bat, zalantzak gabe, euskal zinemaren industriarekin harreman pribilegiatua izatea<sup>41</sup>. Bere 70. urteurrena beteta, munduko garrantzitsuenetako bat da, Fédération Internationale des Associations de Producteurs de Films erakundeak bermatua, film luzeetarako hamabost lehiakor eta ez-espezializatuen artean. 180.000 ikusle inguru biltzen ditu urtero, mila kazetari baino gehiago eta 4.000 akreditatu. 600 proiekzio publiko baino gehiago egiten dira<sup>42</sup>.



**9.** Donostia Zinemaldiak lehen aldiz argitaratutako aldizkaria, 1953.

**9.** The first magazine to be published by the San Sebastian Festival, 1953.  
**10.** *Gure Sor Lekua* (André Madré, 1956)

autocratically with a series of protective mechanisms<sup>39</sup>. Of course, the only language possible for a cinema such as this was Spanish. The resulting true cultural wasteland found in Basque cinema one of its illustrative examples: put simply, what was already in itself a small Basque cinematographic output during the silent era and first decade of sound was reduced practically to zero.

Nevertheless, in the 1950s greater interest was generated in the cinema: picture theatres multiplied, new film magazines appeared, film clubs proliferated and, among other enterprises, the San Sebastian Festival was established (1953) as the initiative of a group of intrepid businessmen who sought to extend the summer season and promote the city on the basis of film. One cannot underestimate the importance of the ten founders—with their broad-minded approach and tenuous support from the Ministry of Information and Tourism during the first edition—but one must also emphasise how the Francoist dictatorship took over the event completely from 1954 onwards<sup>40</sup>. With the passage of time, the festival underwent a transformation in line with that of society as a whole, becoming more democratic, yet not free of tension and its ups and downs. Therein, tendencies were consolidated and particularities forged: one of the most significant is, without doubt, a privileged relationship with the Basque film industry<sup>41</sup>. Having now completed its 70th anniversary, it is one of the most important in the world, accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers as amongst the fifteen most competitive and non-specialist in feature length films. It attracts close to 180,000 viewers, more than a thousand journalists and 4,000 accredited attendees. It carries out more than 600 public screenings<sup>42</sup>.

#### THE FIRST FILMS IN BASQUE: ANDRÉ MADRÉ AND GOTZON ELORTZA

Another key area in which the history of Basque cinema has changed thanks to new discoveries in recent years is that relating to the first film in Basque. Until quite recently, we used to mistakenly cite the short films by Gotzon Elortza as the first works in this field. Clues that pointed to the existence of a documentary titled *Sor Lekua* and directed by a no less mysterious M. Madré had yielded no results until the research of Josu Martínez led to clarifying multiple questions: the film was titled *Gure Sor Lekua*, it was a 1956 documentary made entirely in Basque and its director was a Basque general in the French army, André Madré. The seed of the idea was planted in Madré's head as the result of a suggestion by Teodoro Ernandorena (director of *Euzkadi* in 1933) at a meeting of Basques in Paris in the early 1950s to make

films in Basque. Madré's idea was to make a film in Basque about the seven territories of the Basque Country. The result was an hour and a half long colour documentary, the only copy of which found to date is thanks to the perseverance of Josu Martínez<sup>43</sup>. Unfortunately, it lacks any sound.

Although Madré may have snatched away the position of first director in Basque



## EUSKARAZKO LEHEN ZINEMA: ANDRÉ MADRÉ ETA GOTZON ELORTZA

Euskal zinemaren historia, azken urteotako aurkikuntzei esker, aldatu den beste puntu funsezko bat euskarazko lehen filmari buruzkoa da. Duela gutxi arte, alor horretako lehen lanak Gotzon Elortzaren film laburrak zirela esaten genuen, oker esan ere. M. Madrék zuzendutako *Sor Lekua* izeneko dokumental bat zegoela adierazten zuten arrastoek ez zuten emaitzarik izan, harik eta Josu Martinezen ikerketek hainbat alderdi argitu zituzten arte: filmak *Gure Sor Lekua* zuen izenburu, 1956ko dokumentala, euskara hutsean pentsatua; zuzendaria, André Madré izeneko Frantziako Armadako euskal jeneral bat izan zen. Madré euskaldunaren ideiaren ernamuina Teodoro Ernandorenak (1933an *Euzkadi*-ko zuzendariak) egindako iradokizun bat izan zen, 50eko hamarkadaren hasieran Parisen zenbait euskaldunek egindako bilera batean, euskarazko filmak egiteko asmotan. Haien xedea zen Euskal Herriko zappi lurraldeei buruzko film bat euskaraz egitea. Emaitza ordu eta erdiko dokumental bat izan zen, koloretakoa, eta gaur arte azalduztako kopia bakarraren aurkikuntza Josu Martinezen ekinaren ondorio izan zen<sup>43</sup>. Zoritzarrezz, soinua falta zaio.

Madrék Gotzon Elortzari euskarazko lehen zuzendari postua kendu badio ere, Elortzak Paristik borondatetsu egindako lana merezimendu handikoa izan zen. Lau film labur dokumental egitea lortu zuen: *Ereagatik Matxitxakora, Aberria, Elburua: Gernika eta Avignon*. Orduna horretan filmatu zituzten 1959 eta 1965 bitartean, ia modu artisauan, laguntza publiko edo ekoizpen komertzial guztietatik urrun. Euskara denbora eta hizkuntza cinematografikorako erabat prestatutako hizkuntza zela frogatzeko borondatea izan zen bizkaitar delineatzailearen burdinazko borondatearen buru. Euskadiko Filmategiak horietako hiru zaharberritu zituen (*Avignon* ez da aurkitu), DVD edizio bat argitaratu zuen eta gaur egun eskuragarri daude bai euskal gizartearentzat bai mundu osoko zinemazale eta ikertzaileentzat.

## AMA LUR (1968) ETA ERBESTEAREN OIHARTZUNAK

Ahultzat jo behar dira hirurogeiko hamarkadan berezko ekoizpen zinematografikoa berpizteko saiakerak, batez ere Madrilen edo Bartzelonan gertatutakoarekin alderatzen badugu. Aurrerago zehaztuko dugun arren, bai Espainiako Zinema Berriak, Zinematografia Eskola Ofizialean trebatzen ari ziren gazteen inguruan 1962 aldera sortua, bai Bartzelonako Eskolak, hamarkadaren erdialdean abian jarria bera, euskal zinemagile batzuen boluntarismoak baino lorpen ugariagoak izan zituzten: Euskadin azpiegiturrik txikiak ere ez zegoenez, eta bide alternatiboei ekin beharko diete, hala nola zinema experimentalari edo dokumental kulturalari eta, batzuetan, etno-folklorikoari<sup>44</sup>. Lehenengoen artean, Ruiz Balerdi, Sistiaga, Agirre, Zubala edo Bakedano aipatuko ditugu. Dokumentalaren alde egin zutenen artean, sarritan Euskal Herria dela arretagune, Pío Caro Baroja azpimarratuko dugu *El carnaval de Lanz* (1964) eta *Navarra. Las cuatro estaciones* (1970) filmen egile gisa; eta Rafael Treku, Francisco Bernabé-rekin batera Ornis Films sortu zuena. Iparraldean aipatzeko da Maite Barnetxe, euskarazko telebistaren benetako aitzindariak, France 3 katerako egindako lana, hamabost minutuko dokumental labur ugarirekin, *Euskal Herria orai eta gero* izenburuean (1971-1986).

Nolanahi ere, Fernando Larruquert-ek eta Nestor Basterretxeak kateatu zituzten hirurogeiko hamarkadan euskal zinemaren historiarako ezinbeste-

**11. Ereagatik Matxitxakora (Gotzon Elortza, 1959)**



from Gotzon Elortza, the latter's activity which he undertook from Paris voluntarily was very commendable. He managed to make four short documentary films: *Ereagatik Matxitxakora, Aberria, Elburua: Gernika and Avignon*. They were filmed in this order between 1956 and 1965 in practically an artisanal way, lacking any public funding or commercial production. His desire to show that Basque was a tongue which was fully ready for the time and for cinematographic language dominated the iron will of the draughtsman from Biscay. The Basque Film Archive restored three of them (no copy of *Avignon* has been found), then brought out a DVD edition and today they are accessible via its website both to Basque society and the worldwide community of film buffs and researchers.

## AMA LUR (1968) AND THE ECHOES OF EXILE

Attempts to revive cinematographic self-production in the 1960s have to be considered timid at best, especially when compared to what was happening in Madrid or Barcelona. Although this will be qualified below, both the New Spanish Cinema, which emerged around 1962 amongst some young people who had trained at the Official School of Cinematography, and the Barcelona School, which began mid-decade, had more numerous achievements to their credit than those of the voluntarism of a few Basque filmmakers who would be forced, through the absence of the most minimum of infrastructures in the Basque Country, to set out on alternative paths such as that of alternative cinema or cultural and, sometimes, ethno-folkloric documentaries<sup>44</sup>. Amongst the former, we will mention Ruiz Balerdi, Sistiaga, Aguirre, Zubala and Baquedano. Amongst those who opted for documentaries, often with the Basque Country as the centre of attention, we will highlight Pío Caro Baroja as the author of *El carnaval de Lanz* (1964) y *Navarra. Las cuatro estaciones* (1970); and Rafael Treku, who, alongside Francisco Bernabé, founded Ornis Films. In the Northern Basque Country, one should emphasise the work carried out for the France 3 channel by Maite Barnetxe, a true pioneer of television in Basque, with numerous fifteen-minute-long short documentary films under the title *Euskal Herria orai eta gero* (1971-1986).



12. *Ama Lur* (Fernando Larruquert, Nestor Basterretxea, 1968)

koak diren lau lan dokumental: *Operación H* (1963), *Pelotari* (1964), *Alquézar* (1965) eta, azkenik, *Ama Lur* (1968). *Ama Lur* inflexio-puntu argia bilakatu zen, izan ere, sinestezina badirudi ere, Gerra Zibilaren garaitik Euskal Herrian osorik ekoiztu eta egindako lehen film luzea da. Euskal Herriari egindako kantu lirikoa izan nahi du, eta, etsaigo handiko testuinguruan, aldarrikapen politikotik ere asko du. Bi zuzendarien aurreko lanetan landatutako hazien fruituak biltzen ditu, eta ez da garai hartako euskal giro kultural orokorretik kanpo geratzen: Oteizak 1963an argitaratu zuen *Quousque Tandem...!*, Gabriel Arestik 1964an *Harri eta Herri*, eta, urtebete geroago, *Ez Dok Amairu* kantautore taldea jaio zen.

Gainditu behar izan zituzten zaitasun nagusietako bi proiektuaren finantzazioa eta pelikulak jasoko zuen zentsura izan ziren. Finantzaketa neketsua gertatu zen: interesdunen artean dirua biltzen saiatzen, Sozietate Anonimo bat sortu zuten, 100 pezetako balioa zuten akzioak jaulki zituzten, «Herriaren filma, herriak egina» lelopean. La 6 milioi pezetarako iritsi zen filmaren azkeneko aurrekontua. Zentsura oztopo bat izan zen, eta ez da minimizatzea komeni, nahiz eta proiektua geldiaraztea lortu ez. Egileei inspirazio politiko argiko aldaketak egiteko eskatu zitzainen: Gernikako arbolak loratuta agertu behar zen –ez elurtuta–; Espainiako erregeen Euskal Foruen Zina kendu behar zuten (puntu horri eustea lortu zen azkenean); Picasso-ren *Guernica*-ko xehetasunezko planoak ezabatu behar ziren, «margolan

In any event, in the 1960s Fernando Larruquert and Néstor Basterretxea linked four documentaries which are indispensable for the history of Basque cinema: *Operación H* (1963), *Pelotari* (1964), *Alquézar* (1965) and, lastly, *Ama Lur* (1968). *Ama Lur* would become a clear turning point and not without good reason because, incredible as it may seem, it was the first feature length film made and produced entirely in the Basque Country since the Civil War era. It tries to be a lyrical song to the Basque Country which also has, in a very hostile context, much to demand politically. It includes the fruits of seeds planted in the previous works by both directors and remains close to the general Basque cultural environment of the era: Oteiza had published his *Quousque Tandem...!* in 1963, Gabriel Aresti *Harri eta Herri* in 1964 and, a year later, the singer-songwriter collective *Ez Dok Amairu* was founded.

Financing for the project and the censorship to which the film was submitted were two of the main difficulties that had to be negotiated. Financing was laborious: a public limited company was created which issued shares worth 100 pesetas in order to try and raise funds amongst potential interested parties under the slogan "A people's film, made by the people". Nearly 6 million pesetas were raised to cover the final budget for the film. Censorship was an obstacle which should not be minimised although it did not manage to paralyse the project. Its authors were required to make some modifications for clearly political reasons: the tree of Gernika had to appear in flower and not covered in snow, Spanish monarchs swearing the Oath of Loyalty to the Basque Fueros (regional rights and charters) had to be eliminated (although this was ultimately included), detailed shots of Picasso's *Guernica* had to be cut since this "is not Basque" and the word "Spain" had to be included at least three times. It was, then, a case of "aborting the undertaking of a work with potential Basque separatist aspirations, making it something else which is limited to singing the beauties and traditions of a Spanish region, within and integrated into our national contours"<sup>45</sup>. The film enjoyed good box office figures in the provinces of Gipuzkoa and Biscay, which generated a modest profit, while it was a flop everywhere else it was released<sup>46</sup>. In any event, and beyond its artistic value, it has been accepted by historians, critics and filmmakers as a key work to understand the subsequent development of modern Basque cinema, not so much because its artistic imprint is clearly appreciable in many films but because its willingness to film the Basque Country from coordinates which were directly opposed to those of the Francoist regime set a fertile precedent.

The same year that *Ama Lur* was released, the exiled Basque community (from Venezuela) revisited on the giant screen the drama of the Civil War for the first time since the Basque Government was forced to dismantle its cinematographic propaganda service following the defeat. Proof of the state of absolute paralysis in this field is the fact that one would have to wait thirty years to see a film created with similar intentions again: *Los hijos de Gernika* (1968) by Segundo Cazalis. Its production was not due to the direct labour of the Basque Government, but to an enthusiastic initiative on the part of the youth wing of the PNV in Venezuela, a country with an important community of Basque nationalists. Jokin Inza, one of the main PNV leaders in that country who also had to flee into exile, appeared as the producer. The texts and coordination were the work of Paul de Garat, the pseudonym of Alberto Elósegui, an exiled Basque journalist in Venezuela and founder of the newspaper *Gudari* as well as being in charge of Basque propaganda related matters in the country. Neither of them had taken part in the war since they had been born in 1924 and 1927 respectively, yet their personal formation

hori ez baita euskalduna», eta «Espainia» hitza gutxienez hiru aldiz sartu behar zuten. Beraz, «euskal asmo politiko separatista izan zezakeen obra bat bertan behera uztea zen kontua, Espainiako eskualde bateko edertasunak eta tradizioak kantatzera mugatzen zen obra bihurtuz, gure inguru nazionalaren barruan eta bertan integratuta»<sup>45</sup>. Filmak oso zifra onak lortu zituen diru-bilketan Gipuzkoa eta Bizkaiko probintzietan, eta horrek etekin apala ekarri zuen; aldiz, porrota izan zen estreinatu zen gainerako lekuetan<sup>46</sup>. Nolanahi ere, eta lanaren balio artistikoz haratago, historialiek, kritikariek eta zinemagileek funsezko lantzat hartu dute euskal zinema modernoaren ondorengo garapena ulertzeko, ez hainbeste haren aztarna estetikoa film askotan argiro antzematen delako, baizik eta Euskal Herria erregimen frankistaren koordenatuen guztiz aurka zeuden koordenatuetaik filmatzeko borondateak aurrekari emankor bat ezarri zuelako.

Ama Lur filmak argia ikusi zuen urte berean, euskal erbesteak (Venezuelatik), berriro eraman zuen pantaletara Gerra Zibilaren drama, lehen aldiz Eusko Jaurlaritzak porrotaren ondoren bere propaganda zinematografikoaren zerbitzua desegin egin behar izan zuenetik. Eremu horretan erabateko paralisia zegoela frogatzen du, beraz, 30 urtez itxaron behar izanak antzeko asmoekin sortutako film bat berriro ikusteko: Segundo Cazalis-en *Los hijos de Gernika* (1968). Bere ekoizpena ez zen Eusko Jaurlaritzaren lan zuzenaren ondorio izan, baizik eta Venezuelako EAJko gazteen ekimen sutsuaren emaitza, lurralte hartan euskal nazionalistek komunitate garrantzitsua baitzuten. Ekoizle gisa Jokin Inza agertzen da, herrialde hartako buruzagi jeltzale nagusietako bat, bera ere erbestera gisa ihes egindakoa. Testuak eta koordinazioa Paul de Garat-ek eginak ziren, Venezuelalera erbesterautako Alberto Elosegi euskal kazetariaren ezizena, *Gudari* egunkariaren sortzailea eta Venezuelako euskal propagandaren arduraduna. Ez bata ez bestea ez ziren gerran izan, hurrenez hurren 1924an eta 1927an jaioak baitziren, baina haien prestakuntza pertsonala oso lotuta egon zen erbesteko euskal abertzetasunarekin (Caracasko EGI). Filmaren zuzendaria, Segundo Cazalis kubatarra, Alberto Onaindiak «antiklerikal askotzat»<sup>47</sup> jo zuen pilotari euskaldunen familia baten ondorengoa zen. Ulertzeko da filmaren zuzendari profesional bati enkargatu izana, gidoaren lehen aurreproiektuek jada azpimarratzen baitzituzten zinema-ingurunea zuzenean ez ezagutzeak<sup>48</sup> sortzen zituen zailtasunak. Azken batean, *Los hijos de Gernika* nazioartean, edo Euskadin ezkutuan, erakusteko sortutako propaganda-dokumentala da<sup>49</sup>. Helburua: 36ko gudariak hirurogeiko hamarkadaren amaierakoekin, haien seme-alabekin, zuzenean lotzea.

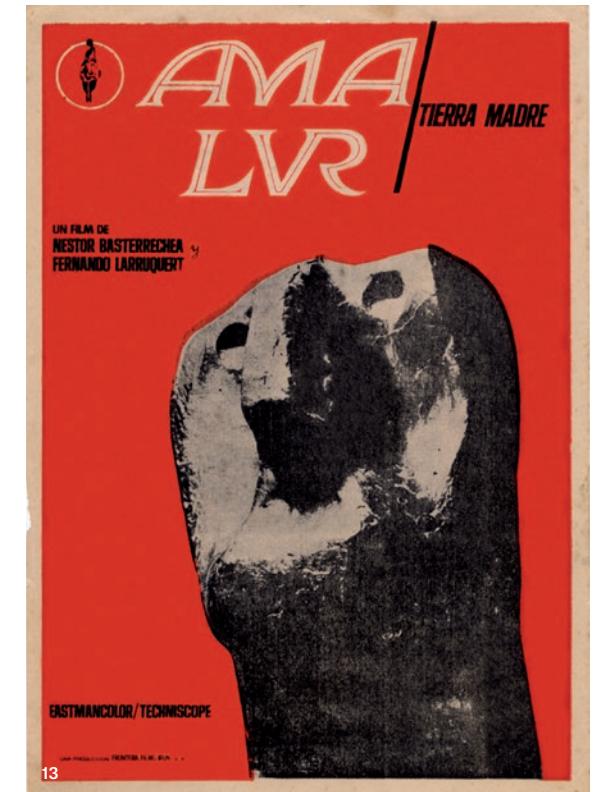
Esan bezala, gerra ostean erbestera joan ziren euskal zinemagileetako inork ez zuen berriro zinemarik egin (Sobrevila, Ernandorena, Azkona anaiak), baina gure ustez egokia da hemen aipatzea Hondarribian jaiotako Mexikoko erbesterautu errepublikar batek zuzendari gisa egindako lana: Eduardo Ugarte (1900-1955). Madrilgo Ikasleen Egoitzaren inguruko giro intelektualari estuki lotua, antzerkigilea, Federico García Lorcaren adiskide eta konfiantzako lankidea *La Barraca* proiektuan eta Luis Buñuelen kolaboratzailea *Filmófono*-n. Alabaren testigantzaren arabera, bazekien euskaraz, eta «eusklaldun izatearen harrotasuna adierazten zuen etengabe. Nonahi Hondarribiko euskaldun gisa aurkezten zuen bere burua»<sup>50</sup>. Zinemarako gidoi askoren idazketan parte hartu zuen, eta hainbat film luze zuzendu zituen Mexikoko erbestean: *Bésame mucho* (1944), *Por culpa de una mujer* (1945), *Doña Clarines* (1950), *Yo quiero ser tonta* (1950), *El puerto de los siete vicios* (1951), *Cautiva del pasado* (1951).

13. Ama Lur kartela.

13. Ama Lur Poster.

was tied closely to the world of Basque nationalism in exile (as members of EGI, the youth wing of the PNV, in Caracas). The director of the film, the Cuban Segundo Cazalis, was descended from a family of Basque pelotaris or handball players and described by Alberto Onaindia as "quite anticlerical"<sup>47</sup>. It was logical for the film to be directed by a professional since the initial drafts of the script already highlighted the difficulties encountered when not being familiar with the medium of film<sup>48</sup>. In the end, *Los hijos de Gernika* was a propagandistic documentary conceived in order to be shown internationally or clandestinely within the Basque Country<sup>49</sup>. Its aim: the direct link between the *gudaris* or Basque soldiers of 1936 with those of the late 1960s, their children.

As already stated, none of the Basque filmmakers who went into exile after the war ever made films again (Sobrevila, Ernandorena, the Azcona brothers), yet it is worth citing here the directorial work of an exiled republican in Mexico born in Hondarribia: Eduardo Ugarte (1900-1955). He had close ties to the intellectual environment of the Madrid Students' Residence, and was a playwright, friend and right-hand man of Federico García Lorca on the *La Barraca* project as well as a collaborator of Luis Buñuel in *Filmófono*. According to his daughter, he spoke Basque and "always bragged about being a Basque speaker. He introduced himself everywhere as a Basque from Hondarribia"<sup>50</sup>. He took part in the writing of numerous film scripts and directed several feature length films in his Mexican exile: *Bésame mucho* (1944), *Por culpa de una mujer* (1945), *Doña Clarines* (1950), *Yo quiero ser tonta* (1950), *El puerto de los siete vicios* (1951) and *Cautiva del pasado* (1951).



## EUSKALDUNAK MADRILGO ZINEMA ESKOLA OFIZIALEAN ETA EMAKUME EUSKALDUN BAT PARISEN

Komeni da zehaztea euskal zinemagileak, hirurogeiko hamarkadan, boluntarismora mugatu zirela, abangoardiako esperientziak edo kultura-motako dokumentalen bidez; izan ere, hori Euskadin geratu zirenei buruz esan dakiteke, baina azpimarratzeko da Madrilen<sup>51</sup> euskaldun asko egoteak izan zuen garrantzia, batez ere Zinema Eskola Ofizialaren (EOC) inguruuan. Izan ere, 60ko hamarkadaren hasieran, Madrilen, EOCEko kide izan zen Donostiako Brigada [*brigada donostiarra*] edo Donostiako Taldea<sup>52</sup> bezala ezagutzen dena: Víctor Erice, Antxón Ezeiza, José Luis Egea eta Santiago San Miguel. Eta Elías Querejeta ekoizlea ere gehi dezakegu; izan ere, garai hartan Realean jokatzen bazuen ere, bere lagunek ikasten zuten urrutitik ikasten saiatzen zen. Querejetak eta Ezeizak bi film labur aipagarri sinatuak zituzten, *A través de San Sebastián* (1960) eta *A través del fútbol* (1961), talde osoak azken honen opera prima behar bezala burutzeko lagundu baino lehen: *El próximo otoño* (1963). Ezeiza, zuzendari eta gidoilari; Erice, Egea eta San Miguel, gidoilari; Querejeta, ekoizle; Erice, horrez gain, zuzendari laguntzaile. Luis Martín-Santos idazlea, donostiarra bera ere, filmaketan izan zen, eta dena arretaz ikusi zuen, arrasto literario gogoangarria uzteko asmotan<sup>53</sup>. Diktadura frankistaren aldi hartan euskal zinema ezinezkoa izan ez balitz, tentatuta egongo ginateke esateko enbrioio moduko zerbaite sortzen ari zela Almuñécarreko filmaketa harten, euskal lurretatik hain urrun. Ondoren, hirurogeiko hamarkadan, Querejeta hernaniarrak Ezeiza donostiarren fikziozko beste hiru film luze ekoitzi zituen: *De cuerpo presente* (1965), *Último encuentro* (1966) eta *Las secretas intenciones* (1969).

Ivan Zulueta, hura ere Madrildik eta EOC-eko irakaspenak bereganatuz, diseinataile grafikoa eta egile benetakoia izan zen. Hirurogeiko hamarkadan ekin zion bere ibilbideari, eta *Arrebato* (1979) filmarekin mugari bat ezarri zuen Espainiako zinemaren historian. Testuinguru berean aipa daitezke, halaber, Javier Aguirre, Eloy de la Iglesia, Antonio Mercero eta Pedro Olea. Horien ibilbideak nekez sailka daitezke historiografia zinematografikoak frankismoaren hilzoriko aldirako nabarmendu dituen hiru korronte nagusietan: zinema metaforikoa, azpigeneroen zinema eta hirugarren bideko zinema<sup>54</sup>. Erice, nazioarteko zuzendari ospetsuena bat, diktadurak onartzen ez zituen gaiei buruzko aipamen zuzenetatik ihes egin behar izan zuen zinema-mota horretan sar daiteke. 1973an biziki nabarmendu zen *El espíritu de la colmena* bere bakarkako lehen film luzearekin. Hamar urte geroago, *El sur* filmak kritika sutsuak jaso zituen berriro ere, baina horrek ez zuen balio izan zuzendaria proiektu batetik bestera igarotzen zituen tarte luzeak murritzeko. Film luzeen bere filmografia urriak ez-fikziora jo zuen *El sol del membrillo* (1992) lanarekin; eta *La Morte Rouge* (2006)



14

14. Arrebato (Iván Zulueta, 1979)

15. Victor Erice  
Euskadiko Filmategiko  
35. urteurrenean, 2013.



15

15. Victor Erice at the  
35th anniversary of the  
Basque Film Archive,  
2013.

## BASQUES IN THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL OF CINEMA IN MADRID AND A BASQUE WOMAN IN PARIS

It is worth qualifying the argument that, in the 1960s, Basque filmmakers were limited to voluntarism in the form of avant-garde experiences or cultural documentaries, since this is in effect applicable to those who remained in the Basque Country; but the importance of a significant number of Basques in Madrid should be emphasised<sup>51</sup>, most of them in the Official School of Cinema. Indeed, at the school in the early 1960s, there was what was known as the *brigada donostiarra* or San Sebastian Group<sup>52</sup>: Víctor Erice, Antxon Eceiza, José Luis Egea and Santiago San Miguel. And we could add here the producer Elías Querejeta, who, at the time, was playing for Real Sociedad football club while also trying to study the same things as his friends via distance learning. Querejeta and Eceiza had already authored two notable short films, *A través de San Sebastián* (1960) and *A través del fútbol* (1961), when the entire group collaborated to bring the latter's first film to fruition: *El próximo otoño* (1963). Eceiza as director and scriptwriter; Erice, Egea and San Miguel as scriptwriters; Querejeta as producer; with Erice also as assistant director. The writer Luis Martín-Santos, a fellow San Sebastian native, assisted in the filming and observed everything diligently to leave a memorable literary mark<sup>53</sup>. If Basque cinema had not been impossible at this point during the Franco dictatorship, we would be tempted to say that something embryonic was taking shape in that filming in Almuñécar, so distant from the Basque lands. Later in the 1960s, the Hernani native Querejeta produced another three fiction feature films by Eceiza from San Sebastian: *De cuerpo presente* (1965), *Último encuentro* (1966) and *Las secretas intenciones* (1969).

film ertainak ere merezi du aipatua izatea, *El espíritu de la colmena* filmaren atzealde gisa funtzionatzen baitu, film luzea ondoen azaltzen duen lana, eta bere hirian (Donostia) oso ainguraturako dagoen zinemazale memoria ariketa.

Mercerok, *La cabina* (1972) ahaztezinaren egileak, Madrilren lan egin zuen batez ere, eta arrakasta handiarekin tartekatu zituen zinema (*La guerra de papá*, 1977) eta telebista, Spainian oihartzen handiena izan zuten telesailetako batzuekin (*Verano azul*, *Turno de oficio*, *Farmacía de guardia*). Egea, *Los desafíos* seriearen atal bat zuzendu ondoren (Erice eta Claudio Guérin-ekin batera; 1969), Azconaren gidoiarekin eta Querejetaren produkzioarekin, 80ko hamarkadan zinematik erretiratzen zen, eta publizitateari ekin zion. Pedro Oleaz aurrerago hitz egingo dugu: zenbaitek aipatu dugun hirugarren bide horretan kokatzen dute; edo Eloy de la Iglesia, biak 80ko hamarkadan Euskal Herriko itzuli bartziren.

Yannick Bellon (Biarritz, 1924-París, 2019) da, Euskal Herriko jaiotako zinemagileetan, ezagutzen dugun ibilbide luzeena duena: zazpi hamarkada zinemari eskainiak 1948an bere lehen film laburra, *Goémons* (Veneziako Biurtekoaren Sari Nagusia), filmatu zuenetik, 2018an bere azken lana sinatu zuen arte. Haurtzaro eta nerabezaroan lotura estua izan zuen Euskal Herriko. Denise Bellon, XX. mendeko frantziar argazkilari garrantzitsuenetako baten alaba; bai bera eta bai bere arreba, Loleh Bellon (Baionan, 1925ean, jaioa, aktore eta antzerkigile ospetsua), artearen munduarekin oso lotuta zegoen inguru batean bizi izan ziren beti.

Guztira bederatzi film luze sinatu zituen Frantziako industria zinematografikoaren barruan<sup>55</sup>. Bere lehen film luzea filmatzeko, *Quelque part quelqu'un* (1972), bere ekoiztetxea sortu zuen. Bere bigarren filmarekin, *La Femme de Jean* (1974), Donostiako XXII. Zinemaldiko Zilarrezko Maskorra irabazi zuen; ordutik hona ez zaio berriro gertatu euskal lurretan jaiotako emakume zuzendari bat<sup>56</sup>. Feminista koblentzu gisa, Frantziako zinemaren gutxi edo batere garatu gabeko gaiak jorratu zituen: emakumeen independentziaren balioa azpimarratuz, bortxaketa bat den delitu lazgarria salatuz, edo arreta bularreko minbiziak dakarren trantzean jarriaz. Era berean, inguruaren zuen gizarteko beste arazo batzuei aurre begiratu nahi izan zien, denboraz eta memoriaz, arteaz eta kulturaz hausnartuz, bazterketa gainditzeko bitarteko gisa; eta bisexualitateaz eta ekologiaz ere hitz egin nahi izan zigun<sup>57</sup>.



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**16.** Yannick Bellon zuzendarria eta France Lambiotte aktorea Zilarrezko Maskorra sariarekin, 1974an.

Iván Zulueta, also from his Madrid base and assimilating the teachings of the Official School of Cinema, was a graphic designer and true *auteur* who began his career in the 1960s and would, with *Arrebato* (1979), make a landmark work in the history of Spanish cinema. One could add, in a similar way, figures of the stature of Javier Aguirre, Eloy de la Iglesia, Antonio Mercero and Pedro Olea. Their careers are difficult to classify in some of the three major currents which cinematographic historiography has emphasised for the waning years of Francoism: metaphorical cinema, subgenre cinema and third-way cinema<sup>54</sup>. The work of Erice, one of the most prestigious directors on the international scene, could be added to that kind of cinema which had to flee from direct allusions to topics which the dictatorship did not tolerate. He would emerge spectacularly in 1973 with his first solo feature, *El espíritu de la colmena*. Ten years later, *El sur* would once again attract enthusiastic reviews, although this did not help to reduce the prolonged inactive periods that its director would spend between projects. His limited filmography in terms of feature films leaned towards non-fiction with *El sol del membrillo* (1992) and also worth mentioning is *La Morte Rouge* (2006), the medium-length feature which functioned as a kind of back room of *El espíritu de la colmena*, the work which best explains it and an exercise in cinephile memory that is rooted deeply in his city: San Sebastian.

Mercero, author of the unforgettable *La cabina* (1972), basically worked in Madrid and combined a notable success in both film (*La guerra de papá*, 1977) and television, being behind some of the series which have had the most impact in Spain (*Verano azul*, *Turno de oficio*, *Farmacía de guardia*). Egea, after directing an episode of *Los desafíos* (alongside Erice and Claudio Guérin; 1969), with a script by Azcona and produced by Querejeta, retired from cinema in the 1980s and worked in advertising. We will later discuss Pedro Olea, whom some situate as part of the aforementioned third-way cinema, and Eloy de la Iglesia, because both returned to the Basque Country in the 1980s.

Yannick Bellon (Biarritz, 1924-Paris, 2019) is the filmmaker born in the Basque Country with the most extensive career that we know of: seven decades in film since she shot her first short film in 1948, *Goémons* (winner of the Venice Biennale Grand Prix), until her last work in 2018. Her childhood and adolescence were tied closely to the Basque Country. The daughter of Denise Bellon, one of the most important French photographers of the twentieth century, she and her sister, Loleh Bellon (born in Bayonne in 1925, a prestigious actress and playwright) always lived in an environment closely linked to the world of art.

She made nine feature films in total in the French film industry<sup>55</sup>. To shoot her first feature film, *Quelque part quelqu'un* (1972), she founded her own production company. With her second film, *La Femme de Jean* (1974), she won the Silver Shell at the 22nd San Sebastian International Film Festival, something that, since then, has never happened again for a woman director born in the Basque lands<sup>56</sup>. As a convinced feminist, she explored topics that had been overlooked or ignored in French cinema: underscoring the value of female independence, denouncing the heinous crime of rape and putting the spotlight on the predicament implied by breast cancer. Likewise, she sought to tackle other problems in the society in which she lived, by reflecting on time and memory, art and culture as a means of overcoming marginalisation; and she also sought to speak about bisexuality and ecology<sup>57</sup>.

## Trantsizioa: film baino eztabaidea gehiago

Euskal Herrian demokraziarako Trantsizioa lausoki dei dezakeguna, bere mugak ere ez baitirudite argiak, aldi bereziki konplexua gertatzen da oraindik. Era gutxi asko estalian, diktadura garaian oinarri sendoko oposizio nazionalista eta ezkertiarrar mantendu zen, eta horri 1959tik aurrera ETAren agerpen ozena gehitu beharko zaio, jada hirurogeiko hamarkadan diktaduraren aurkako indarkeria politikoaren aldeko hautua egingo baitu. Frankismoak eragin handia izan zuen Euskal Herrian: kulturan eta politikan, edozein adierazpen euskaltzaleren errepresioa, eta Francori gerran lagundu zion tradizionalismo karlistaren pixkanakako bazterketa; ekonomiaren arloan, bultzada desarrrollistak erregimenari atxikitako enpresa-sektoreen aberastasun nabarmena eragin zuen, eta, aldi berean, industria-saturazioa Bizkaian eta Gipuzkoan. Baina, apurka-apurka, erregimen desmobilizazio hutsarekin konformatuz joan zen, 1939tik aurrera izan zituen gizarte-sostengu asko galduz, eta gizarte-kohesioko elementuak alde batera utziz. Elizaren, intelektualen eta ikasleen ingurueta, aurkako jarrera gero eta nabarmenagoa zen. Hori guztia funtsezkoa da diktaduraren azken urteetako irakinaldi politikoa ulertzeko<sup>58</sup>. Diktadorea hil zenetik (1975eko azaroan) Autonomia Estatutua 1979ko urrian onartu zen arte, Euskadiko zinemaren mundu txikiak tentsio horietako batzuk islatu, eta 80ko hamarkada esperimentzagarrirako bidea prestatu zuen.

Euskal zinemaren kontzeptuari buruzko eztabaidaren eramuina *Ama Lur* filmean badago ere, 1976ko Euskal Zinemaren lehen Jardunaldietan islatu ziren, idatzirik, gaiari buruzko gai nagusietako batzuk. Izen handiko intelektualek eta artistek –Jorge Oteizak, Mikel Laboak edo Santos Zunzunegi berak– parte hartu zuten jardunaldi haietako egitarauan, beharrezkotzat jo zuten oinarri batzuk ezartzeari buruzko gogoeta zabaltzea (oinarri horien artean funtsezko zen euskararen defentsa), euskal herriaren interes berezien zerbitzura egongo zen zinema nazional-herrikoi bat eraikitza ahalbidetzeko. Halaber, cinematografiaren alorretik alternatiba kultural demokratiko bat bultzatu behar zen, euskal arazo nazionalaren eta haren asmoen ispitlatze fidela izango zena. Ondorioetan azpimarratu zuten, bestek beste, gaztelaniaz azpititulatuko zen euskarazko zinema bat egiteko borondatea<sup>59</sup>. Susana Torradok adierazi zuen bezala, euskal zinemaren kontzeptuan sartzea euskararen gaia «trumoien kutxa» irekitzea izan zen<sup>60</sup>. Hirurogeita hamarreko hamarkadaren amaieran, oso testuinguru politiztuaren, zinemagile eta teoriko asko lotu zitzaitzkon, ñabardura gehiago edo gutxiagorekin, berezko lengoaia cinematografikoa bilatzearen edo euskal zinema eta euskara ezin bananduzko eran batzearen aldeko ikuspegia (Silva, Conde, Zalakain, Bakedano, Sota, Merikaetxeberria, etab.). Sakonen eta negoziazinen, dagoeneko aipatu dugun zinemagile donostiar bat izan zen, *Mina, viento de libertad* (1976) filmatu ondoren, Amerika erdialdean erbestetik itzuli berria: Antxon Ezeiza; politikan, ezker abertzalea zuen begiko. Haren ustez, euskalarik gabe ez dago euskal zinemarik. Bere uste sendoak praktikara eraman ahal izan zituen *Ikuska* izeneko euskarazko film

## The Transition: More debates than films

What we vaguely term the Transition to democracy in the Basque Country, since not even its boundaries seem clear, is still an especially complex period. In a more or less underground way, during the dictatorship there was a left-wing and nationalist opposition with solid bases to which one would have to add the resounding emergence of ETA in 1959, which by the 1960s would choose to use political violence against the dictatorship. Francoism had implied many effects for the Basque Country: culturally and politically, repression against any pro-Basque expression and the gradual relegation of Carlist traditionalism which had supported Franco in the war; economically, the drive towards development led to a pronounced enrichment of business sectors close to the regime, at the same time as industrial saturation in Biscay and Gipuzkoa. But little by little, the regime gradually settled for simple demobilisation, losing much of the social support on which it had counted from 1939 on and neglecting its elements of social cohesion. Opposition grew in ecclesiastical, intellectual and student media. All of this is key to understanding the political dynamism of the dictatorship's waning years<sup>58</sup>. From the dictator's death in November 1975 to the passing of the Statute of Autonomy in October 1979, the small world of cinema in the Basque Country would reproduce some of these tensions and prepare the way for the exciting 1980s.

If this seed of a debate over the concept of Basque cinema existed in *Ama Lur*, the first Debates on Basque Cinema in 1976 would reflect, in the clearest terms possible, some of the major questions about the subject. The programme of those debates, which included the participation of intellectuals and artists of the prestige of Jorge Oteiza, Mikel Laboa and Santos Zunzunegi himself, believed it necessary to begin a reflection on establishing some bases (among which the defence of the Basque language was key), which would allow for the construction of a popular national cinema in the service of the specific interests of the Basque people. The cinematographic field would also have to boost a democratic cultural alternative which was a faithful reflection of the Basque national predicament and its aspirations. Among other things, in conclusions insisted on the desire to make films in Basque and which would be subtitled in Spanish<sup>59</sup>. The emergence of the subject of the Basque language in the notion of Basque cinema, as Susana Torrado has pointed out, opened up a can of worms<sup>60</sup>. In different degrees, numerous filmmakers and theoreticians joined together in the late 1970s, in a very politicised context, on a point of view that favoured seeking their own cinematographic language or inseparably associating Basque cinema and the Basque language (Silva, Conde, Zalakain, Bakedano, Sota, Merikaetxeberria, and so on). Of all of them, the one who did so with more zeal and in the most non-negotiable way was a filmmaker from San Sebastian, of whom we have already spoken and who had just returned from exile in Central America after having filmed *Mina, viento de libertad* (1976): Antxon Ezeiza, who sympathised politically with left-wing Basque nationalism. For him, there was no Basque cinema without the Basque language. He was able to put his firm convictions



labur dokumentaletan (21 guztira). *Ikuska* sorta Bertan Filmeak ekoiztetxeak produzitu zuen 1978 eta 1984 bitartean, eta helburu nagusitzat izan zuen zinematografia nazional baten oinarriak finkatzea eta hainbat teknikari eta zinemagile trebatzea (Javier Aguirresarobe, adibidez), zinemaren euskal industria potentzial batean integratzeko gauza izango zirenak. Proiektuan Montxo Armendariz, Imanol Uribe edo Pedro Olea bezalako zuzendariek hartu zuten parte –gero arrakasta izango zutenak 80ko hamarkadako beren zenbait film luzerekin<sup>61</sup>–, eta emakume zuzendari bakar batek, Mirentxu Loiartek.

Euskal zinemaren esentziei buruzko eztabaideak «metraje luzekoak» izan baziren ere, urte horietako euskal produkzioa film laburrera bideratu zen batez ere. Film laburrokin, beharrezkotzat jotzen ziren errebindikazio politiko eta linguistiko espazioa betetzen saiatu ziren; Iñaki Núñez, Iñigo Silva, J. B. Heinink, Mirentxu Loiarte, Javier Rebollo, Juan Ortuoste edo Imanol Uriberen lehen urratsak izan ziren. Formatu horretatik kanpoko salbuespen urriak eterri ziren dokumentalaren aldetik: Pío Caro Baroja (*Gipuzkoa*, 1979) edo Fernando Larruquert (*Euskal Herri Musika*, 1979); fikziotik, José María Zabala (*Axut*, 1976); eta haurrentzako euskarazko film luzetik J. M. Gutierrez (*Balanzatxoa*, 1978).

Autonomia Estatutua onartu aurretik eta ekimen pribatu batetik abiatuta, nabarmendu beharra dago 1978ko maiatzaren 1ean Euskadiko Filmategia kultur elkartea gisa sortu zela. Peio Aldazabal (Presidentea), Juan José Almuedo, José Luis Basoco, Nestor Basterretxea eta José Manuel Gorospe izan ziren fundatzaileak; Euskal Herriko zinema-ondarea berreskuratzeko eta kontserbatzeko egin zuen ahalegina goresteeko modukoa izan zen, zaintzarik gabe. Euskadiko Filmategia 2022ko apirilean sartu zen FIAFeko (Artxibo Filmikoen Nazioarteko Federazioa) eskubide osoko kide gisa, kide elkartua 1994tik izan baitzen. 2004ko azaroan fundazio bihurtua zen, eta, gaur egun, Euskal Autonomia Erkidegoko hiru foru-aldundiak dira patronatuko kide, eta Eusko Jaurlaritza da patronatuko burua, berak bakarrik finantzatzen baitu erakundearen funtzionamendua. 2015eko irailean, Filmategiak Tabakalerara, Kultura Garaikidearen Nazioarteko Zentrora, lekualdatu zuen bere egoitza, eta hala lortu zuen bai behar zen artxibo-batasuna, bai beste zinema-erakunde batzuekin egunero harreman estua izatea. Gainera, pixkanaka-pixkanaka, asteko proiekzioen programazio egonkorra finkatu du bost hiritan.

**17.** *Ikuska* (Bertan Filmeak, 1978-1984)

**18.** Filmategiaren sortzaileak: Nestor Basterretxea, Juan José Almuedo, Peio Aldazabal, José Manuel Gorospe eta José Luis Basoco, 1978.

into practice in *Ikuska*, a series of short documentary films (twenty-one in total) in Basque, produced by the Bertan Filmak production company between 1978 and 1984, whose main aim was to create the basis for a national cinematography and train a group of capable technicians and filmmakers (Javier Aguirresarobe, for example) after becoming part of a potential Basque film industry. The project was made up of directors like Montxo Armendariz, Imanol Uribe, and Pedro Olea, who would later triumph with some of their feature films in the 1980s<sup>61</sup>, and only a lone woman director, Mirentxu Loyarte.

While the debates in regard to the essence of Basque cinema were “feature length”, Basque production during these years focused mainly on short films. These tried to fill the space of political and linguistic demands which were believed to be absolutely necessary; they were the first steps of Iñaki Núñez, Iñigo Silva, J. B. Heinink, Mirentxu Loyarte, Javier Rebollo, Juan Ortuoste and Imanol Uribe. The few exceptions to this format were to be found in the documentary format by Pío Caro Baroja (*Gipuzkoa*, 1979) and Fernando Larruquert (*Euskal Herri Musika*, 1979), in fiction with José María Zabala (*Axut*, 1976) and in Basque-language children’s films by J. M. Gutiérrez (*Balanzatxoa*, 1978).

Prior, moreover, to the passing of the Statute of Autonomy, and based on a private initiative, one should highlight the creation of the Basque Film Archive on 1 May 1978 as a cultural association. Its founders were Peio Aldazabal (President), Juan José Almuedo, José Luis Basoco, Néstor Basterretxea and José Manuel Gorospe; its efforts to recover and preserve the cinematographic heritage of the Basque Country were without doubt commendable. In April 2022, it became a full member of the FIAF (International Federation of Film Archives), of which it had been an associate member since 1994. It became a foundation in 2004 and, currently, the three provincial councils of the Basque Autonomous Community make up its board of trustees, and it is presided over by the Basque Government, since it alone funds the activity of the institution. In September 2015, the film archive moved its headquarters to Tabakaleria, the International Centre for Contemporary Culture, in San Sebastian, thereby achieving a necessary archival amalgamation and a close daily relationship with other cinematographic institutions. Furthermore, little by little, it has consolidated a stable programme of weekly screenings in up to five cities.

**18.** The founders of the Film Library: Nestor Basterretxea, Juan José Almuedo, Peio Aldazabal, José Manuel Gorospe and José Luis Basoco, 1978.



Urte hauetan filmeren batek mugarriratzea ezarri bazuen, Imanol Uriberen *El proceso de Burgos* (1979) izan zen, haren *opera prima*, Santos Zunzunegik fikziorako bidaia luzetzat jo zuen dokumentala. Dokumentalak jasotzen ditu, Francisco Letamendiaren sarrera historiko polemikoarekin, ia hamarkada bat lehenago Burgosen epaituak izan ziren eta amnistia jaso berri zuten ETAko hamasei kideetako bakoitzaren ibilbide eta pentsamenduak. Filmaren une gorena iristen da auzipetuek «Eusko Gudariak» abesten zuten aretoko soinu zuzenarekin, zaintzen zituzten polizien sableek mehatxaturik, eta azken zatian, haietako sei kondenatuak izan ziren heriotza-zigorren kommutazioaren iragarkiarekin. Bai filmaren sorrera, bai filmaren harrera ere, testuinguru historiko baten barruan gertatu ziren, alegia, UCDk zentsura urte pare bat lehenago ezeztatu baitzuen. Beste arazo askoren artean, Jaime Mayor Oreja Donostiarra Zinemaldian proiektatzea eragozten saiatu zen<sup>62</sup>. Filmak gaur egun dokumentu historiko gisa hartu duen balioa eztabaideazina da; eta, euskal zinemaren historian «zinema autonomikoa» deituko zenaren atarian kokatuta, oso leku nabarmena merezi du, Euskaditik arrakastaz ekoiztea posible zela erakutsi baitzuen, argumentuak azken aldiko historian bertan bilatuz.



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**19.** Imanol Uribe zuzendaria *El proceso de Burgos* filmarengatik Gaztelaniazko Filmarik Hoberenaren Kantauriko Perla Saria jasotzen, 1979.

**19.** The director Imanol Uribe receives the award "Premio Perla del Cantábrico a la Mejor Película en Castellano" for *El proceso de Burgos*, 1979.

If one film marked a before and after moment during these years, it was *El proceso de Burgos* (1979) by Imanol Uribe, whose first work here, a documentary, in turn gave rise to his what Santos Zunzunegui has described as his long journey towards fiction. The documentary, with a controversial historical introduction by Francisco Letamendia, covers the lives and thoughts of each of the sixteen ETA members who had been put on trial in Burgos almost a decade earlier and who had just been amnestyed. The film concludes with the sound of the court in which those on trial sang the song, *Eusko Gudariak*, while being threatened by the sabres of the police officers guarding them and in the final scene with the announcement of the commutation of the death sentences to which six of them had been sentenced. Neither the film's conception nor its reception was removed from the historical context in which censorship had only just been abolished a couple of years earlier by the governing UCD party. Among many other problems, the politician Jaime Mayor Oreja tried to prevent its screening at the San Sebastian International Film Festival<sup>62</sup>. The value which this film holds today as a historical document is undeniable, while, framed within the history of Basque cinema as being on the threshold of what would be termed "autonomous cinema", it deserves a prominent place since it came to demonstrate that it was possible to produce successful films in the Basque Country based on stories from its own recent history.

## Laurogeiko hamarkadako euskal zinema

Euskal Herrian sortutako zinemagintzak gainditu behar izan zituen oztipo ugariak ez ziren desagertu 1979ko Autonomia Estatutua iritsi zenean, baina, zalantzarik gabe, Eusko Jaurlaritzaren dirulaguntzek laurogeiko hamarkadan zehar emandako bultzada mugarrizan zenaren historian. Hogeita hamar film luze baino gehiago estreinatu ziren, eta ia zuzendari kopuru bera egon zen kameren atzean; Euskadik, azkenik, ondo ongarritutako lur bereziki emankorra zirudien. Baldintzak aldatu egin ziren: pixkanaka askatasun demokratikoak ezartzeak eta laguntza publikoen politika irmoak ez zuten lortu ezerezetik industria zinematografiko indartsu bat sortzea, baina bai talentu handiko zinemagile mordoxka baten agerpena eta ordura arte Madrilren lan egiten zuten batzuk itzultzea. PSOEren 1982ko garaipenaren ondoren, Pilar Miró (bere «Miró Dekretua»-rekin) Zinematografia Zuzendaritza Nagusira iristeaz gain, 1983an Eusko Jaurlaritzak Zinematografia Legea promulgatu, eta Euskal Telebista (ETB) sortu zuen. Kultura Ministeriotik dirulaguntza aurreratuak ematen hasi ziren, eta, kasurik onenean, pelikula baten aurrekontuaren %50era irits zitezkeen. Euskal Kultura Sailak, berriz, %25era arte finantzatzen zuen, pelikula Euskadin filmatuta bazegoen, lantalde teknikoaren eta aktoreen %75 euskalduna baldin bazeen, eta euskarazko kopia bat gutxienez eginez<sup>63</sup>. ETB 1982ko abenduan hasi zen emititzeten, eta ekoizpen elkartuen erregimena bultzatzen zuen. 1985etik aurrera, Eusko Jaurlaritzak aldez aurretik diruz lagundutako filmen antena-eskubideak eroskeko oinarriak ezarri ziren.

Beste behin ere zinemagileei eta haien film luzeei erreparatuz, hamarkada hartan Euskadin filmatu ziren 28 filmen zerrenda, oro har, hiru bloke handitan bana daiteke: aurretik Euskal Herrian jada zinema egina zuten zinemagileen filmak; bestetik, batez ere Madrildik itzultzera animatu zirenenak eta, azkenik, lehen aldiz zinema egin zutenen filmak. Lehenengoen kopuru txikian (film luzeak errodatu zitzaztenen artean behin), azpimarratzeko da Fernando Larruquert dokumentalera itzuli zela, *Agur Everest* (1981) lanaren zuzendaritzan Juan Ignacio Lorente lagun zuela. Ondoren, Imanol Uribek *La fuga de Segovia* (1981) zuzendu zuen, ETAren azken aldko historiarekin lotutako benetako gertakarietatik abiatuta, jada fikzioaren bidetik zohoala. Gero *La muerte de Mikel* (1984) lanarekin berretsi zen, euskal gaiari buruzko trilogiari amaiera ematen ziona eta *Adiós pequeña* (1986), generoko filmen eremuan argi eta garbi barneratzen zena. Uribe zinemagilerik emankorrena izan zen laurogeiko hamarkadako Euskal Herrikoen artean. Haren hurrengo proiekta ondorengo hamarkadan iritsi zen, Aiete y Ariane Films-ek ekoitzia baina Euskaditik kanpo filmatua. Haren arrakastarik handienetako bat izan zuen: *El rey pasmado* (1991), Gonzalo Torrente Ballester-ren *Crónica del rey pasmado* eleberriaren egokitzapena<sup>64</sup>.

Beren obraren zati bat Euskaditik kanpo garatu ondoren zinema egitera etxera itzuli ziren artean, Pedro Olea eta Eloy de la Iglesia aipatuko ditugu. Lehenengoak, Madrilgo EOCen ikasle, filmografia garantzitsua egin zuen han 1979an Euskadira itzuli zen arte, eta bertan *Ikuska 2* filmatu zuen, Gernikako bombardaketari buruz. Berak ondo laburbiltzen du bere ibilbidea:



**20.** *La fuga de Segovia*  
(Imanol Uribe, 1981)

## Basque cinema in the 1980s

The numerous obstacles that cinema produced in the Basque Country had had to deal with did not disappear with the arrival of the Statute of Autonomy in 1979, but clearly the impetus received through subsidies from the Basque Government throughout the 1980s implied a watershed moment in its history. In short, more than thirty feature films were premiered with almost the same number of directors behind the cameras in a Basque Country which, at last, seemed like good and especially fertile territory. The conditions had changed: the gradual installation of democratic freedoms and the determined policy of public funding did not manage to create out of nothing a powerful cinematographic industry, but they did favour the emergence of a handful of talented filmmakers and the return of others who had until then worked in Madrid. Alongside the appointment of Pilar Miró (and her Miró Decree) to head the General Cinematography Office, following the victory of the PSOE party in 1982, came the Cinematography Law elaborated by the Basque Government in 1983 and the creation of Euskal Telebista (ETB, the Basque public television service). Spain's Ministry of Culture began to concede advance subsidies which could reach up to 50% of a film's budget, while the Basque Department of Culture financed up to 25% as long as the picture was shot in the Basque Country, with 75% of the technical team and actors being Basque and the making of at least one copy in Basque. ETB, which had started to broadcast in December 1982, also encouraged a system of joint productions and, from 1985 on, the foundations were laid for the purchase of broadcasting rights for films that were previously subsidised by the Basque Government<sup>63</sup>.

«Madrilén, Fraderekian lan egiten nuen, baina utzi behar izan nion. *Tormento* (1974) egin nuen, arrakastaz; *Pim, pam, pum, fuego* (1975), arrakastaz; *La Corea* (1976), harrera hotza; *Un hombre llamado Flor de Otoño* (1978), arrakastaz. Gero *Akelarre* egin nahi izan nuen, Euskal Herriko sorginen historia bat; Fraderi esan nion, baina esan zidan hori ez zitzaiola inori interesatzen. Franco hil zela, gobernu autonomikoa sortu zela, dena bat etorri zen, eta neure buruari esan nion: utzi egin behar diot honi, nekatuta nago filmak bata bestearren ondoren egiteaz. *Akelarre* muntatu nahi izan nuen. Eta Euskal Herrira etorri behar izan nuen, euskarazko klaseetan matrikulatu nintzen, dirulaguntzak eskatzen hasi, eta, azkenean, *Akelarre* egin nuen, baina lauz-pabost urte kostatu zitzaidan...»<sup>65</sup>

*Akelarre* 1983an filmatu zen azkenean. Filmean, Diego Galán *El País* egunkariko kritikariak «buruargitasunez egindako lan profesional bat ikusi zuen, tarteka giro liluragarria eta, nolanahi ere, iradokitzalea sortzen duena»<sup>66</sup>, eta horrek lagundu bide zion 1984ko Berlingo Zinemaldiko sail ofizialean parte hartzeko gonbidapena lortzen. Arrakasta gutxiago izan zuen hamarkadako bere beste film luzeak, *Bandera negra* (1986), Alfredo Landa eta Imanol Arias protagonista zirela, 1988an Oleak Eusko Jaurlaritzarekin izandako haserre baten atarikoa izan zena, eta berriz Madrilera itzularazi zuena.

Eloy de la Iglesia Madrildik itzul izanaren kasua ere interesgarria da: ez zen EOktik pasatu, baina telebista-arloko esperientzia hartu zuen, eta laurogeiko hamarkadaren erdialderako jada haren filmografiak arrakasta ugari zituen. *El pico* (1983) Bizkaian eta batez ere Bilbon girotuta zegoen, baina *Otra vuelta de tuerca* (1985) lanarekin jaso zuen Eloy de la Iglesiatik Eusko Jaurlaritzaren dirulaguntza, Henry Jamesen *The turn of the screw* eleberria egokitzen. Zuzendari zarauztarra argi mintzatu zen emaitzari buruz: «Filmak ez zuen leihatilan funtzionatu, eta ez nuen euskal zinemagile gisa jarraipenik izan».<sup>67</sup>



21. *Akelarre* (Pedro Olea, 1984)

Once again focusing on filmmakers and their feature films, the list of twenty-eight who were shooting in the Basque Country during this decade could be divided, *grosso modo*, into three large blocs: those who had already made films in the Basque Country previously; those who were encouraged to return, mainly from Madrid; and those who premiered their work. In the small number of people in the first category (at least those who had shot feature length films), one should underscore the return to documentaries of Fernando Larruquert, now accompanied in directing by Juan Ignacio Lorente in *Agur Everest* (1981), followed by Imanol Uribe with *La fuga de Segovia* (1981), which, based once more on real events related to the recent history of ETA, now followed the path of fiction. The latter confirmed with *La muerte de Mikel* (1984) —which brought his Basque trilogy to a close— and *Adiós pequeña* (1986) that he had fully entered into the genre terrain. Uribe was the most prolific of all the Basque filmmakers in the 1980s. His next project came during the following decade and was produced by Aiete y Ariane Films but shot outside the Basque Country. It would become one of his biggest hits: *El rey pasmado* (1991), an adaptation of the novel *Crónica del rey pasmado* by Gonzalo Torrente Ballester<sup>64</sup>.

Among those who returned home to make films after having developed part of their work outside the Basque Country, we will mention Pedro Olea and Eloy de la Iglesia. The former, a student of the Official School of Cinema in Madrid, had developed an important filmography there up to his return to the Basque Country in 1979, where he filmed *Ikuska 2* about the bombing of Gernika. He himself sums up his career thus:

"I had to stop working in Madrid, where I worked with Frade. I made *Tormento* (1974), a success; *Pim, pam, pum, fuego* (1975), a success; *La Corea* (1976), a disaster; *Un hombre llamado Flor de Otoño* (1978), a success. I then wanted to make *Akelarre*, a story about witches in the Basque Country, I told Frade so, and he told me that no one was interested in that. It coincided with Franco's death, an autonomous government and I said to myself: I'm giving all this up, I'm tired of making film after film. I want to put *Akelarre* together. And I had to come to the Basque Country, I signed up for Basque language classes, I began to ask for subsidies and ended up making *Akelarre*, but it took me four or five years..."<sup>65</sup>.

*Akelarre* was finally shot in 1983. The *El País* film critic Diego Galán saw therein "a professional work made with intelligence, which translates into creating an atmosphere at times fascinating and, in any event, thought-provoking"<sup>66</sup>, which must have helped it to receive an invitation to form part of the official section at the Berlin Festival in 1984. Less successful was his other main feature film of the decade, *Bandera negra* (1986), starring Alfredo Landa and Imanol Arias, which foreshadowed Olea's irritation with the Basque Government in 1988 and led him to return to Madrid.

Eloy de la Iglesia's case of returning from Madrid is also interesting: he did not go to the Official School of Cinema but he did gain experience in television, and in the mid-1980s his filmography already included numerous hits. While *El pico* (1983) was already set in Biscay and mainly in Bilbao, with *Otra vuelta de tuerca* (1985), Eloy de la Iglesia received a subsidy from the Basque Government to adapt the Henry James novel, *The Turn of the Screw*. The director from Zarautz was very clear when it came to the outcome: "The film did not work at the box office and I could not go on as a Basque filmmaker"<sup>67</sup>.

Film luzean debuta egin zutenen artean, Montxo Armendariz nafarra nabarmenduko dugu: Elías Querejetaren ekoizlearen eskutik *Tasio* (1984) filmarekin harridura sortu zuen, eta denboraren poderioz euskal zuzendaririk ospetsuenetako bat bihurtu da. Haren lehenbiziko lan hori, lehenagoko dokumental erako esperientzia batetik abiatu zen: *Carboneros de Navarra* (1981). Armendariz protagonistetako batekin (Anastasio Ochoa) liluratuta geratu zen, eta haren bizitza zinemara fikziozko film luze moduan erama-tea posible zela uste izan zuen. Lortzen hain zaila den arrakasta bikoitza bildu zuen euskal filmetako bat izan zen: kritikak goraipatua eta publikoak maitatua. Elkarrizketa amaigabeak izan zituen Elías Querejetarekin, eta Armendarizek, autodidakta izanik, asko ikasi zuen solasaldi haietatik, hernaniarrak eskarmentu handia baitzuen zinemaren munduan. Hurrengo film luzearen gidoia, *27 horas* (1986), biek sinatuko zuten. Nafarrak Errenerterian elektronikako irakasle gisa ezagututako gazteekin izandako esperientziatik abiatu ziren: ikasleek drogekin eta nihilismoarekin zitzuten mendekotasunek izugarri hunkitu zuten, bere adinean bizi izandako idealismoarekin alde handia zutelako<sup>68</sup>.

Hemen ez dago leku nahikorik euskal zinemaren une historiko har-tan parte hartu zuten gainerako zinemagileen filmei buruz hitz egiteko: Javier Rebollo eta Juan Ortuoste (*Siete calles*, 1981), José Angel Rebollo (*Fuego eterno*, 1984), Juan Bautista Berasategi (*Kalabaza tripontzia*, 1985), Ernesto del Río (*El amor de ahora*, 1986), Javier Aguirre (*La monja alférez*, 1986), José Antonio Zorrilla (*Lauaxeta*, 1987), Pedro de la Sota (*Viento de cólera*, 1988), José María Tuduri (*Crónica de la guerra carlista*, 1988), Ernesto Tellería (*Eskorpión*, 1988), etab. Bide batez esanda, egiazko eklosio hartan, emakume bakarrantzat izan zen lekua: Ana Díez-ek, bere *Ander eta Yul* (1988)<sup>69</sup> lan ausartarekin, leku nabarmena merezi du gure zineman, bai bere talentuagatik, bai euskal ekoizpeneko film luzeen zuzendaritzan aitzindaria izateagatik. Nolanahi ere, belaunaldi horretako zati handi batek aktibo jarraitzen du gaur egun, hurrengo hamarkadak aztertzerakoan ikusiko dugun bezala, eta, zalantzak gabe, nolabaiteko eragina izan du geroago, laurogeita hamarreko hamarkadan, iritsi direnen eta jada XXI. mendearen debutua egin dutenen artean.



- 22.** *Tasio* (Montxo Armendariz, 1984)  
**23.** *Kalabaza tripontzia* (Juan Bautista Berasategi, 1985)  
**24.** *Ander eta Yul* (Ana Díez, 1988)



Among those who debuted in the field of feature films, we would highlight here the Montxo Armendáriz from Navarre who had caught attention when accompanying Elías Querejeta as producer of *Tasio* (1984) and, over time, has become one of the most prestigious Basque directors. His debut was based on previous experience in the documentary format, *Carboneros de Navarra* (1981): Armendáriz was captivated by one of its protagonists (Anastasio Ochoa) and believed it feasible to bring his life to screen in the form of a feature length film. The result was a Basque film which achieved a difficult dual goal: to be acclaimed by critics and loved by audiences. He held endless conversations with Elías Querejeta out of which the self-taught Armendáriz was able to learn a lot, since the former (from Hernani) already had great experience in the world of cinema. Both wrote the script for his next feature, *27 horas* (1986). They based it on the experience of the Navarrese director with young people he had met in Errenerteria as a teacher of electronics: their addiction to drugs and nihilism had made a profound impact on him because it contrasted with the idealism that he had experienced at the same age<sup>68</sup>.

There is not sufficient space here to go into detail about the films of the other filmmakers who were part of this historic moment in Basque cinema: Javier Rebollo and Juan Ortuoste (*Siete calles*, 1981), José Angel Rebollo (*Fuego eterno*, 1984), Juan Bautista Berasategui (*Kalabaza tripontzia*, 1985), Ernesto del Río (*El amor de ahora*, 1986), Javier Aguirre (*La monja alférez*, 1986), José Antonio Zorrilla (*Lauaxeta*, 1987), Pedro de la Sota (*Viento de cólera*, 1988), José María Tuduri (*Crónica de la guerra carlista*, 1988), Ernesto Tellería (*Eskorpión*, 1988), and so on. To be sure, among this real flowering, there was only room for one woman, Ana Díez, and her bold *Ander eta Yul* (1988)<sup>69</sup>, who deserves a special place in our cinema for her talent and for having been a pioneer in directing Basque-produced feature films. In any event, most of this generation remains active today, as we will see on analysing the decades that followed and, without doubt, it has exercised a certain influence on those who arrived later in the 1990s and those who debuted already in the twenty-first century.

## Laurogeita hamarreko hamarkadatik XXI. mendeko lehen hamarkadara

Hainbat egilek adierazi dute 1985-1989 aldia garrantzi txikiagokoa edo are krisialdiko tartea izan zela, euskal zinemagintzarako hamarkada horrek izan zuen garrantzi orokorraren barruan: egia esan, lau urte horietan ekoitzitako filmek, oro har, arrakasta txikiagoa izan zuten kritikaren zein publikoaren aldetik<sup>70</sup>. Ekoizpen-baldintzak ere aldatu egin ziren 1990etik aurrera; izan ere, Eusko Jaurlaritzak merkataritza-sozietate anonimo publiko bat jarri zuen martxan, Kultura Sailaren mende:

«Ikus-entzunezko produkziorako laguntza publikoa itzuli beharrik gabeko laguntza-mekanismoen bidez bideratu izan da. Hala ere, Euskal Administrazioak merkatuan lehiatzeko gai izango den ikus-entzunezko industria bat sortzea erraztuko duten sustapen-bide berriak erabiltzeko aukera planteatu du. Horrez gain, errentagarri bihurtu nahi du funts publikoak adierazitako sustapen-helburuetarako erabiltzea, eta, neurri handiagoan edo txikiagoan, funts horiek berreskuratzea ahalbidetu, ikus-entzunezko ekoizpenetan zuzenean parte hartuz eta lortutako produktuak behar bezala banatz eta salduz»<sup>71</sup>.

### USTEKABEKO OLATU BAT

Hartutako neurri berriak polemikoak izan ziren hasiera-hasieratik. Euskal administrazioak gehiegizko kontrola egotzi ondoren, aurreko hamarkadako «bandera-ontzi» batzuk Madrilera joanarazi zituzten; zehazki, Pedro Olea eta Imanol Uribe izan ziren azkenean Espainiako hiriburura bizitzera joan ziren lehenengoetako bi. Lehenenak, horrela, etapa berri bat ekin zion bere filmografian, askotariko gaiekin: *El día que nací yo* (1991), *El maestro de esgrima* (1992), *Morirás en Chafarinas* (1995) eta *Más allá del jardín* (1996). Bigarrenak, *La luna negra* (1990) filmatu ondoren eta, esan bezala, hainbat arrakasta kateatu zituen *El rey pasmado* (1991) lanetik abiatuta, Juan Madriden eleberri baten egokitzenarekin: *Días contados* (1994) lanean, edo immigrazioaren fenomenora hurbilketa batekin *Bwana* (1996) filmean. Bien kasuan, aitortzak eta sariak ugariak izan ziren: laurogeita hamarreko hamarkadako lanek Imanol Uribe espainiar zinemaren izen handienetako bat zela baiezta zuten. 1990ean, Montxo Armendariz ere Madrilera aldatu zen. *Las cartas de Alou* (1990) filmarekin zinema etorkinengana hurbiltzen aitzindaria izan ondoren, zinema hiritar eta gazteen kezkekin arduratu-takora itzuli zen, *Historias del Kronen* (1994) lanarekin. Haren bosgarren film luzeak zirrrara bizia piztu zuen, Imanol Uribek eta Andrés Santanak ekoitzitako *Secretos del corazón* (1997), eta hamaika sari jaso zituen. Izan ere, Armendariz da gaur arte Oscarretarako ingelessez besteko film onenaren izendapena jaso duen euskal zuzendari bakarra (1998an hain zuzen ere)<sup>72</sup>.

## From the 1990s to the first decade of the twenty-first century

The period 1985-1989 has already been highlighted by several authors as one of less relevance or even crisis within that generally important decade in Basque cinema: it is true that the films produced in those four years were, for the most part, less successful for critics and audiences alike<sup>70</sup>. Filmmaking conditions would change from 1990 on, when the Basque Government launched a public limited company of a commercial nature under the authority of the Ministry of Culture:

**25.** *Secretos del corazón* (Montxo Armendariz, 1997)

“Public support for audio-visual production has been implemented through non-refundable aid mechanisms. However, the Basque Public Administration has considered the possibility of using new means of promotion that facilitate the creation of an audio-visual industry capable of competing in the market. It is also a matter of making the application of public funds profitable for the indicated promotional purposes, making possible, to a greater or lesser extent, the recovery of said funds through direct participation in audio-visual productions and the appropriate distribution and sale of the products obtained”<sup>71</sup>.





Pentsa liteke panorama konplexu hark ez zuela baikortasuneko arrazoirk sortzen, baina zinemagile gazteen olatu berri eta oso anitza sortu zen, gehienak 60ko hamarkadan jaioak ziren, gaiak eta estetika berritzera etorriak, bestelako zinema-hezkuntza bati eta kezka tekniko sakonei esker; baina baita komikiaren eta rockaren eraginei esker ere: Julio Medem (1958), Enrique Urbizu (1962), Álex de la Iglesia (1965), Juanma Bajo Ulloa (1967), Daniel Calparsoro (1968) eta Helena Taberna (beranduago iritsi zen eta erreferente partikularragoak zituen).

Urbizuri buruz hitz eginez hasiko gara: 1988an, luzometraian lehen urratsa egina zuen, *Tu novia está loca* euskal zinemako lehen komediarekin. Howard Hawks, George Cukor, Ernst Lubitsch eta Madrilgo komedia izan zituen erreferentziatzat, eta generoarekin ausartu zen, baina batzuek ez zioten barkatu politikoki asaldatutako laurogeiko hamarkadaren amaiera hartan. Haren bigarren filma, *Todo por la pasta* (1991), thriller-aren eremuan sartu zen, oso hondatuta zegoen Bilbo bat azalduz. Gidoiak honako esaldi hau zeraman azalean: «Herrialde honetan 53.979 poliziak zaintzen dute zure segurtasuna. Kontuz ibili». Izen ere, filmean ustelkeria polizial eta politikoko giro hori zen nagusi, eta kritikak ondo jakin zuen –ez hainbeste publikoak etorkizuneko balioa ikusten<sup>73</sup> zuzendariarenengen. Urbizuk beti aldarrikatu izan du enkarguzko zinema, eta haren hurrengo bi proiektuek premisa hori bete zuten, zalantzak gabe ikasteko baliatu zuen aldi batean<sup>74</sup>: *Cómo ser infiel y disfrutarlo* (1994) eta *Cuernos de mujer* (1995). XX. mendean egin zuen azken filma, *Cachito* (1996), Arturo Pérez-Reverte-ren eleberri baten egokitzapena izan zen; haren porrot komertzialak gogoeta eragin zion zuzendarri bilbotarrari, idaztera esertzea tokatzen zitzaiola ondorioztatu arte. Roman Polanski-ren *La novena puerta* (1999) filmaren gidoia sinatu zuen, eta gero zuzendaritzara itzuli zen, ikusiko dugunez, jada bere proiekturekin.

Álex de la Iglesia zuzendaritza artistikoaren arduraduna izan zen bere adiskide Enrique Urbizuren *Todo por la pasta* filmean. Izen ere, zuzentzen hasteko motibazioa –txantxa artean esan ohi zuen– bere inguruko jendearen artean horretarako gai ziren lagunak bazirela ikustea eragin zion inbidia izan

**26.** Daniel Calparsoro, Enrique Urbizu, Helena Taberna, Juanma Bajo Ulloa. «Euskal zinema: zinemagileen hiru belaunaldi». Juantxo Egaña, 2014ko uztailak 02-04.

**26.** Daniel Calparsoro, Enrique Urbizu, Helena Taberna, Juanma Bajo Ulloa. "Basque Cinema: Three Generations of Basque Filmmakers". Juantxo Egaña, July 2-04, 2014.

## AN UNEXPECTED WAVE

The new measures adopted were, right from the outset, controversial. Accusing the Basque public administration of excessive control, several flagship figures of the previous decade moved to Madrid; specifically, Pedro Olea and Imanol Uribe were two of the first to end up settling in the Spanish capital. The former began a new stage in his filmography with a very varied subject matter: *El día que nací yo* (1991), *El maestro de esgrima* (1992), *Morirás en Chafarinas* (1995) and *Más allá del jardín* (1996). The latter, after filming *La luna negra* (1990), and has been noted, strung together a series of hits starting with *El rey pasmado* (1991), then with the adaptation of a novel by Juan Madrid into *Días contados* (1994) and a consideration of the immigration phenomenon in *Bwana* (1996). In both cases, they enjoyed great recognition and multiple awards: in the 1990s, Imanol Uribe was confirmed as one of the great names in Spanish cinema. In 1990, Montxo Armendáriz also went to Madrid and, after being a pioneer in shifting the focus of cinema on immigrants as protagonists in *Las cartas de Alou* (1990), returned to his urban filmmaking that was preoccupied with the concerns of young people in *Historias del Kronen* (1994). There was much enthusiasm for his fifth feature film, *Secretos del corazón* (1997), produced by Imanol Uribe and Andrés Santana, which would receive an endless number of awards, and, in fact, Armendáriz is still the only Basque director today whose film has been nominated for an Oscar for best foreign language feature (specifically, in 1998)<sup>72</sup>.

One would think that the complex panorama did not invite much optimism, and yet a new and very diverse wave of young filmmakers emerged, most of whom had been born in the 1960s, and which came to renovate themes and aesthetics thanks to a different cinematographic education and profound technical concerns; but also to influence from the world of comic books and rock: Julio Medem (1958), Enrique Urbizu (1962), Álex de la Iglesia (1965), Juanma Bajo Ulloa (1967), Daniel Calparsoro (1968) and Helena Taberna (a later arrival and with more singular points of reference).

We will begin by discussing Urbizu, who had already taken his first steps in feature films in 1988 with *Tu novia está loca*, the first comedy in Basque cinema. His points of reference were Howard Hawks, George Cukor, Ernst Lubitsch and Madrid comedies and he had taken a risk with the genre, something that certain people did not forgive him for at the end of the politically volatile 1980s. His second film, *Todo por la pasta* (1991), delved into the terrain of a thriller set in a declining Bilbao. The script had on its front cover the phrase: "In this country, 53,979 police officers watch over your security. Be careful". To be sure, this atmosphere of police and political corruption was imbued throughout the film, and critics –although not so much audiences— saw in its director a future value<sup>73</sup>. Urbizu has always called for a custom-made cinema and his next two projects complied with this premise in a period which was, without doubt, one of learning<sup>74</sup>: *Cómo ser infiel y disfrutarlo* (1994) and *Cuernos de mujer* (1995). His last film of the twentieth century, *Cachito* (1996), was an adaptation of a novel by Arturo Pérez-Reverte whose commercial failure was cause for reflection for the Bilbao director, to the point of concluding that it was time for him to sit down and write something. This he did by writing the script for *La novena puerta* (1999) by Roman Polanski, before returning to direct, as we will see, now his own projects.

Álex de la Iglesia had been the artistic director of *Todo por la pasta* by his friend Enrique Urbizu. In fact, his motivation to direct –he used to state jokingly— was the envy he felt at seeing other people around him able to do so.

omen zen. Hala bada, Madrilera joan, eta Almodóvarren ekoiztetxeen azaldu zen, film labur baterako gidoi batekin, azkenean *Acción mutante* (1992) ize-neko film luzea bihurtuko zena. Komikiaren munduak eragindako unibertsobatean, talde terrorista batek industrialari baten alaba bahitzen du. Talde horrek itxura-ederren eta aberaskumeen aurka ekiten dio, Almodóvarren filmetan agertu ohi diren pertsonaien aurkako satira eginez<sup>75</sup>. 1995ean, *El día de la bestia* estreinatu zuen, bere filmik gogoangarrienetako bat. Gidoia bere lagun Jorge Guerricaechevarría batera idatzi zuen: Barojaren estiloko apaiz euskaldun bat gabon giroko Madrid garratz batera iristen da, eta han, gizadia salbatzeko, gaiztakeriak egin behar ditu –itxuraz onbera den arren-. Komedia sataniko hark kritika sozial ugari biltzen zituen, eta sei Goya sari lortu zituen, zuzendari onenarena ere barne. Bere filmografiako bigarren pelikula horren arrakastak berretsi egin zituen zuzendariaren talentu narratiboa, umore sena eta borondate urratzailea<sup>76</sup>; eta hurrengo lanean norabidea aldatzera behartu zuen: *Perdita Durango* (1997). Bertan, Barry Gifford-en eleberri bat pantailaratzen zuen, Andrés Vicente Gómez-en ekoizpenarekin eta aurrekontu handiarekin (mila milioi pezetatik gora). Aurreko mendeko bi arrakastarik handienak *Muertos de risa* (1999) eta *La comunidad* (2000) komedia garratzekin lortu zituen<sup>77</sup>.

Laurogeita hamarreko hamarkadan nabarmendu zen beste izen bat Julio Medem da. Haren lehen film luzea, *Vacas* (1992), landa-inguruneak biltzen zuen. Michel Gaztanbidekin batera sinatutako gidoiak bi euskal familiaren arteko lehia azaltzen zuen, bien baserriak baso batek banatzetituela. Natura oso presente egongo da beti zuzendari donostiarren cinema poetikoan. 1993ko *La ardilla roja* beste aurrerapauso bat izan zen haren ibilbidean: errodatu zituen lehen bi filmek 48 nazioarteko sari pilatu zituzten. *Tierra* (1996) Cannesko Zinemaldiko Sail Ofizialean aurkeztua ere izan zen, baina behin betiko ikusle arrakasta *Los amantes del Círculo Polar* (1998) filmak eman zion; maitasunari buruzko pelikula harten, hainbat zoko-moko biltzen ziren: familia-harremanak, adiskidetzea, Euskal Herriko historia garaikidea, etab<sup>78</sup>.



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- 27.** *Acción mutante*  
(Álex de la Iglesia, 1992)
- 28.** *El día de la bestia*  
(Álex de la Iglesia, 1995)
- 29.** *Vacas* (Julio Medem, 1992)



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He thus went to Madrid and turned up at Almodóvar's production company with a script for a short film which would ultimately end up being a feature length film titled *Acción mutante* (1992). This narrates, in a universe influenced by the world of comic books, the kidnapping of a powerful industrialist's daughter by a terrorist group which sets out to act against good-looking and posh people, in what was a satire against the very characters who usually populate Almodóvar's films<sup>75</sup>. *El día de la bestia*, one of his most memorable films, premiered in 1995. He once again wrote the script together with his friend Jorge Guerricaechevarría: a very Baroja-like Basque priest arrived in a hostile Christmastime Madrid, where he had to do evil—in spite of his apparent goodness—in order to save humanity. This Satanic comedy, not free of multiple social critiques, was awarded as many as six Goya Awards, including that for best director. The success of his second film confirmed his narrative talent, sense of humour and transgressive leanings<sup>76</sup>, and forced him to change direction in his next work: *Perdita Durango* (1997). Here, he brought a novel by Barry Gifford to the big screen, with production by Andrés Vicente Gómez and a big budget (more than a billion pesetas). His two biggest hits with audiences in the last century were the acerbic comedies *Muertos de risa* (1999) and *La comunidad* (2000)<sup>77</sup>.

Julio Medem is another figure who would stand out in the 1990s. His first feature film, *Vacas* (1992), was set in an exceptionally rural environment. The script, written together with Michel Gaztambide, traces the rivalry between two Basque families whose farmhouses are separated by a forest. Nature will

be ever-present in the poetic cinema of this director from San Sebastian. In 1993, *La ardilla roja* heralded another step forward in his career: in total, his first two films accumulated forty-eight international awards. *Tierra* (1996) even ended up being presented in the Official Section of the Cannes Festival, although he found his greatest public acclaim with *Los amantes del Círculo Polar* (1998), a film about love which harboured multiple turns: family relations, reconciliation, the contemporary history of the Basque Country, and so on<sup>78</sup>.

Juanma Bajo Ulloa and Daniel Calparsoro were perhaps somewhat less prolific for different reasons,



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Juanma Bajo Ulloa eta Daniel Calparsoro, beharbada, ez ziren hain emankorrak izan arrazoi ezbereninengatik, baina, zalantzarak gabe, haien agerpenak ere oihartzun handia izan zuen, batez ere zeinek bere lehen lanarekin: *Alas de mariposa* (1991) eta *Salto al vacío* (1995). Gasteiztarraren kasuan, Gasteizko Zinema-k (bere ekoiztetxeak) eta Fernando Truebak (haien zuzen ere Oscar saria jasoko zuen *Belle Époque* filmatu zuen urte berean) ekoitzitako filmak Donostiaiko Zinemaldiko sail ofizialean parte hartu, eta Urrezko Maskorra irabazi zuen; orduz gero, ez da berriro gertatu euskal zinemagile baten lehen lanarekin. *La madre muerta* (1993) bigarren film luzeaz, irudi txundigarriak sortzeko talentu oparoa erakutsi zuen berriz ere; Roldan Larretak adierazi zuen filmean «zer» kontatzen den baino, kontatzeko «nolakotasuna» garrantzitsuagotzat jotzen zela<sup>79</sup>. 1997an, Bajo Ulloak euskal produkzioko filmik arrakastatsuena izaten jarraitzen duena egin zuen, *Airbag*, umore ganberrozko eta itxuragabeko ekintzazko *road movie* bat. Oro har, kritikak ez zion barkatu norabidea aldaketa<sup>80</sup>. Bestalde, Daniel Calparsororen lehen hiru filmak euskal lurretan filmatu ziren, eta, zalantzarak gabe, eragin handiena *Salto al vacío* (1995) lanak izan zuen: filmeko indarkeria gordinak eta etsipen-giroak lilura sortu zuten Berlingo Zinemaldian, eta haren izena promesa handien zerrendan jarri zuen (Almodóvarrek berak ekoitziko zuen Calparsororen bigarren lana)<sup>81</sup>.

*Yoyes-en* (2000), bere lehenbiziko lan ausart harten, Helena Tabernak bere betiko ezaugarri asko erakutsi zituen: konpromiso feminista, kontzientzia euskaltzalea eta publikoarengana iristeko borondatea, leuntasuna eta indarra uztartzeko gai den egile-nortasun batetik abiaturik. 200.000 ikusle baino gehiago zinemara eramatea lortu zuen, eta nazioarteko sari ugari<sup>82</sup>.

Laurogeiko eta laurogeita hamarreko euskal zinemagile garrantzitsueen zerrendari erreparatzerakoan, ikus daiteke Madrilera migratzeko prozesu ia berdina dagoela Euskadin ekoitzitako lehen proiektuen ondoren. Uribe, Olea edo Armendariz Estatuko hiriburuan bizitzen jarri baziren, laurogeiko hamarkadan egindako filmak etxean filmatzeko aukera izan ondoren, gauza bera gertatu zitzaiion hurrengo belaunaldiari. XXI. mendearren hasieran,

30. *Alas de mariposa*  
(Juanma Bajo Ulloa,  
1991)

but their emergence during those years had a major effect, mainly with their first works: *Alas de mariposa* (1991) and *Salto al vacío* (1995). In the case of the former, a director from Vitoria-Gasteiz, his film, produced by Gasteizko Zinema (his own production company) and Fernando Trueba (the same year that he shot the Oscar-winning *Belle Époque*), did not just take part in the official section of the San Sebastian Festival, but it also won the Golden Shell, something that no Basque filmmaker with his first work has done since. *La madre muerta* (1993), his second feature length film, once again showed evidence of his abundant talent in creating striking images in what Roldán Larreta classifies as the greater importance of "how" as opposed to "what" when it comes to narration<sup>79</sup>. In 1997, Bajo Ulloa made what is still the most successful Basque production in history at the box office, *Airbag*, a coarse, funny road movie and crazy action film. Generally speaking, critics did not forgive him for this change of direction<sup>80</sup>. Meanwhile, Daniel Calparsoro's first three films were shot in the Basque lands and without doubt, the one which made the most impact was *Salto al vacío* (1995), whose raw violence and desperation captivated the Berlin Festival and put his name near the top of the list of promising young talents (Almodóvar himself would produce his second film)<sup>81</sup>.

In *Yoyes* (2000), her brave first film, Helena Taberna already demonstrated many of her later constant themes: feminist commitment, a pro-Basque awareness and a desire to reach the public from an authorial identity capable of assembling delicacy and strength. She managed to attract more than 200,000 viewers to her films and receive numerous awards<sup>82</sup>.

If there is anything which one can verify by reviewing the list of the most important Basque filmmakers in the 1980s and 1990s, it is that there was an almost identical process of migration towards Madrid following the first projects carried out in the Basque Country. If in the 1980s Uribe, Olea and Armendáriz settled in the capital of the state after being able to shoot and basically finance their films at home, the same would be true for the following generation. By the start of the twenty-first century, Medem, De la Iglesia and Urbizu were already in Madrid, and their explanation for this was the same thing: no film industry had been developed in the Basque Country which allowed for all of these talents who periodically emerged in the Basque lands to make films; and they appeared to add to this, with a certain bitterness, the conflicts which derived from the fact of them being Spanish-speaking Basques and finding it increasingly difficult to film in Basque with its greater official support<sup>83</sup>. However, in the 1990s there were not exactly a lot of films in this language<sup>84</sup>.

#### THE BREAKOUT OF THE "KIMUAK GENERATION"

As we will see below, it was highly likely that the two generations studied from the end of the Francoist dictatorship would coincide in film listings during the first decade of the twenty-first century. That said, their work would be produced, with barely any exceptions, by non-Basque companies. One piece of good news would be the breakout of a new generation of filmmakers who would break with at least two seemingly endlessly repeated dynamics: the exodus to Madrid and the scarce presence of Basque as a language of film. In 1998, the Basque Government Department of Culture, following a process of reflection carried out with the cinema unit of Donostia Kultura (San Sebastian City Council), decided to launch the Kimuak programme with

Madrilen ziren jada Medem, De la Iglesia edo Urbizu, eta azalpena berbera da berriz ere: Euskal Herrian ez zen garatu aldizka bertan sortzen diren talentu horiei guztiei zinema egiteko aukera emango liekeen industria zinematografikorik; eta badirudi horri gehitzen dizkiotela, samintasun apur batez, euskal herritar erdaldunak izatearen eta laguntza ofizial handiagoekin euskaraz filmatzeko zaitasunak izatearen ondoriozko gatazkak<sup>83</sup>. Hala ere, laurogeita hamarkadan ez ziren hain zuzen ugari izan euskaraz egindako filmak<sup>84</sup>.

### «KIMUAK BELAUNALDIAREN» AGERPENA

Aurrerago ikusiko dugun bezala, erraz pentsa zitekeen aztertu ditugun diktadura frankistaren amaieraren ondoko bi belaunaldiak bat egingo zutela zinema-aretoetan XXI. mendeko lehen hamarkadan. Hori bai, Euskal Herritik kanpoko enpresek ekoitzi zituzten haien lanak, ia salbuespenik gabe. Albiste ona, ordea, zinemagile-belaunaldi berri baten agerpena izan zen, amaierarik gabe errepikatzen zirela ziruditen dinamiketako bi, bederen, hautsi zituena: Madrilerako exodoa eta euskararen presentzia eskasa zinema hizkuntza gisa. 1998an, Eusko Jaurlaritzako Kultura Sailak, Donostia Kulturako (Donostiako Udala) zinema-unitatearekin egindako hausnarketa-prozesu baten ondoren, Kimuak programa abian jartzea erabaki zuen, euskal film laburren nazioko eta nazioarteko sustapena areagotzeko asmoz, profesionalen batzordeek urtero hautatutako katalogoen bitarbez. 2000. urtetik aurrera, programa sendotuz joan zen, eta film labur horiek jaialdieta joaten ziren, telebistetan ematen ziren eta mundu guztiko salmenta-agenteak erakartzen zituzten. Beste autonomia erkidego batzuatarako eredu aitortua bihurtu zen, eta jasotako laudorioek mugak gainditu zituzten<sup>85</sup>. Mende laurdena betetzean dagoela, programaren meritu nagusia izan da talentu gazteak sortzen eta garatzen laguntzeko tresna paregabeea bihurtu izana: Kimuak egitarauak argi propioz distiratzen du arlo honetako politika publikoez hitz egite-rakoan. Zinemagile horietako askok film luzeetarako jauzia egin dute, film laburren berezko balio zinematografikoak aldarrikatzeari utzi gabe. Luzea da Kimuak-etik igaro diren zuzendarien zerrenda. Euskal zinematografiako azken hamarkadako albisterik onenetako batzuen protagonista dira. Izenak agortze aldera zerrendatzeko asmorik gabe, honako hauek nabarmendu ditzakegu, besteak beste: Koldo Almundoz, Asier Altuna, Luis Berdejo, Borja Cobeaga, María Elorza, Maider Fernández, Raúl de la Fuente, Mikel Gurrea, Telmo Esnal, Aitor Arregi, Jon Garaño, J. M. Goenaga, Galder Gaztelu-Urrutia, Ione Hernández, Víctor Iriarte, Pablo Malo, Josu Martínez, Aritz Moreno, Maider Oleaga, Mikel Rueda, Arantza Santesteban, Oskar Santos, Maru Solores, Koldo Serra, David Pérez Sañudo, Paul Urkijo, Estibaliz Urresola eta Isabel Herguera<sup>86</sup>.

Aipatutako izenen kopuruari erreparaturik, ezinezkoa da gai-ardatz komun handirik, korronte formalik edo, azken batean, eskolarik aipatzea. Beraz, «Kimuak belaunaldia» izendapena gehiago interpretatu behar da erakunde-ekimeneko tresna baten erabilera orokor gisa, kointzidentzia kronologiko gisa eta, zergatik ez aipatu, hobeto ulertzeko sailkapenak eskaintzen dizkigun abantaila gisa. Zinemagile-multzo honen jarduerako bi hamarkadetan, aniztasuna izan da nagusi, eta jorratutako generoak, askotarikoak. XXI. mendeko lehen hamarkada film luzeen munduan sartu zireneko da; bigarrena, hurrengo kapituluan ikusiko dugun bezala, oro har, haien emaitzarik onenetakoena izan zen.

**31.** Borja Cobeaga, Jose Mari Goenaga, Pablo Malo, Asier Altuna, Koldo Almundoz eta Isabel Herguera.  
«Euskal zinema: zinemagileen hiru belaunaldi». Juantxo Egaña, 2014ko uztailak 02-04.

**31.** Borja Cobeaga, Jose Mari Goenaga, Pablo Malo, Asier Altuna, Koldo Almundoz and Isabel Herguera.  
"Basque Cinema: Three Generations of Basque Filmmakers". Juantxo Egaña, July 2-04, 2014.

the aim of intensifying the national and international promotion of Basque short films through annual catalogues selected by committees made up of professionals. The programme became increasingly established from 2000 on, and the short films were submitted to festivals, broadcast on television channels and charmed sales agents from all over the world. It went on to become a self-confessed model for other autonomous communities and the praise it received crossed borders<sup>85</sup>. Now on the point of completing a quarter of a century of existence, its principal merit has consisted of becoming a formidable tool to encourage the emergence and development of young talents: Kimuak is a shining light when it comes to speaking about public policies in this field. Many of them have taken the leap into making feature length films while still defending the cinematographic value of the short films themselves. There is a long list of directors who have gone through the Kimuak programme and who are at the forefront of some of the best news in the last decade for Basque cinematography. Without trying to be exhaustive, we could highlight, among others: Koldo Almundoz, Asier Altuna, Luis Berdejo, Borja Cobeaga, María Elorza, Maider Fernández, Raúl de la Fuente, Mikel Gurrea, Telmo Esnal, Aitor Arregi, Jon Garaño, J. M. Goenaga, Galder Gaztelu-Urrutia, Ione Hernández, Víctor Iriarte, Pablo Malo, Josu Martínez, Aritz Moreno, Maider Oleaga, Mikel Rueda, Arantza Santesteban, Oskar Santos, Maru Solores, Koldo Serra, David Pérez Sañudo, Paul Urkijo, Estibaliz Urresola and Isabel Herguera<sup>86</sup>.

It is impossible to point to any major common thematic axes, formal currents or, in sum, any school in light of the number of names cited, so that the term "Kimuak generation" must be interpreted more as the general use of an institutional initiative tool, chronological coincidence and, one must say, the advantages that classification offers in regard to greater comprehension. In the two decades that this set of filmmakers have been active, diversity has prevailed and the subject matter they have addressed varied. The first decade of the twenty-first century was that of their brilliant breakout in the world of feature length films; the second, as will see in the next section, would in general be that of their best results.



Muga gutxi-asko onargarritzat 2010. urtea jotzen badugu, eta fokua Kimuak programatik igaro ez diren zinemagileei ere irekitzen badiegu, esan genezake arazo sozialez azpildutako komedia oso presente egon dela Borja Cobeagaren (*Pagafantas*, 2009; *No controles*, 2010) eta Altuna eta Esnalen (*Aupa Etxebeste*, 2005) kasuan. LGTB gaien sarrera, ordura arte oso gutxi agertzen zena, Roberto Castón-ekin (*Ander*, 2009) eta Garaño eta Goenagarekin (*80 egunean*, 2010) iritsi zen. Izu-zinemak eta thrillerrak ere jarraitzaile ugari izan dituzte: Pablo Malo, zuzendari berri onenaren Goya sariaren irabazle (*Friό sol de invierno*, 2004), Koldo Serra (*Bosque de sombras*, 2006), Oskar Santos (*El mal ajeno*, 2010) eta Luiso Berdejo (*The new daughter*, 2010). Dokumentalaren arloan oihartzun handiko adibideak ditugu, hala nola Arregi eta Goenagaren *Lucio* (2007), Goya sarietarako izendatua, edo *Nōmadak Tx* (Raúl de la Fuente, 2006). Euskal gatazkari buruz, fikziozko pare bat lan besterik ez dugu: Gorka Merchán-en *La casa de mi padre* (2008) eta *Zorion perfektua* (Jabi Elortegi, 2009); baina dagoeneko baziren Josu Martínez-en lehen lan dokumentalak (*Itsasoaren alaba*, 2009) eta Eterio Ortega (*Asesinato en febrero*, 2001) eta Iñaki Artetaren (*Trece entre mil*, 2005) lanen aldi biziengoa<sup>87</sup>. Amaitzeko, gutxinez, oso «egile-lerroko» bi adibide aipa ditzakegu, donostiarak biak: Pedro Aguilera (*La influencia*, 2007; Cannesko Errealizadoreen Hamabostaldian estreinatua) eta José María de Orbe (*Aita*, 2010; Donostiako Zinemaldiko Sail Ofizialean estreinatua).

Garai horretan, begirada berriro ere beteranoenei itzuliz, nahiko aktibo agertu zen Antonio Mercero, *La hora de los valientes* (1998) filmaren ondoren, *Planta 4<sup>a</sup>* ere (2002) filmatu baitzuen, ikusle-kopuru nabarmenarekin eta, apalagorik, *Y tú quién eres* (2007). Azken horretan, Alzheimerren gaiari heldu zion; gero gaixotasuna pairatu zuen berak, eta horrek eragotzi zion 2010ean eskaini zioten Ohorezko Goya saria aurrez aurre jasotzea. Beti geldigaitz, Pedro Oleak film luze bat baino ez zuen zuzendu mende honetan, *Tiempo de tormenta* (2003)<sup>88</sup>. Montxo Armendariz eta Imanol Uribe aldian behin ekoizten jarraitu zuten. Nafarrak, bere ideiei beti leial, gure iragan ezkutua pantailetara eramanez egin zuen (*Silencio roto*, 2001), musika ardatz gisa erabiliz (*Escenario móvil*, 2004) edo euskal literaturako obra goren bat egokituz (*Obaba*, 2005). Haren kamerak, lehen Rosselliniaren bezala, etengabe bilatzen du «zinemak oraina ulertzeko eta etorkizun bidezkoagoa eta gizatiarragoa eraikitzeko balio izatea»<sup>89</sup>. Uribek literatur egokitzapenen bideari ekin zion, fikziozko hiru film luzerekin: *Plenilunio* (2000), *El viaje de Carol* (2002) eta *La carta esférica* (2007). Ana Díezek dokumentalaren bideari ekin zion *Galindez* filmarekin (2002), eta fikzioari, berriz ere Atlantikoaren beste aldean, *Paisito* (2009) lanarekin: egile gisa, haren ezaugarri izaten jarraitu zuten intimismoak, historiak, politikak, indarkeriak, maiatasunak edo paradisu galduak.

Euskal zinemagileen hurrengo belaunaldikoek zorte desberdina izan zuten mende berriaren hasieran, Espainiako industria zinematografiko korapilatsu harten. De la Iglesia eta Medem gai izan ziren, lehen hamarkadan, launa film luze arrerera ateratzeko. Bilbotarra 800 balas ekoiztera ere animatu zen (2002), emozioaren aldeko apustu zintzoa, eta zinemari egindako omenaldia, bere beste filmen ohiko ironiarik gabeko begirada batetik. *Crimen ferpecto* (2004) filmarekin galduztako publikoaren zati bat berreskuratu zuen, eta ingelesez filmatutako *Los crímenes de Oxford*

- 32. Aupa Etxebeste**  
(Asier Altuna, Telmo Esnal, 2005)  
**33. 80 egunean**  
(Jon Garaño, Jose Mari Goenaga, 2010)



If we take 2010 as a more or less plausible boundary and extend the spotlight also to filmmakers who did not go through the Kimuak programme, we could say that sharp comedy about social problems has been central to the work of Borja Cobeaga (*Pagafantas*, 2009; *No controles*, 2010) and Altuna and Esnal (*Aupa Etxebeste*, 2005). The introduction of LGTB topics, barely present until then, came in the work of Roberto Castón (*Ander*, 2009) and Garaño and Goenaga (*80 egunean*, 2010). Horror films and thrillers also found numerous followers: for example, the winner of the Goya for best new director Pablo Malo (*Friό sol de invierno*, 2004), Koldo Serra (*Bosque de sombras*, 2006), Oskar Santos (*El mal ajeno*, 2010) and Luiso Berdejo (*The new daughter*, 2010). There were well received documentaries such as *Lucio* (2007), by Arregi and Goenaga, which was nominated for a Goya, and *Nōmadak Tx* (Raúl de la Fuente, 2006). There were only a couple of fiction films on the Basque conflict: *La casa de mi padre* (2008) by Gorka Merchán and *Zorion perfektua* (Jabi Elortegi, 2009); but in the documentary field, it was also addressed by the initial works of Josu Martínez (*Itsasoaren alaba*, 2009) and the most intense period of work by Eterio Ortega (*Asesinato en febrero*, 2001) and Iñaki Arteta (*Trece entre mil*, 2005)<sup>87</sup>. To conclude, we could cite at least two examples of auteur approaches represented by the San Sebastian filmmakers Pedro Aguilera (*La influencia*, 2007; which premiered at the Cannes Directors' Fortnight) and José María de Orbe (*Aita*, 2010; which premiered at the Official Section of the San Sebastian Festival).

Returning once more to the more veteran filmmakers during this period, Antonio Mercero was quite active, with *La hora de los valientes* (1998), followed by *Planta 4<sup>a</sup>* (2002) with notable box office figures and the more modest *Y tú quién eres* (2007). The latter addressed the theme of Alzheimer's, an illness he would end up suffering and which prevented him from accepting in person the Honorary Goya which he was awarded in 2010. The always restless Pedro Olea had only directed one feature length film in the new century to that moment, *Tiempo de tormenta* (2003)<sup>88</sup>. Montxo Armendáriz and Imanol Uribe continued to work on films now and again. The former, always faithful to his ideas, did so by bringing to the big screen our hidden past (*Silencio roto*, 2001), making use of music as the central focus (*Escenario móvil*, 2004) and adapting a landmark work of Basque literature (*Obaba*, 2005). His camera, like that of Rossellini before him, constantly sought for "film to help us understand the present and in order to construct a more just and more humane future"<sup>89</sup>. Uribe set out on the path of literary adaptations with three fiction features: *Plenilunio* (2000), *El viaje de Carol* (2002) and *La carta esférica* (2007). Ana Díez experienced the documentary format with



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- 34.** *Obaba* (Montxo Armendariz, 2005)  
**35.** *La pelota vasca, la piel contra la piedra* (Julio Medem, 2003)

(2008) filmarekin nazioartera jauzi egin zuen, John Hurt eta Elijah Wood buru zituen aktore-talde batek lagunduta. Handik gutxira, etapa berri bat ekin zion: 2009ko ekainaren 21ean, Espainiako Arte eta Zientzia Zinematografikoak Akademiako presidente hautatu zuten, eta, horrela, lehen euskal zinemagilea izan zen ardura hori hartzen<sup>90</sup>. Bien bitartean, *Balada triste de trompeta* (2010) zuzendu eta idatzi zuen, Jorge Gerrikaetxebarria ohiko gidoilaria gabe; filmak zilarrezko bi lehoi eskuratu zituen Veneziako Zinemaldian, gidoi onenarena eta zuzendaritzar onenarena.

Julio Medem donostiarak *Lucía y el sexo* (2001) filmarekin ekin zion XXI. mendeari, publikoarekin izandako idilioa luzatz; gero, *La pelota vasca, la piel contra la piedra* (2003) dokumentala eterri zen. Euskal Herriko egoera politikoari buruzko dokumental horrek polemika itzela sortu zuen, Donostiako Nazioarteko Zinemaldiaren 51. edizioan (2003ko iraila) estreinatu aurretik ere. Espainiako eskuinari lotutako komunikabideek, José María Aznarren Alderdi Popularraren bigarren legegintzaldian, anker erabili zuten euskal zuzendaria, demokratikotik oso gutxi izan zuen kanpaina batean. Medemek, hori bai, zinema, historiarekin dokumentu baino, historiarekin eragile bihurtzen den une horietako bat eragin zuen. Hurrengo bi lanek, *Caótica Ana* (2007) eta *Habitación en Roma* (2010), ikusle-kopuru txikiagoa lortu arren, donostiarren aukera estetiko eta narratiboetako batzuk areagotu zituzten.

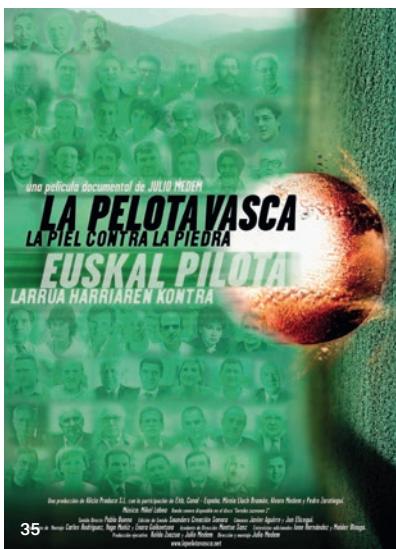
Enrique Urbizuk 2002an aurkeztu zuen *La caja 507*. Proiektu pertsonal horrek lehen lanekin sortutako itxaropenak berretsi zituen askorentzat, eta beste bultzada bat erantsi zuen *La vida mancha* (2003) filmarekin, Nantesko «Espainiako Zinema» Jialdian film onenarentzako Julio Verne Saria lortu baitzuen; Claude Chabrolek berak eman zion garaikurra bilbotarrari. Hamarkada honetan, Bajo Ulloa ez zen bereziki emankorra izan. Gasteiztarrok *Frágil* (2005) zuzendu zuen, oso ipuin pertsonala eta, aldi berean, zinemaren industriarekiko kontu-garbiketa; eta *Historia de un grupo de rock* (2008), Distrito 14 talde aragoarrari buruzko dokumental zirraragarria, aurrekoarekin lotuta, biak ala biak arrakastaren eta ospeareen arteko aldeari buruz egindako hausnarketa sendoak izanik. Daniel Calparsorok tartekatu egin zituen generoko zinema (*Guerreros*, 2002 eta *Ausentes*, 2005) eta, serie laburrak eginez, telebistaren munduko bidea; geroago, erabakimen handiagoz itzuliko zen mundu horretara. Helena Tabernak 2003an sortu zuen bere ekoiztetxea (Lamia Producciones), eta, hartara, bere intereseko ardatzak berretsi zituen: gai sozialak (*Extranjeras*, 2003), historikoak (*La buena nueva*, 2008) eta generokoak (*Nagore*, 2010)<sup>91</sup>.

*Galíndez* (2002) as well as fiction, once again on the other side of the Atlantic, in *Paisito* (2009). Some of the constant themes in her work continued to be intimism, history, politics, violence, love and lost paradises.

The following generation of Basque filmmakers enjoyed different levels of luck in the complicated early twenty-first-century Spanish film industry. De la Iglesia and Medem were each able to get four feature films off the ground in the first decade. The Bilbao director was even encouraged to produce *800 balas* (2002), a sincere commitment to emotion and a tribute to the cinema from the habitually ironic lens of his other films. With *Crimen ferpecto* (2004), he regained some of the audience figures he had lost and in *The Oxford Murders* (2008), shot in English, he took another step towards an international presence with the help of a cast led by John Hurt and Elijah Wood. Shortly afterwards, he began a new stage in his career: on 21 June 2009, he was chosen to be president of the Spanish Academy of Cinematographic Arts and Sciences, thus becoming the first Basque filmmaker to achieve such responsibility<sup>90</sup>. In the meantime, he directed and wrote, this time without his habitual co-scriptwriter Jorge Guerricaechevarría, *Balada triste de trompeta* (2010), which was awarded two Silver Lions for best script and director at the Venice Festival.

Julio Medem, from San Sebastian, began the twenty-first century by carrying on his idyllic relationship with audiences in *Lucía y el sexo* (2001) and later got embroiled in the already mentioned *La pelota vasca, la piel contra la piedra* (2003), a documentary on the political situation in the Basque Country which generated an enormous amount of controversy, even before its official premiere at the fifty-first edition of the San Sebastian International Film Festival (September 2003). The media sympathetic to the Spanish right during the second legislature of José María Aznar's Partido Popular were brutal in their treatment of the Basque director in a very undemocratic campaign. Yet Medem did contribute to one of those moments in which film becomes an agent and even a document of history. His two subsequent works, *Caótica Ana* (2007) and *Habitación en Roma* (2010) accentuated, with less luck at the box office, some of his aesthetic and narrative options.

In 2002, Enrique Urbizu presented *La caja 507*, a personal project which conformed for many the expectations created with his early works and which were encouraged further in *La vida mancha* (2003), winner of the Jules Verne Prize for best film at the Nantes Festival of Spanish Cinema, which Claude Chabrol handed the Bilbao director personally. Bajo Ulloa was not especially prolific during this decade. The director from Vitoria-Gasteiz directed *Frágil* (2005), a very personal story and at the same time a settling of accounts with the film industry, and *Historia de un grupo de rock* (2008), a moving documentary about the group from Aragon, Distrito 14, with whom he was connected through their shared intense reflection on the difference between success and fame. Daniel Calparsoro alternated between genre films (*Guerreros*, 2002 and *Ausentes*, 2005), in the world of television via the miniseries format to which he would return decisively later. Helena Taberna founded her own production company (Lamia Producciones) in 2003, thereby reaffirming one of her main interests: social topics (*Extranjeras*, 2003), historical themes (*La buena nueva*, 2008) and gender concerns (*Nagore*, 2010)<sup>91</sup>.



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## 2011tik gaur egunera: euskarazko zinemaren urte erraldoiak

XXI. mendeko bigarren hamarkada igaro ondoren, euskal zinemaren paisaiak sekula ikusi gabeko konplexutasuna du. Madrilera emigratutako zinegileen lehen bi olatuek une antagonikoak bizi dituzte Spainiako zinemaren industrial txertaturik, eta plataforma digitalen berehalako etorrerak eragindako itsasaldian sarturik. «Kimuak Belaunaldia» zuhurtzia handiz deituak bere emaitzarik onenetako batzuk eskaini ditu, dagoeneko maiz euskaraz pentsatua eta filmatzen den zinemak nazioartean jasotako onespenak kontuan harturik. Izan ere, beste garai batean ezinbestekoa zirudien Madrilera joan behar hori jada ez da hala. Baino, horrez gain, ahotsen aniztasuna inoiz baino handiagoa da, eta, zorionez, emakume zuzendari gehiago azaldu dira. Eta jada ez dago landu gabeko generorik: drama, komedia, suspensea, zientzia fikzioa, thriller, izua, zinema politikoa, historikoa, esperimental; eta, jakina, fikzioa, ez-fikzioa, animazioa... Zinemako gela handi horretan ez dago Euskal Herriko zinemagileak iristen ez diren txokorik.

### BALAZTAREN ETA AZELERAGAILUAREN ARTEAN: LEHEN BI BELAUNALDIAK

Aurreko mendeko hirurogeiko eta hirurogeita hamarreko hamarkadak azaltzean aipatu ditugun zinemagile batzuk hil egin dira, eta utzi duten ondarea aintzat hartu gabe ezinezkoa da Euskal Herriko gaurko zinema ulertzeara: Iván Zulueta (2009), Antxon Ezeiza (2011), Elías Querejeta (2013), Nestor Basterretxea (2014), Fernando Larruquert (2016), Juanba Berasategi (2017), Antonio Mercero (2018), Juanmi Gutiérrez (2019), Yannick Bellon (2019), Javier Aguirre (2019), etab<sup>92</sup>.



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**36.** Ana Díez, Pedro Olea, Imanol Uribe eta Montxo Armendariz. Juantxo Egaña, Donostia, 2014.

## From 2011 to the present: The great years of Basque-language films

After the second decade of the twenty-first century, the landscape that took shape for Basque cinema was one of an unknown complexity. The first two waves of filmmakers who had emigrated to Madrid were going through adverse times in the Spanish film industry and in the choppy waters caused by the stunning arrival of digital platforms. What was known —with all precautions— as the Kimuak Generation had enjoyed some of the best results in light of the recognition received at the international level for a cinema which is now frequently thought out and filmed in Basque. Indeed, the former exodus to Madrid no longer seems inevitable. But what is more, the diversity of voices is more important than ever and, happily, there are now more women directors. There is no longer any genre that has not been addressed: drama, comedy, suspense, science fiction, thrillers, horror, political, historical, and experimental cinema; and, of course, fiction, non-fiction, animation, and so on. There is no corner of that great room of film that the filmmakers of the Basque Country have not reached.

### BETWEEN THE BRAKE AND THE ACCELERATOR: THE FIRST TWO GENERATIONS

Some of the names cited during the 1960s and 1970s have died this century, leaving behind a legacy without which it is impossible to understand the current state of cinema in the Basque Country: Iván Zulueta (2009), Antxon Ezeiza (2011), Elías Querejeta (2013), Néstor Basterretxea (2014), Fernando Larruquert (2016), Juanba Berasategi (2017), Antonio Mercero (2018), Juanmi Gutiérrez (2019), Yannick Bellon (2019), Javier Aguirre (2019), and so forth<sup>92</sup>.

The leading figures of Basque cinema in the 1980s have, generally speaking, spread out their feature films or, in the worst-case scenario, the difficulties to bring forth new projects are at the moment insurmountable. Imanol Uribe has achieved a not easy cadence, as well as loyalty to his habitual subjects: *Miel de naranjas* (2012) displayed cinematographically a whole catalogue of Francoist repression; *Lejos del mar* (2015) completed the Basque-focused circle of his filmography; and *Llegaron de noche* (2022) combined politico-historical preoccupations with biographical lines. Montxo Armendáriz bravely addressed the social drama of sexual abuse in *No tengas miedo* (2011) and has remained very active, both with the producer Puy Oria from Oria Films and in the field of teaching. It is a similar case for the likewise Navarrese Ana Díez, who has combined her role as teacher with that of director. Her latest feature film, *A quien cierra los ojos* (2022), with Patricia Reyes Spíndola in the leading role, closes a cycle: "This film has something of the finishing touch to my career. I began in Mexico with *Elvira Luz Cruz, pena máxima* [co-directed in 1985 with Dana Rotberg] and, for the moment, my career ends with *A quien cierra los ojos*, also in Mexico, and with a subject

Laurogeiko hamarkadako euskal zineman protagonista izan zirenak, oro har, tarte luzeagoak utzi dituzte beren film luzeen artean, edo, kasurik txarrenea, proiektu berriak aurrera ateratzeko zaitasunak gaindiezinak izaten ari dira oraingoz. Imanol Uribeak kadentzia ez batere erraza lortu du, bere ohiko gaietako fideltasuna gordetzeaz batera: *Miel de naranjas* (2012) filmak errepresio frankistaren katalogo oso bat zabaldu zuen zinemagintzan; *Lejos del mar* (2015) lanak haren filmografiako euskal ardatzaren zirkulua itxi zuen; eta *Llegaron de noche* (2022) filmak kezka historiko-politikoak eta ildoa biografikoak batzen zituen. Montxo Armendarizek ausart azaleratu zuen sexu-abusuen drama soziala *No tengas miedo* (2011) lanean, eta oso aktibo mantendu da, bai Oria Films-en Puy Oria ekoizlearekin batera, bai irakaskuntzaren arloan. Antzeko zerbaitek gertatzen zaio Ana Díez-i -bera ere nafarra-, irakasle eta zuzendari lanak tartekatu baititu. Haren azken film luzeak, Patricia Reyes Spíndola aktorea protagonista duen *A quien cierra los ojos* (2022), zirkulu bat ixten du: «Film honek amaiera ematen dio nolabait nire ibilbideari. Mexikon hasi nintzen, *Elvira Luz Cruz, pena máxima* lanarekin, (1985ean Dana Rotberg-ekin batera zuzendua) eta, oraingoz, nire ibilbidea *A quien cierra los ojos* filmarekin ixten da, hau ere Mexikon, eta niri beti interesatu zaidan gai batekin: hezkuntza-sistema, eta belaunaldi berriak etorkizunerako nola prestatzen diren. Galderak planteatu ditudala uste dut; hori da niri gustatzen zaidan zinema»<sup>93</sup>. Victor Ericeri buruz esan dezakegu lerro hauek idazten ari garen garaian bere hurrengo film luzea filmatzen ari dela: *Cerrar los ojos*. Kontuan harturik nazioartean duen ospea eta *El sol del membrillo* filmatu zuenetik dagoeneko hogeita hamar urte igaro direla, ez dirudi arriskutsua denik esatea munduko zine-zaleen artean 2023an gehien espero den filmetako bat izango dela.

Hain zuzen, Gaztanbide izan zen *No habrá paz para los malvados* (2011) filmeko beste gidoilaria. Enrique Urbizuk ederki erakutsia zuen bere abilezia, nahiz eta, *La vida mancha* (2003) filma sinatu zuenetik, nahi gabeko isiltasun-tarte bat gorde behar izan zuen. Film horrek kritika bikainak jaso zituen, baina aretoetan ibilbide eskasa egin zuen, nahiz eta zer ukiezinak eta isilduak erabilzeko maisutasuna agertu. Zuzendari bilbotarra Raoul Walsh bezalako Hollywood klasikoko zinemagileen miresle sutsua da, urte berean lau film filmatzeko gauza zirelako: Espainiako zinema-industria urrutti egon da antzeko zerbaitek eskaintzetik. Hala ere, aitortza ugari jaso zituen hilketa hirukoitz batean nahastutako polizia bortitz bati buruzko zinema beltzeko ariketa honekin: filma Donostiako Zinemaldiko sail ofizialean lehiatu zen, eta 2012ko Goya sarietan sei garaikur bildu zituen (filma, zuzendaria, aktorea, jatorrizko gidoia, mutua eta soinua)<sup>94</sup>. Balio al izan zuen horrek Urbizuk ordutik aurrera errazago filma zezan? Film luzeei buruz ari bagara, egia esan, ez: *Gigantes* (Jorge Doradorekin batera zuzendua, 2018) eta *Libertad* (2021) oso bereizgarri zehatzak dituzten telesailak izan dira. Artista horrek uste sendoa du *egileta* eszenaratzeak berak ematen duela; bestalde, kultura zinematografikoaren transmisore handi gisa agertu da azken aldian<sup>95</sup>.

Belaunaldiko beste bilbotarraren, Álex de la Iglesiaren, balantzea izugarria da aldi honetan. 2009an, Carolina Bang-ekin batera, Pokeepsie Films ekoiztetxea sortu zuen, fantasiazko, beldurrezko eta suspensezko generoetan lan propioak eta besterenak bultzatzeko. Zortzi film luze zuzendu ditu, HBOrako serie bat, eta ia hamar film ekoitzti ditu bere enpresaren bitarte; horien artean, Paul Urkijo arabarraren *Errementari* (2017), euskara hutsean grabatutakoa, eta Koldo Serra bizkaitarraren *70 binladens* (2016). Ez du garantzi gutxiagorik Álex de la Iglesiak publikoarekin duen harreman pribilegiatua: *Perfectos desconocidos* (2017) filmak hiru milioi ikusle baino

**37.** Enrique Urbizu eta Claude Chabrol. Nantes, 2004.

in which I've always been interested: the educational system and how it is prepared for future generations. I think I've asked a few questions; this is the cinema that I like»<sup>93</sup>. On Víctor Erice we could say that, as these words are being written, he is filming his next feature film: *Cerrar los ojos*, whose script has been written by another Basque, Michel Gaztambide. Given his international prestige and the fact that it has been now thirty years since he filmed *El sol del membrillo*, it does not seem too farfetched to suggest that it will be one of the most anticipated films of 2023 among global cinephiles.

As a matter of fact, Gaztambide was also the co-scriptwriter of *No habrá paz para los malvados* (2011). Enrique Urbizu had shown ample evidence of his know-how in spite of having to maintain an involuntary silence since he made *La vida mancha* (2003), a film that was very well received critically but less so at the box office in spite of its mastery in treating the intangible and silent. The Bilbao director is a self-declared admirer of classic Hollywood filmmakers like Raoul Walsh, those able to shoot four pictures in the same year: the Spanish film industry has been very far from offering him anything similar. However, there was much recognition for this exercise in film noir about a violent police officer involved in a triple murder: the film competed at the official section of the San Sebastian Festival and was awarded six Goyas in 2012 (best film, director, actor, original script, film editing and sound)<sup>94</sup>. Did this help Urbizu to shoot more pictures thereafter? If it is a question of feature films, then not really: *Gigantes* (co-directed with Jorge Dorado, 2018) and *Libertad* (2021) were television series with very recognisable marks of identity. This is an artist who believes strongly that authorship stems from staging and who has shown himself in recent times to be a great transmitter of cinematographic culture<sup>95</sup>.

The balance during this period for another Bilbao native of this generation, Álex de la Iglesia, overwhelming. In 2009 he founded, alongside Carolina Bang, the production company Pokeepsie Films to promote their own work and others in the fantasy, horror and suspense genres. He has directed eight

**37.** Enrique Urbizu and Claude Chabrol. Nantes, 2004.



gehiago erakarri zituen zine-aretoetara, eta, oro har, haren filmek oso oreka ona lortzen dute kritikaren erreakzioaren eta leihatilako erantzunaren artean. *Las brujas de Zugarramurdi* (2013) paradigmatica da: zortzi Goya sari, eta 800.000 ikusletik gora. Eta bere lehen lanetik hogeita hamar urte igaro ondoren, bilbotarraren fideltasuna azpimarratu behar da berarekin hasi ziren beste zenbait euskal talentu egiazturekin: ohiko gidoigilea (Jorge Gerrikaetxebarria) eta zuzendaritza artistikoaren arduradunak, *Biaffra* eta *Arri* (Arturo García eta José Luis Arrizabalaga, hurrenez hurren).

Daniel Calparsoro da azeleragailua zapaltzea erabaki duen (eta hala egin ahal izan duen) beste zinemagileetako bat: zazpi film luze zuendu ditu eta gutxienez bost telesailetan parte hartu du. Enrique Urbizuk 2017an aurreikusi zuen: «Zorionekoak gara. Gure belaunaldikideen lanen artean bizi gara. Filmatzen jarraitzen dugu. Badakit Daniel Calparsorok ez duela bere etorkizunaz espekulatzen etxearen geratzeko asmorik. Beti ari da lanean. Hori da kontua: filmak egitea da filmak egiteak daukan gauzarik onena»<sup>96</sup>. Eta horretan ari da donostiarra: intentsitate handiko aldia bizi du bere ibilbidean, plataforma digitalen bultzadak eta baliabideek lagunduta. Filmatu eta filmatu: thrillerrak, gerra-zinema, lapurretak, abiadura, adrenalina, ezohiko bikaintasun teknikoa eta pertsonaiak deskribatzeari ez uzteko borondatearekin. Ondoan funtzionatu duten tituluetako batzueta Álex de la Iglesiaaren ohiko euskal gidoilarri bat ageri da: Jorge Gerrikaetxebarria. *Cien años de perdón* (2016) filmak, adibidez, milioi bat ikusle baino gehiago erakarri zituen zinea-aretoetara.

Helena Tabernak, Juanma Bajo Ulloak eta Julio Medemek bina film luze estreinatzea lortu dute, nor bere nortasun-ezaugarriei leial izanik. Nafarrak fikzioa (*Acantilado*, 2016) eta ez-fikzioa (*Varados*, 2019) tartekatu ditu, ohiko jokabidea bere filmografian. Gasteiztarra (*Baby*, 2020) bere lehen bi filme-tako egile-ildoaren eta *Airbag* lanak markatu zuen komedia ganberroaren ildoaren artean mugitzen da (*Rey gitano*, 2015). Donostiarak Penelope Cruz bezalako nazioarteko izar baten konplizitatea lortu zuen *ma ma* aurrera ate-ratzeko (2015), eta bere obsesioetako batzuk errepikatu zituen (maitasuna, desamodia, sexua, eromena, jeloskortasuna eta desleialtasunak) *El árbol de la sangre* filmean (2018).

Panorama ez litzateke osorik egongo Pablo Berger bilbotarrari erreferentzia egingo ez bagenio, bere lehen film luzea gainontzekoek baino geroxeago sinatu zuen belaunaldiko kidea (*Torretemolinos 73*, 2003). Haren bigarren filmak, *Edurnezuri* (2012), izugarritzko arrakasta izan zuen, eta hamar Goya sari irabazi zituen: zuri-beltzean, mutu eta eszenaratze bikainean, Grimm anaien ipuina unibertsu harrigarri batera ausarki eraman zuen. Bergerrek etengabe galdetu izan dio bere buruari «españiertasunaren argi-ilunei buruz, bere lehenbiziko film laburra, *Mama* (1988), sortu zuenetik»; eta, *Abracadabra* lanarekin (2017), koherentzia erakutsi zuen berriro, nolabaiteko kostunbrismoaren inguruko ariketa irudimentsu batean<sup>97</sup>. *Robot dreams* (2023) filmarekin, elkarrizketarik gabe, animazioaren alorrean murgildu zen, txakur batek eta robot batek New Yorken izandako adiskidetasun-istorio bat –Sara Varon estatubatuarraren eleberri grafikoa– egokituz.

38. *Mama* (Pablo Berger, 1988)



feature films, one series for HBO and has produced, through his company, nearly ten films, among which we would highlight *Errementari* (2017) by Paul Urkijo from Araba, shot entirely in Basque and *70 binladens* (2016), by Koldo Serra from Biscay. Of no less importance is the privileged relationship that Álex de la Iglesia continues to maintain with audiences: *Perfectos desconocidos* (2017) attracted more than three million viewers to cinemas and, in general, his films achieve a very good balance between critical reaction and box office figures. *Las brujas de Zugarramurdi* (2013) is paradigmatic: eight Goya awards and more than 800,000 viewers. And thirty years after his debut, one should point out the loyalty of the Bilbao native to fellow Basque talents who started out with him: his habitual co-scriptwriter (Jorge Guerricaechevarría) and those responsible for artistic direction, *Biaffra y Arri* (Arturo García and José Luis Arrizabalaga, respectively).

Daniel Calparsoro is another of the filmmakers who has decided (and been able) to put his foot on the accelerator: seven feature films directed and the participation in at least five television series. Enrique Urbizu already foresaw this in 2017: "We are fortunate. We live alongside the work of our generational companions. We continue to shoot. I know that Daniel Calparsoro has no intention of staying at home speculating about his future. He is always working. That is what it is all about: the best thing about making films is making films"<sup>96</sup>. And that is what the San Sebastian director is doing: he is going through a period of great intensity in his career, aided by the propulsion and media of digital platforms. Filming and filming: thrillers, war films, robberies, speed, adrenaline, an uncommon technical excellence and a desire to not give up describing his characters. In some of his films that have worked the most appears a habitual Basque scriptwriter for Álex de la Iglesia: Jorge Guerricaechevarría. *Cien años de perdón* (2016), for example, attracted more than a million viewers to cinemas.

Helena Taberna, Juanma Bajo Ulloa and Julio Medem each managed to premiere two feature films in this period, remaining faithful to their signs if identity. In regard to the director from Navarre, she has combined fiction (*Acantilado*, 2016) and non-fiction (*Varados*, 2019), a constant feature of her filmography. The Vitoria-Gasteiz native shifts between the *auteur* approach of his first two films (*Baby*, 2020) and the coarse comedy which marked *Airbag* (*Rey gitano*, 2015). The director from San Sebastian achieved the involvement of the international star Penélope Cruz to make *ma ma* (2015) and persevered with some of his obsessions (love, indifference, sex, madness, jealousy and infidelity) in *El árbol de la sangre* (2018).

The landscape would not be complete if we did not make some reference to Pablo Berger from Bilbao, a generational companion who made his first feature film somewhat later than the rest (*Torretemolinos 73*, 2003). His second film, *Blancanieves* (2012), was a formidable success which was awarded ten Goyas: in black and white, silent and superbly staged to boldly transport the tale by the Grimm brothers to a surprising universe. Berger has never ceased to ask himself "about the chiaroscuros of the Spanish character since his foundational short film *Mama* (1988)" and with *Abracadabra* (2017) demonstrated once again coherence in an imaginative exercise in a kind of costumbrismo or artistic interpretation of local everyday life and customs<sup>97</sup>. In *Robot dreams* (2023) he entered into, without any dialogue, the field of animation, adapting the graphic novel by the American Sara Varon, a story of friendship between a dog and a robot in New York.



**39. Ke arteko egunak**  
(Antxon Ezeiza, 1989)  
**40. Bertsolari** (Asier Altuna, 2011)

### EUSKARAZKO ZINEMAREN URRATSERRALDOIEN

Ezin azalduko litzateke 2011. urtetik gaur arte euskarak euskal zinemaren duen presentzia handiagoa eta garrantzitsuagoa, gorago aipatutako aurrekariak kontuan hartu gabe. André Madré-ren (*Gure Sor Lekua*, 1956) film luzea eta Gotzon Elortzaren film laburrak mugarririk dira istorio horretan. Garrantzizkoak izan ziren, halaber, 1976ko Euskal Zinemaren Jardunaldietan egindako hausnarketa teorikoak eta, are gehiago, Antxon Ezeizaren ideiak *Ikuska* (1978-1984) film labur sortaren proiektuaren bitartez praktikan jarri izana. Eusko Jaurlaritzak euskarazko ekoizpenak sustatzeko egindako lehen ahaleginen sakonen helburua 1985ean hiru literatura-lanetan oinarritutako metraje ertaineko hiru film ekoiztea izan zen<sup>98</sup>: Anjel Lertxundiren *Hamaseigarrenean aidanez* (bi urte geroago *Kareletik* film luzea ere osorik euskaraz egin zuen), Alfonso Ungría-ren *Ehun metro* eta Xabier Elorriagaren *Zergatik panpox*. *Ke arteko egunak* izan zen (Antxon Ezeiza, 1989) Donostiarra Zinemaldiko Sail Ofizialean lehiatu zen euskarazko lehen filma. Juanba Berasategik, animazioaren alorrean, aurrerago ikusiko dugun bezala, eta Koldo Izagirrek (*Off-eko maitasuna*, 1992), Ezeizarekin maiz lan egin egindakoak<sup>99</sup>, arlo honetan izandako borondatuei eztutu behar XX. mendearren azken hamarkadan euskara zinema-hizkuntza gisa izan zuen aldarte ahula.

Denborak aurrera egin ahala, egoera pixkanaka zuzenduz joan zen, modu apalean XXI. mendeko lehen hamarkadan, eta hobekuntza argibatekin 2011tik aurrera. Arrazoia askotarikoak dira: hobeto egokitutako laguntza-politika publikoa<sup>100</sup>, argudio soziologikoak bai euskarazko zinemara sortzeko bai jasotzeko, eta talentuaren esku-hartze erabakigarria. Izen ere, hemen kontua ez da film luzeen kopurua, baizik eta horien kalitatea, zinema-jaialdietan, kritiketan, audientzieta jasotako aitzortza ikusita, eta, Euskal Herrian zein hemendik kanpo, eskuratutako sariei erreparatuz. Eta azken hori bereziki garrantzitsua da, zinematografia baten heldutasunaren frogatua: zer oihartzun sor dezakeen bere mugetatik at.

### GIGANTIC STEPS IN BASQUE-LANGUAGE CINEMA

It would be impossible to explain the greater and more important presence of the Basque language in Basque cinema between 2011 and today without having been aware of the previously mentioned antecedents. André Madré's feature length film (*Gure Sor Lekua*, 1956) and Gotzon Elortza's short films are milestones in this history. The theoretical reflections in the Debates on Basque Cinema in 1976 were also important as was, more still, Antxon Ezeiza's putting these ideas into practice through the *Ikuska* project of a series of short films (1978-1984). The first significant efforts by the Basque Government to foster productions in Basque were aimed at making three medium length films in 1985 based on three literary works<sup>98</sup>: *Hamaseigarrenean aidanez* by Anjel Lertxundi (who two years later filmed the feature length *Kareletik* entirely in Basque), *Ehun metro* by Alfonso Ungría and *Zergatik panpox* by Xabier Elorriaga. *Ke arteko egunak* (Antxon Ezeiza, 1989) had the merit of being the first film in Basque to compete in the Official Section of the San Sebastian Festival. Juanba Berasategi's firm will in this field in animation, as we will see later, and of Koldo Izagirre (*Off-eko maitasuna*, 1992), who had already collaborated frequently with Ezeiza<sup>99</sup>, must not hide the frankly fragile state of health of Basque as a cinematographic language in the 1990s.

The situation would correct itself little by little with the passage of time, in a limited way during the first decade of the twenty-first century, and with clear improvement after 2011. There were multiple reasons for this: certain public policies with more appropriate funding<sup>100</sup>, sociological arguments both in favour of artistic creation and the reception of cinema in the Basque language and the decisive intervention of talent. It would not be a question here of insisting on the quantity of feature films, but rather on their quality in light of their repercussion at film festivals, for critics, audiences, awards and the recognition received both in and outside the Basque Country. And the latter is especially important since it is proof of the maturity of a cinematography: what echoes can be generated outside one's own borders.

In 2009, the San Sebastian Festival changed from holding a Debate on Basque Cinema to the creation of a section, Zinemira, which sought to offer a daily window display of premieres, of films which had already premiered and short films (Kimuak)<sup>101</sup>. In 2005, Asier Altuna and Telmo Esnal had together made a milestone work in Basque-language cinema, *Aupa Etxebeste!*, which helped to break the previous negative dynamics with its considerable audience success: 71,976 viewers. In the 2011 edition, they each offered a film: *Bertsolari* (Asier Altuna, 2011), a journey full of beauty through improvised poetry in Basque *Urte berri on, amona!* (Telmo Esnal, 2011), an intense black



2009an, Donostiako Zinemaldia, Euskal Zinemaren Jardunaldi bat izatetik, Zinemira izeneko sail oso bat sortzena igaro zen. Sail horrek estreinaldien, jada estreinatutako filmen eta film laburren (*Kimuak*) erakusleihoko bat eskaini zuten euskal zinemaren beste mugarririk, *Aupa Etxebeste!*, aurreko dinamika negatiboak hausten lagundu zuena, 71.976 ikusle lortu arteko arrakastarekin. 2011ko edizioan, bakarka filmatutako bien film bana agertu ziren: *Bertsolari* (Asier Altuna, 2011), edertasunez beteriko bidaia bertsolaritzan barrena, eta *Urte berri on, amona!* (Telmo Esnal, 2011), irakurketa ugari dituen komedia beltz bizia. Lehenengoak Sail Ofizialean parte hartu zuen, lehiaz kanpo, eta bigarrenak «Zabaltegi. Zuzendari Berriak» Sailean hartu zuen parte. Garrantzitsuena zera izan zen, industriaren inguruko berezko zaitasunak gorabehera, seinale positiboak sumatzen hasi zirela euskararentzat zein euskal zinemarentzat; gakoak honako hauek ziren: kalitatea, konplexurik eza, eta kanpoan beste cinematografía batzuekin batera agertu beharra<sup>102</sup>. Hori bera egin berri zuen *80 egunean* filmak (Jon Garaño eta Jose Mari Goenaga, 2010): munduan zehar dozenaka jaialditan paseatu zen eta hogeita hamar sari baino gehiago bildu zituen. Filmaren ekoizlea, 2001ean sorturiko Moriarti Produkzioak, oro har euskal zinemaren eta bereziki euskarazko euskal zinemaren albiste onenetako batzuen epizentroa izan da. Oso lan-metodo berezia sendotzen ari zen. Kide ziren zinemagileen taldea elkarlaneko hastapenetatik egileta benetan kolektiboetara igaro zen, gero eta espezializazio zehatzago, eta gero eta nazioarteko aitortza handiagoarekin. 2014an, *Loreak* filmak (Jon Garaño eta Jose Mari Goenaga), azkenik, Donostiako Zinemaldiko Sail Ofizialean osorik euskaraz filmatutako film bat sartzea ekarri zuen, eta bertan behera utzi zituen hainbat aurreiritzi. Norbait maitatua galdu duten eta pertsona anonimo baten lore-sorta misteriosuak jasotzen dituzten hiru emakume protagonisten istorioak laudorio ugari jaso zituen bere «pultsu narratibo bikainagatik», «hizkuntza unibertsal batean adierazteagatik», «zentzu poetikoak zeharkatutako zinema izateagatik», «ikusleak Donostian, München zein Tokion hunkitzeagatik» eta «zerbait erakargarria bezain ez kongrentzionala izateagatik»<sup>103</sup>. Urte berekoak dira *Lasa eta Zabala* (Pablo Malo), *Negociador* (Borja Cobeaga) eta *Los tontos y los estúpidos* (Roberto Castón) filmak ere, eta horrek ekarri zuen Zinemaldiaren urte horretako edizioa «euskarazko historikotzat» jo izana; irudipen hori bera aurreratu zen bi hilabete lehenago UPV/EHUen Euskadiko Filmattegiak arloaren egoerari buruz antolatutako kongresu batean, zinemagileen eta mundu akademikoaren parte-hartzearekin<sup>104</sup>.



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**41.** *Urte berri on, amona!* (Telmo Esnal, 2011)

**42.** *Loreak* (Jon Garaño, Jose Mari Goenaga, 2014)

comedy with multiple interpretations. The former was part of the Official Section, outside the competition, and the latter competed within the frame of the Zabaltegi New Directors Section. What was important was that there was a perception that, in spite of the intrinsic industrial difficulties, one could begin to discern positive signals for Basque and for Basque films, with the key being quality, a lack of any insecurities and the need to appear externally alongside other films<sup>102</sup>. This is what *80 egunean* (Jon Garaño and Jose Mari Goenaga, 2010) has just done, travelling all over the world in festivals and achieving more than thirty awards. The film's production company, Moriarti Produkzioak, created in 2001, has been at the epicentre of some of the best news for Basque cinema in general and Basque films in the Basque language in particular. It consolidated a very particular work method. The group of filmmakers that make up the company developed from completely collaborative beginnings to truly collective working practices, gradual specialisation and growing international recognition for their work. In 2014, *Loreak* (Jon Garaño and Jose Mari Goenaga) implied at the end a film shot entirely in Basque in the Official Section of the San Sebastian Festival and demolished quite a few prejudices. The story of the three leading women characters who have lost a loved one and who receive mysterious bunches of flowers anonymously received an endless number of eulogies for its "exquisite narrative beat", for knowing how to "express itself in a universal language", for being "film imbued with the poetic", "it moved San Sebastian, Munich and Tokyo" and for being "something both attractive and nonconventional"<sup>103</sup>. This was also the year of *Lasa eta Zabala* (Pablo Malo), *Negociador* (Borja Cobeaga) and *Los tontos y los estúpidos* (Roberto Castón), so that this edition of the festival was classified as "historic for Basque cinema", a situation which had already been sensed two months earlier at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) in a conference organised by the Basque Film Archive on the basis of the state of the issue on the topic with the presence of filmmakers and the academic world<sup>104</sup>.

Txintxua Films, another of the standout production companies during these years, was behind *Amama* (Asier Altuna, 2015), the story of a Basque family that unravelled universal conflicts between the urban and the rural, tradition and the present. Once more, another Basque-language film was competing in the Official Section at the San Sebastian Festival. Its kinship with *Tasio* (Montxo Armendariz, 1984) and *Vacas* (Julio Medem, 1991) was frequently underscored. And, generally speaking, the critics were favourable:

Txintxua Films-ek, urte horietako beste ekoiztetxe nabarmenetako batek, *Amama* (Asier Altuna, 2015) plazaratu zuen. Euskal familia baten historia, hiri-arloaren eta landa-arloaren, tradizioaren eta orainaren arteko gatazka unibertsalak deskorapilatzen zituen. Berriz ere, euskarazko film bat lehiatu zen Donostia Zinemaldiko Sail Ofizialean. Sarritan aipatu ziren filmaren ahaidetasunak Montxo Armendarizen *Tasio-rekin* (1984) eta Julio Medemen *Vacas-ekin* (1991). Eta, oro har, kritikak alde azaldu ziren: *Amama-n* euskal zinema «bere osotasunean» agertzen omen zen; zuzendariaren «pelikularik lirikoena eta ederrena», eta «indar poetikoa» eta «berezitasun handia» zituen<sup>105</sup>. Zinemaldian euskal film onenaren saria eskuratu zuen, eta handik hiru egunera jakin zen *Loreak* pelikulak Espania ordezkatuko zuela Oscar sarietan; ordura arte ez zen horrelakorik gertatu euskarazko film batekin.

Mugarri-segida horri, sonatuena gehitu beharko litzaiokе oraindik: *Handia* (Aitor Arregi eta Jon Garaño, 2017). Benetako gertaeretan oinarrituta, filmak Altzoko erraldoiaren istorioa kontatzen zuen, baita anaiarekin batera Europan zehar egindako bidaia luzea ere, ambizioa, dirua eta ospea argumentuaren ardatz hartuta. Donostiako Sail Ofizialean lehiatu zen, epai-maiaren sari berezia lortu zuen, ondoren nazioarteko hirurogeita hamar jaialdi baino gehiagotan parte hartu, eta hogeita hamar sari baino gehiago eskuratu zituen. Eta azpimarratu beharrekoak dira 2018an jaso zituen hamar Goya sariak, Euskal Herriko zinemaren industriari egindako aitorta orokorra izan baitzen. Prentsak pelikularen «ikusizko eta musikazko gustu bizia», «ikus-eraikuntza oroigarria (...), pinpirinkeriarik eta sentimentalismorik gabe hunkitzeko gaitasuna» eta, jakina, «argazkigintzako, musikako eta zuzendaritza artistikoko aparatu formal bikaina» azpimarratu zituen<sup>106</sup>.

*Handia* filmak jasotako laudorio ugariez gain, arrakasta horren irakurketa teleskopikoa azpimarratu behar da hemen. Euskal zinemagintza beste fase batean sartua zela ziurtatzen zuten analisi ugari egin ziren, *lehen mailan* jokatzen zuela jada nazioarteko banaketaren esparruan emandako pausoен argitan, pelikula hori mugarriz zela aurrekoaren eta ostekoaren artean, edo, hemen ere saihestuko ez ditugun hitz-jokoetara joz, euskal zinema erraldoi bihurtzen ari zela<sup>107</sup>. Angel Aldarondo kritikari eta zinemagileak adierazi zuen filma ikusi ondoren etxera itzultzen zirenei *Handia*-ren oroitzapena etengabe haziko zitzaiela<sup>108</sup>. Zentzuzkoa dirudi Eneko Sagardoy aktoreak protagonista erraldoi gisa duen irudia jada euskal zinemaren historiako ikono saihestezina dela esatea. Izan ere, bost urte baino gehiago igaro ondoren, etengabe hazi da.

- 43.** *Handia* (Aitor Arregi, Jon Garaño, 2017)  
**44.** *Oreina* (Koldo Almundoz, 2018)



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in *Amama*, Basque cinema manifested itself “in all its fullness”; it was the “most lyrical and most beautiful film” by its director, it possessed “poetic force” and “enormous singularity”<sup>105</sup>. It won the prize for best Basque film at the Festival and barely three days later, it was announced that *Loreak* would represent Spain at the Oscars, something unheard of until then for a film in Basque.

In addition to this series of milestones one would still have to add the most resounding: *Handia* (Aitor Arregi and Jon Garaño, 2017). Based on a true story, the film told the story of the Giant of Altzo and his long journey across Europe alongside his brother with a focus on the ambition, money and fame involved in the adventure. It competed in the Official Section of the San Sebastian Festival, gaining the Jury’s Special Prize, and later took part in more than sixty international festivals, obtaining more than thirty awards. And one must underline the ten Goya awards it received in 2018 since it was, in every way, a general recognition for the film industry in the Basque Country. The press remarked on the film’s “great visual and musical taste”, its “evocative visual construction (...), its ability to move without kitsch, without sentimentality” and, of course, its “formidable formal apparatus of photography, music and artistic direction”<sup>106</sup>.

Beyond the innumerable eulogies *Handia* received, it is interesting here to highlight the telescopic interpretation resulting from this success. There were multiple analyses which certified that Basque cinema had entered into a different phase, that it was now playing in the first division in light of the steps taken in the field of international distribution, that the film implied a watershed moment and, turning to wordplay once more which have not avoided here, that Basque cinema had become a giant<sup>107</sup>. The critic and filmmaker Angel Aldarondo contended that for those who returned home after seeing the film, the memory of *Handia* would never cease to grow<sup>108</sup>. It seems reasonable to argue that the image of the actor Eneko Sagardoy as the main character, the giant, is already an inescapable icon of the history of Basque cinema. After more than five years, in fact, it has not stopped growing.

If in *Handia* we had journeyed to the nineteenth century, a year later, *Oreina* (Koldo Almundoz, 2018) came to demonstrate that Basque cinema in the Basque language also sought to tell stories with two feet in the present: Khalil, its main character, tries to make a life for himself between industrial estates, the river and the marshland. He spends his days alongside an old poacher who shares a house with his brother with whom he has not spoken in years. Its characters, far from being stereotypes, its attachment to reality at the same time as its impressionist desire and its obsession with fleeing from the obvious helped it to be named the best Basque film at the San Sebastian

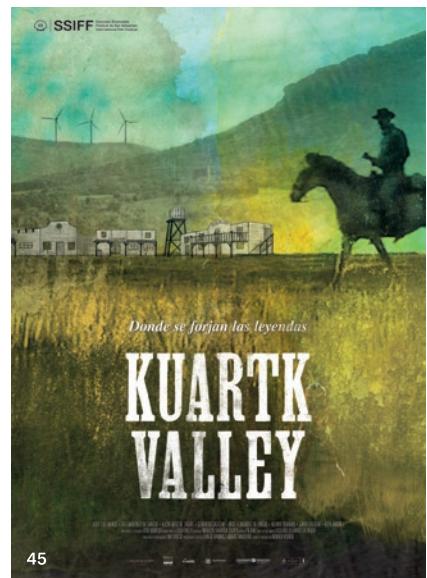


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Handia-rekin XIX. mendera bidaiatu baguenen, urtebete geroago, *Oreina* filmak (Koldo Almandoz, 2018) erakutsi zuen euskal zinemak ere hanka biak orainaldian pausaturik nahi zituela istorioak kontatu: Khalil, protagonista, industrialdeen, ibaiaren eta paduraren artean aritzen da bizimoduaren bila. Egunak isileko ehizan diharduen agure baten ondoan ematen ditu. Ehiztariak aspaldian hitz egiten ez duen anaia batekin partekatzen du etxea. Estereo-tipoetatik aldendutako pertsonaiek, errealityarekiko atxikimenduak eta, aldi berean, bere borondate inpresionistak eta begien bistakotik ihes egiteko obsesioak Donostiako Zinemaldiko euskal film onena izendatzeko balio izan zioten, eta ondoren ibilbide bikaina egiteko. Nolanahi ere, Almendozen kasuan, mugak beti dira porotsuak fikzioaren eta ez-fikzioaren artean, *Sipo phantasma* (2016) lanean erakutsi zuen bezala.

Hain zuzen ere, ez-fikzioan aurkitu du eremu emankorra euskarazko zinemak, atal honetan aztertutako aldian. Oskar Alegria areago da zoriaren eta bilaketen artista, ziurtasunen eta jomugen artista baino, eta alderdi horretatik nabarmendu da, euskara baita bere bi filmen abiapuntuetako bat: *La casa Emak Bakia* filmean (2011), Man Ray baliatu zen euskal hizkuntzaz 1926ko bere film laburrari izenburua emateko; *Zumiriki-n* (2019), berriz, iraganari, ilunaldiei, galduztako hitzei eta paisaiei buruzko gogoeta poetikoa dugu. Biek ala biek egindako jaialdi-ibilbidea apartekoia izan zen, sarien zerrrenda oso nabarmena, eta laudorio ugariak, oso entzutetsuak (Vila-Matas, Atxaga, Molina Foix, etab.). Alegriarentzat artea da «azaldu ezin den hori, ordenaren aurrean»<sup>109</sup>.

Maider Oleagak, halaber, ez-fikzioaren zerbitzura jarri du bere talentua, mamian eta forman arriskatuz, *Amaren ideia* (2010), *Muga deitzen da pausoia* (2018) edo *Kuartk valley* (2021) bezalako filmetan; eta hainbat baliabide erabiliz, hala nola: «off-eko ahotsaren erabilera, bere nian arakatzea, dokumentalaren itxurazko objektibotasunaren haustura, ikus-entzunezko lengoaiai buruzko etengabeko hausnarketa»<sup>110</sup>. Berarekin baliabideak partekatzen dituen Iratxe Fresneda unibertsitateko irakasle eta zinemagileak «erregistroaren eta memoriaren» trilogia koherentea osatu berri du: *Irrintziaren oihartzunak* (2016), Mirentxu Loiarte film laburren arloko euskal aitzindariari buruzkoa; *Lurralde hotzak* (2018), zinema-irudien eta memoriaren garrantziari buruzko *road movie* bat; eta *Tetuán* (2022), bilaketa pertsonalagoa, eta bestearenganako estereotiporik gabeko begirada bat. Josu Martínez polifazetiko eta emankorraren dokumentalek honako oinarriak hartzen dituzte: euskal gatazkaren hainbat alderdi (*Itsasoaren alaba*, 2009)<sup>111</sup>, memoria historikoa (*Debekatuta dago oroitzaea*, 2010), euskal pertsona ospetsuak (*Jainkoak ez dit barkatzen*, 2018) edo Euskal Herriko ondare zinematografikoari buruzko ikerketak (*Gure sor lekuaren bila*, 2015)<sup>112</sup>. Lehen «Chicas de Pasaik» deitutako Maider Fernández-ek eta María Elorza beren lehen film luzearekin egin dute debutua Donostiako Zinemaldiko «New Directors» sailean: hurrenez hurren, *Las letras de Jordi* (2019) eta *A los libros y a las mujeres canto* (2022). Leire Apellaniz-ek zinemarekiko maitasun-kantu eder eta amaiera aldeko bat sinatu zuen bere opera primarekin, *El último verano* (2016). Eta hemen ez dago ahazterik Fermín Muguruzak musika-dokumentalaren esparruan eginiko lanak (*Zuloak*, 2012), Telmo Esnal-en euskal dantzen munduan



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45. Kuartk valley  
(Maider Oleaga, 2021)

46. Gartxot (Asisko Urmeneta, Juanjo Elordi, 2011)

Festival and later enjoy a remarkable journey. In any event, the boundaries between fiction and non-fiction are always porous in the case of Almundoz, as he had already demonstrated in *Sipo phantasma* (2016).

It is precisely in non-fiction that the Basque language found fertile ground in the period under study in this section. Oskar Alegria, an artist of chance and searches rather than of certainties and goals, has excelled in this aspect, since Basque is one of the starting points for his two films: in *La casa Emak Bakia* (2011) it was Man Ray who had used Basque to title his 1926 short film; while *Zumiriki* (2019) harbours a poetic reflection on the past, on lost sunsets, words and the landscapes. The journey that both made around festivals was extraordinary, the list of awards notable and the flood of praise very prestigious (Vila-Matas, Atxaga, Molina Foix, etc.). Art is for Alegria “the unexplainable in the face of order”<sup>109</sup>.

Maider Oleaga has also put her talent at the service of non-fiction, taking risks in content and form in films like *Amaren ideia* (2010), *Muga deitzen da pausoia* (2018) and *Kuartk valley* (2021), and making use of resources

like “the use of voice-over, an exploration of her own self, the break with the supposed objectivity of the documentary, [and] constant reflection on audio-visual language”<sup>110</sup>. Her fellow Biscay native, the university professor and filmmaker Iratxe Fresneda, shares the same tools and has just completed her coherent trilogy of “register and memory”: *Irrintziaren oihartzunak* (2016), about Mirentxu Loyarte, the Basque pioneer in the field of short films; *Lurralde hotzak* (2018), a road movie about the transcendence of images and memory in the cinema; and *Tetuán* (2022), a more personal search and a gaze at the other without stereotyping. The multifaceted and prolific Josu Martínez has focused his documentaries on different aspects of the Basque conflict (*Itsasoaren alaba*, 2009)<sup>111</sup>, historical memory (*Debekatuta dago oroitzaea*, 2010), Basque figures (*Jainkoak ez dit barkatzen*, 2018) and research into film heritage in the Basque Country (*Gure sor lekuaren bila*, 2015)<sup>112</sup>. The so-called “Pasaik girls”, Maider Fernandez and María Elorza, debuted respectively with their first feature length documentary in the New Directors section of the San Sebastian Festival: *Las letras de Jordi* (2019) and *A los libros y a las mujeres canto* (2022). Leire Apellaniz made a beautiful crepuscular love song with her first work, *El último verano* (2016). And one must not forget here the works in the music documentary field of Fermín Muguruza (*Zuloak*, 2012), the very personal and aesthetic immersion in the world of Basque dance by Telmo Esnal (*Dantza*, 2018) and the numerous and multi award-winning works of Pablo Iraburu and Migueltxo Molina (*Muros*, 2015) and Gaizka Urresti (*Labordeta, un hombre sin más*, 2022).

Animation films have been particularly fertile ground. One influential reason for this is that much of commercial animation has been aimed at young audiences and public grants have also helped production in Basque as the original version (thirty-four out of forty-six features between 1985 and 2017). Nevertheless, it is worth underlining the involvement in this regard of a filmmaker like Juanba Berasategi (*Kalabaza tripontzia*, 1985): without doubt, much of the consolidation and professionalisation of commercial animation films nowadays is due to his resolve<sup>113</sup>. Subsequently, he was joined by Joxean Muñoz and Txabi Basterretxea (*Karramarro uhartea*, 2000), Maite Ruiz de

egindako murgiltze pertsonal eta estetikoa (*Dantza*, 2018), edo Pablo Iraburu eta Migueltxo Molinaren (*Muros*, 2015), edo Gaizka Urrestiren (*Labordeta, un hombre sin más*, 2022) lan ugari eta arras sarituak.

Animaziozko zinema alor bereziki emankorra izan da. Eragina izan du animazio komertzialaren zati handi bat haurrei zuzenduta egon izanak, eta laguntza publikoek ere erraztu dute euskarazko ekoizpena jatorrizko hizkuntza gisa (46 film luzetatik, 34, 1985 eta 2017 artean). Hala ere, merezi du azpimarratzea Juanba Berasategi (*Kalabaza tripontzia*, 1985) bezalako zinemagile aitzindari baten implikazioa: haren ahaleginari zor zaio, zalan-tzarik gabe, gaur egungo animazio komertzialeko zinemaren sendotze eta profesionalizazioaren paska handi bat<sup>113</sup>. Geroago etorri ziren Joxean Muñoz eta Txabi Basterretxea (*Karramarro uhartea*, 2000), Maite Ruiz de Austri (*La leyenda del unicornio*, 2001), Gregorio Muro eta Carlos Zabala (*El rey de la granja*, 2002), Agurtzane Intxaurreaga (*Teresa eta Galtzagorri*, 2016), Ángel Alonso (*Elcano y Magallanes, la primera vuelta al mundo*, 2019) eta abar. Helduentzako animazioaren arloan, besteak beste nabarmendu dira Asisko Urmeneta eta Juanjo Elordi (*Gartxot*, 2011), Pedro Rivero (*Psiconautas, los niños olvidados*, 2015), Fermín Muguruza (*Black is beltza*, 2018) eta Raúl de la Fuente (*Un día más con vida*, 2019). Animazio esperimentalak gero eta garrantzi handiagoa hartu du film laburren esparruan, emakume zuzendari batzuen talentuari esker: Begoña Vicario (*Haragia*, 2000), Isabel Herguera (*Ámar*, 2009) eta Izibene Oñederra (*Hezurbeltzak, una fosa común*, 2008). Egile-esparru horretan, gogoz itxaroten da Isabel Herguerak film luzerako jauzia, *El sueño de la sultana* (2023) pelikularekin.

## EUSKAL ZINEMA HEDATZEN ARI DA

Isabel Herguera izan zen, hain zuzen ere, aurretik aipatutako *Cine vasco: tres generaciones de cineastas liburuaren azalaren egilea*, 2014an. Ber- tan, zuhaitz ezberdinez betetako baso bat margotu zuen, mendi elurtuen



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**47.** *El sueño de la sultana* (Isabel Herguera, 2023)

**48.** (H)emen gaude argazkia 2023ko Zinemaldian.

**48.** "(H)emen gaude" photography San Sebastian Festival, 2023.



Austri (*La leyenda del unicornio*, 2001), Gregorio Muro and Carlos Zabala (*El rey de la granja*, 2002), Agurtzane Intxaurreaga (*Teresa eta Galtzagorri*, 2016), Ángel Alonso (*Elcano y Magallanes, la primera vuelta al mundo*, 2019), and so on. In the field of adult animation, among others, Asisko Urmeneta and Juanjo Elordi (*Gartxot*, 2011), Pedro Rivero (*Psiconautas, los niños olvidados*, 2015), Fermín Muguruza (*Black is beltza*, 2018) and Raúl de la Fuente (*Un día más con vida*, 2019) have stood out. Experimental animation has grown in importance in the field of short films thanks to the talent of directors like Begoña Vicario (*Haragia*, 2000), Isabel Herguera (*Ámar*, 2009) and Izibene Oñederra (*Hezurbeltzak, una fosa común*, 2008). In this very *auteur* environment, the move to feature length films by Isabel Herguera with her *El sueño de la sultana* (2023) was eagerly awaited.

## BASQUE CINEMA EXPANDS

In 2014, Isabel Herguera was, precisely, responsible for designing the front cover of a book which has been previously cited: *Cine vasco: tres generaciones de cineastas*. Therein, she painted a forest full of different trees with a background made up of snow-covered mountains. How is this forest in 2023? We would dare to say that it is bigger, with more different trees and many more branches that reach even higher. In spite of the complexity of the lush landscape, allow me to briefly bring the metaphor down to earth with some data, thereby fleeing from the risk that Bob Dylan already warned us about: believing only what is convenient for us.

The happiest of the reasons why this forest of filmmakers has expanded its surface area in recent years is the disembarkation of many women in the directorial area, which contrasts with their rather scarce number in the last quarter of the twentieth century. The creation in 2016 of (H)emen as the Association of Women Professionals in the Audio-visual and Scenic Arts Sector of the Basque Country, the growth of mentoring initiatives (encouraged by the Basque Government) such as NOKA, the efforts of scheduling policies and, in general, fairer public funding distribution systems are, without doubt, favouring the visibility and work of women<sup>114</sup>. Even so, there is still room to make up until there is equality in film directing, especially in the field of fiction. The work of the already cited Bellon, Díez and Taberna and, later, of Arantxa Lazkano, Nuria Ruiz Cabestany, Aizpea Goenaga and



hondoarekin. Nolakoa da euskal zinemaren baso hori 2023aren hasieran? Handiagoa dela esatera ausartzen gara, zuhaitz ezberdin gehiagorekin, eta gorago iristen diren askoz adar gehiagorekin. Paisaia hostotsuaren konplexutasuna gorabehera, lurrera ekar dezagun metafora hori datu batzuekin, Bob Dylanek ohartarazi zigun arriskuari ihes eginez: alegia, komeni zaiguna baizik ez sinestea.

Zinemagileen baso horrek azken urteetan bere azalera zabaltzeko izan duen arrazoirik zoragarriena emakume asko zuzendaritzan lanetan hasi izana da, alde ederra XX. mendearen azken laurdenean izan zuten kopuru txikia-rekin. 2016an (*H*) emen Euskal Autonomia Erkidegoko Ikus-entzunezkoen eta Arte Eszenikoen Sektoreko Emakume Profesionalen Elkartea gisa sortu izana; Eusko Jaurlaritzaren bultzadarekin, NOKA bezalako mentoretza-ekimenak sortu izana; programazio-politiken bidez eta, oro har, dirulaguntza publikoak banatzeko sistema bidezkoagoekin egindako ahaleginak: horiek guztiak emakumeen ikusgarritasuna eta lana bultzatzen ari dira, zalantzak gabe<sup>114</sup>. Hala ere, bada oraindik ere zinema-zuzendaritzan parekotasunerako tartea, batez ere fikzioaren arloan. Aipatutako Bellon, Díez edo Tabernaren lanari edo, geroago, Arantxa Lazcano, Nuria Ruiz Cabestany, Aizpea Goenaga edo Mireia Gabilondoren jardunari gehitu zaizkio Lara Izagirre (*Un otoño sin Berlín*, 2015), Ana Murugarren (*La higuera de los bastardos*, 2017), Arantxa Echevarría (*Carmen y Lola*, 2018), Andrea Jaurrieta (*Ana de día*, 2018) eta Jaione Camborda-renak (*Arima*, 2019). Oraintsuago, Alauda Ruiz de Azúa eta Estibaliz Urresola bezalako bi zuzendariren agerpen distiratsua, eta Berlingo Zinemalditik igarotzea, azken hamarkadetako euskal zinemagintzaren albisterik onenetako bat izan da: lehen filma «Panorama» sailean egon zen *Cinco lobitos* lanarekin (2022), eta bigarrena Sail Ofizialean *20.000 especies de abejas-ekin* (2023)<sup>115</sup>. Hemen ezin gara luzatu, baina ekoizpen-etxeen kopurua ere nabarmen hazi da: Puy Oria, Nahikari Ipiña, Marian Fernández, Leire Apellaniz, Amaia Remírez, Doxa Producciones, etab<sup>116</sup>.

**49.** *20.000 especies de abejas* (Estibaliz Urresola, 2022)

**50.** *Suro* (Mikel Gurrea, 2022)

Mireia Gabilondo, has been joined by that of Lara Izagirre (*Un otoño sin Berlín*, 2015), Ana Murugarren (*La higuera de los bastardos*, 2017), Arancha Echevarría (*Carmen y Lola*, 2018), Andrea Jaurrieta (*Ana de día*, 2018) and Jaione Camborda (*Arima*, 2019). More recently, the brilliant breakout of directors like Alauda Ruiz de Azúa and Estibaliz Urresola, who have presented at the Berlin Festival, has constituted one of the best pieces of news for Basque cinema in recent decades: the former was in the Panorama section with *Cinco lobitos* (2022) and the latter in the Official Section with *20.000 especies de abejas* (2023)<sup>115</sup>. Space precludes an exhaustive list here, but the number of women producers has also grown notably: Puy Oria, Nahikari Ipiña, Marian Fernández, Leire Apellaniz, Amaia Remírez, Doxa Producciones, and so forth<sup>116</sup>.

If the ground of this imaginary forest has grown in surface area, we could likewise say that the branches of its trees have multiplied. There is practically no genre that Basque cinema does not dare address at present. In comedy, Borja Cobeaga and his habitual scriptwriter Diego San José have created in the comedy field accurate portraits of Basque society. Ana Murugarren, Kepa Sojo, Jabi Elortegi, Mireia Gabilondo and Patxo Tellería are other common names in this genre. Following, perhaps, in the wake of Álex de la Iglesia and with the FANT festival in Bilbao and the San Sebastian Horror and Fantasy Film Festival functioning as real mines of talent, directors such as Koldo Serra, Aritz Moreno, Paul Urkijo, Igor Legorreta, Gaztelu-Urrutia and Luiso Berdejo have moved willingly between thriller and horror, by way of fantasy films which often never renounce maintaining their feet on the ground. To conclude, there are numerous branches of a more social and intimate cinema that we might also align with filmmakers of previous generations in numerous cases: Almandoz, Altuna, Izagirre, Garaño, Goenaga, Arregi, Gurrea, Pérez Sañudo, Urresola, Arana, among others.

Evaluating the moment which Basque cinematography is going through is a complex task: its presence at international festivals, the prizes it has received, its reception in cinemas, critical reaction and its potential repercussions in digital platforms can all give us an approximate idea. The mention of some examples serves to sketch out a very complex panorama which would require much more space. In 2022, to the already mentioned and very notable Basque participations in competitive sections at the San Sebastian Festival was added Mikel Gurrea's *Suro*, with the novelty that his very first work was directly part of the Official Section of the competition<sup>117</sup>.



Irudimenezko baso horren lurzoruak azalera handitu badu, halaber esan genezake zuhaitz-adarrak ere ugaldu egin zaizkiola. Ez dago ia zinema-generorik euskal zinema gaur egun jorratzen ausartzen ez denik. Komedian, Borja Cobeagak eta bere ohiko gidoilarri Diego San Josek euskal gizartearen erretratu egokiak sinatu dituzte, umorearen ikuspegitik. Ana Murugarren, Kepa Sojo, Jabi Elortegi, Mireia Gabilondo edo Patxo Telleria ere ohiko ize-nak dira genero horretan. Álex de la Iglesiak irekitako arrastoari jarraituz, eta benetako harrobi gisa funtzionatzen dutela Bilboko FANT jaialdiak eta Donostiako Fantasiazko eta Beldurrezko Zinemaren Asteak, Koldo Serra, Aritz Moreno, Paul Urkijo, Igor Legorreta, Gaztelu-Urrutia edo Luis Berdejo bezalako zuzendariak thrillerraren eta beldurrezko zinemaren arteko bokazioz mugitu dira, sarritan errealitatean oin bat izateari uko egiten ez dion fantasiazko zinema batekin. Amaitzeko, zinema sozialago eta intimistago bateko adar ugari daude, kasu askotan aurreko belaunaldieta zinemagileekin ere konekta ditzakegunak: Almandoz, Altuna, Izagirre, Garaño, Goenaga, Arregi, Gurrea, Pérez Sañudo, Urresola eta Arana, besteak beste.

Konplexua da euskal cinematografiak bizi duen unea baloratzea: gutxi gorabeherako ideia bat eman diezagukete nazioarteko jaialdietan duen presentziak, jasotako sareiek, zinema-aretoetako harrerak, kritikaren erreakzioak eta plataforma digitaletan izan dezakeen oihartzunak. Adibide batzuk aipatzeak balio lezake askoz ere leku gehiago eskatuko lukeen panorama oso konplexu bat zirriboratzeko. Aurretik aipatutako Donostia Zinemaldiko sail lehiakorretako euskal partaidetza nabarmenei Mikel Gurrearen *Suro* gehitu zitzaien 2022an, berezitasun batekin: bere opera prima *Sail* Ofizialean lehiatzera zuzenean iritsi zen<sup>117</sup>.

Aritz Moreno (*Ventajas de viajar en tren*, 2022) eta Paul Urkijo (*Iratzi*, 2022) zuzendarien lanek, genero-zinematik gertu, sari ugari jaso dituzte euskal mugetatik kanpo. Arlo horretan bertan, azpimarratzeko da Galder Gaztelu-Urrutiaren *El hoyo*, Basque Films-ek ekoiztua eta 2019ko irailean estreinatua, mundu mailako fenomenoa izatea lortu izana, 2020ko martxoan Netflix streaming plataforman gehien ikusi zen filma izan baitzen Estatu Batuetan eta Espanian. Argi dago plataformak eta telebistikak babesleku bat direla, lan-aukera bat orrialde hauetan aipatu ditugun zinemagile askorentzat; baina, agian, egile gisa, askatasuna galtzea ere izan daiteke<sup>118</sup>. Ugari izan dira azken urteotan euskal zinemagileek zuzendutako plataformetako telesailak: *Ondar ahoak* (Koldo Almandoz, 2020) eta *Alardea* (Pérez Sañudo, 2020) ETBrentzat; *Gigantes* (2018) eta *Libertad* (2021), Enrique Urbizuk Movistarrentzat; *Operación Marea Negra* (2022) eta *Hasta el cielo* (2023), Daniel Calparsorok, hurrenez hurren, Amazonentzat eta Netflixentzat; Puy Oriaren eta Montxo Armendáriz-en Oria Films-k ere ekoitzi zuten *Tú no eres especial* (2022), Netflixentzat. *30 monedas* (2022) da Álex de la Iglesiak HBOrentzat egin duen azken seriea; *No me gusta conducir* (Borja Cobeaga, 2023), Movistarrentzat; eta *Balenciaga* (Arregi, Garaño, Goenaga, 2023), Disneyrentzat, banaka batzuk aipatzearen.



The works of directors like Aritz Moreno (*Ventajas de viajar en tren*, 2022) and Paul Urkijo (*Iratzi*, 2022), with their take on genre films, have received multiple acknowledgements outside the borders of the Basque Country. In this same field, one should highlight the global phenomenon which Galder Gaztelu-Urrutia's *El hoyo*, produced by Basque Films and which premiered in 2019, became on being the most streamed film on Netflix in the United States and Spain in March 2020. It is clear that platforms and television are a refuge, an opportunity to work for many of the names we have cited above, although, perhaps, they also represent a potential loss of freedom when it comes to authorship<sup>118</sup>. In recent years, there have been many series by Basque filmmakers on such platforms: *Ondar ahoak* (Koldo Almandoz, 2020) and *Alardea* (Pérez Sañudo, 2020) for ETB; *Gigantes* (2018) and *Libertad* (2021) by Enrique Urbizu for Movistar; *Operación Marea Negra* (2022) and *Hasta el cielo* (2023) by Daniel Calparsoro for Amazon and Netflix respectively; Oria Films by Puy Oria and Montxo Armendáriz also produced *Tú no eres especial* (2022) for Netflix; *30 monedas* (2022) is Álex de la Iglesia's latest series for HBO; *No me gusta conducir* (Borja Cobeaga, 2023) for Movistar; and *Balenciaga* (Arregi, Garaño, Goenaga, 2023) for Disney, to cite but a few.



## Ondorioak

Euskal Herria interesgarria gertatu izan zaie Euskal Herritik kanpoko zinemagile askori, zinematografoaren sorreratik bertatik: Lumière anaiaak, Jacques Baroncelli, Louis Delluc, Musidora, Maurice Champreux, René Le Hénaff, Orson Welles, Dan Grenholm eta Lennart Olson, Gillo Pontecorvo, Otar Iosseliani, Tadayoshi Himeda, Eugène Green, Ben Sharrock, Pablo Agüero, Silvia Munt, etab. Orrialde hauetan, ordea, euskal lurretan jaio zirenei erreparatu diegu, ondoren beren artea Euskal Herrian edo Euskal Herritik kanpo garatu<sup>119</sup>.

Ikusi dugun bezala, zinema mutua oso urria izan zen Euskal Herrian, eta XX. mendearren lehen hereneko nazionalismoak, sozialismoak eta karlismoak osatutako triangulo politikoak eragin berezia izan zuen haren argumentuetan edo testuingurueta. Fikzioetan melodrama nagusitu zen, ohikoa garai hartako Europako beste zinemagintza askotan ere. Errepublika garaiarekin batera etorri zen zinema-soinudunera pasatzeak ia ez zuen dokumentalik egiteko tarterik utzi, eta Gerra Zibilean joera horri eutsi zitzaiion, historiako lehen Eusko Jaurlaritzak faxismoaren aukako gerra-ahaleginarekin bat egindako zinema bultzatu baitzuen; horrek emaitza nabarmenak lortu zituen, Sobrevilak eta bere kideak aurre egin behar izan zieten zailtasunak kontuan hartuta. Diktadura frankista odoltsuak eremu guztietan eragin zituen emaitza tragikoetako bat izan zen euskal zinema-propagandako taldearen nahitaezko erbestealdia. Horren guztiaren ondorioz, frankismoaren lehen bi hamarkadetan Spainia barruan ia ez zen produkziorik izan. Hala ere, azpi-marratzekoak dira André Madré eta Gotzon Elortza aitzindariek Frantziako euskaraz filmatzeko egindako ahaleginak. Gainera, Mexikon Eduardo Ugarte erbesteratu antifaxista dugu, Hondarribian jaioa eta Buñuelen adiskidea, zinema mexikarrean zuzendari gisa karrera egin ahal izan zuena.

Hirurogeiko hamarkadako Euskadi menderatuan, abangoardiako esperientziak eta dokumentalak nagusitu ziren. Basterretxearen eta Larraquert-en *Ama Lur* (1968) filmak zedarri bat jarri zuen basamortuko zeharkaldi hartan. Madrilera diktaduraren garai agonikoan joan zirenek baino ez zuten lortu, eta ez zailtasunik gabe, garaiko Spainiako industria zinematografiko apalean sartzea (Erice, Olea, Eloy de la Iglesia, etab.). Bien bitartean, Parisetik, Yannick Bellon 70eko hamarkadan hasi zen Frantziako zinemana ibilbide aparta egiten, bai jorratutako gaiengatik, bai zinemarako zuen anbizioagatik.

Diktadorearen heriotzak eta Trantsizioaren hasierak euskal zinemaren izaerari buruzko eztabaideak piztu zituzten, baina itxaron egin behar izan zen Eusko Jaurlaritzak, 1979ko Autonomia Estatutua onartu ondoren, baliabide ekonomikoekin azkenik bere lurraldean zinema egin zezaketen zinemagileen lehen belaunaldia (Uribe, Armendariz, etab.) sorrera lagundu zuen arte. Horiek Madrilera joan zirenean, bigarren belaunaldi batek ordezkatu zituen, eta, azkenean, antzeko arazoak izanik, bide beretik jo zuen (Urbizu, De la Iglesia, etab.). Jada XXI. mendean film laburrak sustatzeko eta zabaltzeko Kimuak programaz baliatu ahal izan direnak hirugarren olatu bat izango lirateke, gaur egun emaitzarik onenetako batzuk lortzen ari dena<sup>120</sup>.

## Conclusion

The Basque Country has been of interest to many non-Basque filmmakers since the origins of cinematography: the Lumière brothers, Jacques Baroncelli, Louis Delluc, Musidora, Maurice Champreux, René Le Hénaff, Orson Welles, Dan Grenholm and Lennart Olson, Gillo Pontecorvo, Otar Iosseliani, Tadayoshi Himeda, Eugène Green, Ben Sharrock, Pablo Agüero, Silvia Munt, and so on. Herein, we have focused on those who born in the Basque lands, whether they developed their art in or outside the Basque Country<sup>119</sup>.

As has been seen, there were few silent films in the Basque Country, with a specific impact made, in regard to their plots and contexts, by the political triangle formed by nationalism, socialism and Carlism in the first third of the twentieth century. In fiction, melodrama prevailed, as was also typical in many other European cinematographic traditions of the era. The coming of sound, coinciding with the republican era, barely led to any documentary, a tendency that was maintained during the Civil War with the first Basque Government in history promoting a cinema dedicated to the wartime effort against fascism which achieved notable results if one bears in mind the multiple difficulties that Sobrevila and his colleagues had to face. The forced exile of the Basque cinematographic propaganda team was one more tragic consequence that the bloody Francoist dictatorship would impose throughout its lands. All of this resulted in the almost complete absence of productions from inside the Basque Country during the first two decades of Francoism. However, there were noteworthy efforts to film in Basque in France by the pioneers André Madré and Gotzon Elortza. Moreover, in Mexico we find the exiled antifascist Eduardo Ugarte, born in Hondarribia and a friend of Buñuel, who was able to develop a career as a director of Mexican films.

Vanguard experiences and documentaries prevailed in the suppressed Basque Country of the 1960s. *Ama Lur* (1968) by Basterretxea and Larraquert came to lay down a milestone in this crossing of the desert. Only those who went to Madrid, now in the waning stages of the dictatorship, managed to find a place, not without difficulty, in the modest Spanish cinematographic industry of the era (Erice, Olea, Eloy de la Iglesia, and so on). Meanwhile, from Paris, Yannick Bellon began an extraordinary career in Paris in the 1970s, both in terms of the themes explored and cinematographic ambition.

The dictator's death and the beginning of the Transition encouraged debates on the nature of Basque cinema, but one has to wait for the Basque Government, following the passing of the Statute of Autonomy in 1979, to favour financially the birth of the first generation of filmmakers who could at last make films in their land (Uribe, Armendáriz, and so on). Following the departure of this generation for Madrid, it was replaced by a second wave which would end up facing similar problems and taking the same path (Urbizu, De la Iglesia, and so forth). Those who, now in the twenty-first century, have been able to benefit from the Kimuak programme to promote and diffuse short films would make up a third wave which is currently producing some of its best results<sup>120</sup>.

XXI. mendeko lehen laurdena betetzean dagoela, euskal zinematografiak osasun ona du eta urrats sendoz egiten du aurrera. Euskal talentu askori etengabe eskatzen ari zaie beren lan entzutetsua beste zinemagintza batzuetatik; egungo adibide on batzuk honako hauek dira: Alberto Iglesias musikari donostiarra, Javier Agirresarobe argazki-zuzendaria edo Itziar Ituño aktorea. Euskal zinemak oso ondo bidaiatzen du, eta, zalantzarak gabe, kultur estandarte bikaina da, euskararentzako bide ezin hobea, zinemako hizkuntza den aldetik, azken bi hamarkadetan aurrerapauso erraldoiak eman baititu. Baino zinema ere babestu beharra dago, beharbada beste arte batzuk baino gehiago; izan ere, arte kolektiboa denez, espezializazio handiko profesional asko dituen industria behar du. Era berean, bultzatu egin behar da dagoeneko oso garrantzitsua den ondare hori kontserbatzea eta balioestea, arreta berezia eskatzen baitu beti, bere hauskortasunagatik. Euskal zinema finantzatzen eta/edo sustatzen duen erakunde-sareak koordinatuta lan egiten du gaur egun (Eusko Jaurlaritza, ETB, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostiako Zinemaldia, Etxepare Euskal Institutua, etab.), eta sarea indartuko duten erakunde eta ekimen berriak sortu dira azken urteotan: Tabakalera, Elías Querejeta Zine Eskola, Ikusmira Berriak programa, Zineuskadi, etab.

Euskal zinemak nabarmen handitu du bere esparrua. Berdintasunetik urrun oraindik, gero eta emakume zuzendari gehiago azaldu dira, eta horien filmak nazioarteko emaitza historikoak lortzen ari dira. Ia ez dago euskal zinemagileak ausartzen ez diren zinema-generorik. Eta, amaitzeko, ez da Madrilerako exodo berrikusten; aitzitik, ordea: plataforma digitalken garapen itzelak filmatutakoaren oihartzuna biderkatzen du, eta horren kontzentzia argi eta garbi iritsi da Euskal Herrian filmatzeko zerga-pizgarri esparruraino. Ihes egin diezaiogun euporiari, baina ez ditzagun ukatu Europa barruan konparazioz txikia den gure zinematografiaren aurrerapenak, etengabe fruituak ematen eta hedatzen ari baita, oihartzun akademikoak dituen Iparragirreren irakaspena hitzez hitz jarraituz: eman ta zabal zazu.

With the twenty-first century on the point of completing its first quarter, Basque cinematography enjoys good health and is walking purposefully. There are Basque talents whose prestigious work is referenced continuously in other cinematographic traditions: the musician from San Sebastian, Alberto Iglesias, the director of photography Javier Aguirresarobe and the actress Itziar Ituño are only some good current examples. Basque cinema is on a very good journey and is without doubt a formidable cultural standard bearer, an immemorable vehicle for the Basque language which, as a film language, has taken giant steps in recent decades. But one also has to protect cinema perhaps more than other arts, since because it is a collective art, it requires an industry with many highly specialised professionals. Similarly, preserving and highlighting the importance of its now important heritage, which always requires special attention on account of its fragility, must be fostered. The institutional framework which finances and/or promotes Basque cinema currently functions in a coordinated way (Basque Government, ETB, Basque Film Archive, San Sebastian Film Festival, Etxepare Basque Institute, and so forth) and in recent years new institutions and initiatives have emerged which would be reinforcing this: Tabakalera, the Elías Querejeta Film School, the Ikusmira Berriak programme, Zineuskadi, and so on.

Basque cinema has expanded its surface area considerably. Still short of achieving equality, one notes a growing number of women directors whose films are obtaining historic international results. There is no longer practically any film genre which Basque filmmakers dare not approach. And to conclude, one does not discern any new exodus towards Madrid; on the contrary, the phenomenal development of digital platforms multiplies the reach of what is filmed and an awareness of this has clearly reached the realm of financial incentives to film in the Basque Country. We should steer clear of euphoria, but not deny the advances of a comparatively small cinematography in Europe, but one that does not stop bearing fruit and extending its reach, following word for word the teachings, with an academic twist, of Iparragirre: *eman ta zabal zazu* (give and spread).

# Amaiera-oharrak

<sup>1</sup> Eduardo González Calleja, «Violencia y Política en el País Vasco durante la Restauración y la Segunda República» in J. A. Echaniz eta J. L. Granja (zuz.), *Gernika y la Guerra Civil. Symposium: 60 aniversario del bombardeo de Gernika (1997)*, Gernikazarra Historia Taldea, Gernika-Lumo, 1998, 25. or.

<sup>2</sup> Ludger Mees, *Nacionalismo vasco, movimiento obrero y cuestión social (1903-1923)*, Sabino Arana Fundazioa, Bilbo, 1992, 341. or.

<sup>3</sup> Cfr. Santiago de Pablo, «País Vasco», *Film-Historia. Una historia por autonomías. Vol. II*, 4 (1998) eta Jon Letamendi eta Jean Claude Seguin «Los orígenes del cine en Euskal Herria» in Santiago de Pablo (ed.), *Los cineastas. Historia del cine en Euskal Herria. 1896-1998*, Sancho el Sabio Fundazioa, Gasteiz, 1998.

<sup>4</sup> Alberto Cañada, *Llegada e implantación del cinematógrafo en Navarra (1896-1930)*, Nafarroako Gobernua, Iruña, 1997, 88. or.

<sup>5</sup> Jon Letamendi eta Jean-Claude Seguin, *La cuna fantasma del cine español. Salida de misa de doce del Pilar de Zaragoza: la crónica de una mentira fraguada y mantenida desde la historiografía al servicio del poder [Espainiar zinemaren mamu-sehaska. Zaragozako Pilarreko hamabietako mezaren irteera: historiografiatik boterearen zerbitzura sortu eta atxikitako gezur baten kronika]*, CIMS, Bartzelona, 1998.

<sup>6</sup> Jon Letamendi eta Jean-Claude Seguin, *Los orígenes del cine en Álava y sus pioneros [Zinemaren jatorria Araban, eta aitzindariak]*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Gasteiz, 1997.

<sup>7</sup> Santos Zunzunegi, *El cine en el País Vasco [Zinema Euskal Herrian]*, Bizkaiko Foru Aldundia, Bilbo, 1985, 26-32. orr.

<sup>8</sup> J. M. Unsain, *El cine y los vascos [Zinema eta euskaldunak]*, Eusko Ikaskuntza, Donostia, 1985, 87. or.

<sup>9</sup> Gastibeltza Filmak, Euskal Herriko Unibertsitateko Nor ikerketa-taldeak, Kanaldudek, Eusko Jaurlaritzak, Elias Querejeta Zine Eskolak eta Euskadiko Filmategiak bultzatutako «Gure irudi galduak» proiektuaren bidez, familia-funts zinematografiko garrantzitsu bat aurkitu zen 2019an, eta horri esker Manuel Ynchaustik egindako lanaren inguruan dugun ezagutza askoz zabalagoa da. Cfr. Josu Martínez, *Irudiz eta euskaraz*, 63-76 or.

<sup>10</sup> Toulouseko Zinematekak, Frantziako Zinematekak eta San Francisco Silent Film festibalak egina, beste erakunde batzuen artean, Euskadiko Filmategiaren laguntzarekin.

<sup>11</sup> Koldo Larrañaga, «Primer film de ficción realizado en Euskalherria» [«Euskal Herrian egindako fikziozko lehen filma»], *Ikusgaiak* (Donostia), 4 zk., 2000, 29-40 orr.

<sup>12</sup> Ideia hori defendatu zuen Toulouseko Zinematekako Francesca Bozzano-k, «Pour don Carlos. Une aussi longue absence» [«Pour don Carlos. Hain ausentzia luzea»], *Cahiers de Musidora*, 3 zk., 2020.

<sup>13</sup> Egia esan, askoz nabarmenagoa izan zen ekintza-gizon gisa izan zuen jarduera: I.

# Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Eduardo González Calleja, «Violencia y Política en el País Vasco durante la Restauración y la Segunda República» in J. A. Echaniz and J. L. Granja (eds.), *Gernika y la Guerra Civil. Symposium: 60 aniversario del bombardeo de Gernika (1997)*, Gernikazarra Historia Taldea, Gernika-Lumo, 1998, p. 25.

<sup>2</sup> Ludger Mees, *Nacionalismo vasco, movimiento obrero y cuestión social (1903-1923)*, Fundación Sabino Arana, Bilbo, 1992, p. 341.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Santiago de Pablo, «País Vasco», *Film-Historia. Una historia por autonomías. Vol. II*, 4 (1998) and Jon Letamendi and Jean Claude Seguin «Los orígenes del cine en Euskal Herria» in Santiago de Pablo (ed.), *Los cineastas. Historia del cine en Euskal Herria. 1896-1998*, Fundación Sancho el Sabio, Gasteiz, 1998.

<sup>4</sup> Alberto Cañada, *Llegada e implantación del cinematógrafo en Navarra (1896-1930)*, Gobierno de Navarra, Iruña, 1997, p. 88.

<sup>5</sup> Jon Letamendi and Jean-Claude Seguin, *La cuna fantasma del cine español. Salida de misa de doce del Pilar de Zaragoza: la crónica de una mentira fraguada y mantenida desde la historiografía al servicio del poder*, CIMS, Barcelona, 1998.

<sup>6</sup> Jon Letamendi and Jean-Claude Seguin, *Los orígenes del cine en Álava y sus pioneros*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Gasteiz, 1997.

<sup>7</sup> Santos Zunzunegi, *El cine en el País Vasco*, Diputación Foral de Bizkaia, Bilbo, 1985, pp. 26-32.

<sup>8</sup> J. M. Unsain, *El cine y los vascos*, Eusko Ikaskuntza, Donostia, 1985, p. 87.

<sup>9</sup> Our knowledge about the work carried out by Manuel Ynchausti has improved greatly since an important family cinematographic archive was discovered in 2019, thanks to the «Gure irudi galduak» project, led by Gastibeltza Filmak, the Nor research group at the University of the Basque Country, Kanaldude, the Basque Government, the Elías Querejeta Film School and the Basque Film Archive. See Josu Martínez, *Irudiz eta euskaraz*, pp. 63-76.

<sup>10</sup> By the Toulouse Film Archive, the French Film Archive and the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, with the collaboration of, among other institutions, the Basque Film Archive.

<sup>11</sup> Koldo Larrañaga, «Primer film de ficción realizado en Euskalherria», *Ikusgaiak* (Donostia), no. 4, 2000, pp. 29-40.

<sup>12</sup> This is the argument of Francesca Bozzano of the Toulouse Film Archive, in his article «Pour Don Carlos. Une aussi longue absence», *Cahiers de Musidora*, no. 3, 2020.

<sup>13</sup> It is true that his activities as a man of action stood out much more; he was decorated by the French army in the First World War, a *requeté* (Carlist militiaman) in the Spanish Civil War and, lastly, fought with the French Resistance in the Second World War until his death in 1944 after being tortured by the Gestapo.

Mundu Gerran Frantziako armadaren domina jasoa, Spainiako Gerra Zibilean erreketeara izandakoa, eta, azkenik, II. Mundu Gerran Frantziako Erresistentziarekin borrokalaria, 1944an, Gestapok torturatu ondoren, hil zen arte.

<sup>14</sup> Iritzi hori azaltzen du Pascal Roques-ek bere «Jaime de Lasuen» izeneko artikuluan (*Cahiers de Musidora*, 3 zk., 2020).

<sup>15</sup> José Luis Rebordinos-ek, Jesús Angulo-k, Concha Gómez-ek eta Carlos F. Heredero-k aurkitu uste dute, ziur aski Zunzunegiren irakurketen eraginez, *Edurne modista bilbaína-ren* (1924) eta Montxo Armendáriz zuzendariaren *Tasio-ren* (1984) arteko lotura, *Secretos de la elocuencia: el cine de Montxo Armendáriz*, lanean (Euskadiko Filmategia/Caja Vital Kutxa Fundazioa/Festival de Cine Español de Málaga, Donostia, 1998).

<sup>16</sup> S. Zunzunegi, *El cine en el País Vasco*, 90. or.

<sup>17</sup> Emmanuel Larraz, *Le cinéma espagnol des origines à nos jours*, Les éditions du Cerf, Paris, 1986, 45. or.

<sup>18</sup> Azcona anaiei elkarrizketa, in Alberto López Echevarrieta, op. cit., 151-152. orr.

<sup>19</sup> Ikus Santiago de Pablo, *Cien años de cine en el País Vasco (1896-1995)*, Arabako Foru Aldundia, Gasteiz, 1996, 37. or.; Jon Juaristi, *El chimbo expiatorio. La invención de la tradición bilbaína (1876-1939)*, El Tilo, Bilbo, 1994 eta Javier Ugarte, *La nueva Covadonga insurgente*, Biblioteca Nueva, Madrid, 1998.

<sup>20</sup> López Echevarrieta, *ibidem*.

<sup>21</sup> José Luis de la Granja, *República y Guerra Civil en Euskadi. Del Pacto de San Sebastián al de Santoña*, HAEE, Oñati, 1990, 19. or.

<sup>22</sup> Film honi buruzko informazio gehiena Santos Zunzunegi irakaslearen lan honetatik ateratzen da: *Euzkadi. Un film de Teodoro Ernandorena*, Bizkaiko Aurrezki Kutxa, Bilbo, 1983. Zunzunegik 1983ko martxoan Ernandorenarekin izandako elkarrizketa bat erabiltzen du, iturria desagertu denez, historialariari agertzen zaizkion informazio-hutsuneak leuntzeko. Filmeko latak Donostiako EAJren lokaletan utzi zituzten, tropa faxistak, 1936ko irailaren 13an, hirian sartu zirenean. Edukia ikusitakoan, labe batean erraustu zituzten latok.

<sup>23</sup> *El Día*, 1933/XII/22. Santos Zunzunegik aipatutako artikulua, op. cit., 27. or.

<sup>24</sup> 2013an, Jacques Champreuxek, zuzendariaren semeak, *Au Pays des Basques*-en filmazioaren inguruko zenbait material utzi zituen Euskadiko Filmategian. Hobeto ezagutzen ditugu, beraz, Parisen, 1931n, Aita Donostia maitemindu zuen film honen xehetasun batzuk.

<sup>25</sup> J. M. Unsain, *El cine y los vascos [Zinema eta euskaldunak]*, Euskadiko Filmategia/Eusko Ikaskuntza, Donostia, 1985, 131. or.; Josetxo Cerdán, «El cine sonoro y la Segunda República» [Zinema soinuduna eta Bigarren Errepublika], Santiago de Pablo (ed.), in *Los cineastas. Historia del cine en Euskal Herria. 1896-1998*. [Zinemagileak. Zinemaren historia Euskal Herrian. 1896-1998.]. Sancho el Sabio Fundazioa, Gasteiz, 1998, 108-110 orr.; Santiago de Pablo, *Tierra sin paz. Guerra Civil, cine y propaganda en el País Vasco [Bakerik gabeko lurra. Gerra Zibila, zinema eta propaganda Euskal Herrian]*, Biblioteca Nueva, Madrid, 2006, 18. or.

<sup>14</sup> This is the opinion of Pascal Roques in his article "Jaime de Lasuen", *Cahiers de Musidora*, no. 3, 2020.

<sup>15</sup> José Luis Rebordinos, Jesús Angulo, Concha Gómez and Carlos F. Heredero, probably influenced by Zunzunegui's interpretations, think they have found a connection between *Edurne, modista bilbaína* (1924) and *Tasio* (1984) by Montxo Armendáriz in *Secretos de la elocuencia: el cine de Montxo Armendáriz*, Euskadiko Filmategia/Fundación Caja Vital Kutxa/Festival de Cine Español de Málaga, Donostia, 1998.

<sup>16</sup> S. Zunzunegi, *El cine en el País Vasco*, p. 90.

<sup>17</sup> Emmanuel Larraz, *Le cinéma espagnol des origines à nos jours*, Les éditions du Cerf, Paris, 1986, p. 45.

<sup>18</sup> Interview with the Azcona brothers in Alberto López Echevarrieta, op. cit., pp. 151-152.

<sup>19</sup> See Santiago de Pablo, *Cien años de cine en el País Vasco (1896-1995)*, Diputación Foral de Araba, Gasteiz, 1996, p. 37; Jon Juaristi, *El chimbo expiatorio. La invención de la tradición bilbaína (1876-1939)*, El Tilo, Bilbo, 1994 and Javier Ugarte, *La nueva Covadonga insurgente*, Biblioteca Nueva, Madrid, 1998.

<sup>20</sup> López Echevarrieta, *ibid*.

<sup>21</sup> José Luis de la Granja, *República y Guerra Civil en Euskadi. Del Pacto de San Sebastián al de Santoña*, IVAP, Oñati, 1990, p. 19.

<sup>22</sup> Most of the information on this film has been taken from the work by Professor Santos Zunzunegui *Euzkadi. Un film de Teodoro Ernandorena*, Caja de Ahorros Vizcaína, Bilbao, 1983. Zunzunegui uses an interview with Ernandorena carried out in March 1983 to fill in some of the gaps in information historians faced with the disappearance of the original source. The cans which contained the film had been abandoned in PNV premises in San Sebastian when the fascist troops entered the city on 13 September 1936. When they realised what the content was, they were burnt in an oven.

<sup>23</sup> *El Día*, 22/XII/1933. Article cited by Santos Zunzunegui, op. cit., p. 27.

<sup>24</sup> In 2013, Jacques Champreux, the son of the director, deposited in the Basque Film Archive some materials relating to the filming of *Au Pays des Basques*. We thus know a lot more about some of the details of the film that Father Donostia fell in love with in Paris in 1931.

<sup>25</sup> J. M. Unsain, *El cine y los vascos*, Euskadiko Filmategia/Eusko Ikaskuntza, Donostia, 1985, p. 131; Josetxo Cerdán, «El cine sonoro y la Segunda República», in Santiago de Pablo (ed.), *Los cineastas. Historia del cine en Euskal Herria. 1896-1998*, Fundación Sancho el Sabio, Gasteiz, 1998, pp. 108-110; Santiago de Pablo, *Tierra sin paz. Guerra Civil, cine y propaganda en el País Vasco*, Biblioteca Nueva, Madrid, 2006, p. 18.

<sup>26</sup> See his study in depth in *Retratos de hierro y agua. La imagen de la metrópoli de Bilbao en el cine documental (1897-1997)*, UPV/EHU, Bilbao, 2016, pp. 136-144.

<sup>27</sup> José Luis de la Granja, "La II República y la Guerra Civil" in José Luis de Granja and Santiago de Pablo (Coords.), *Historia del País Vasco y Navarra en el siglo XX*, Biblioteca Nueva, Madrid, 2002. pp. 57-87.

**26** Ikus haren azterketa sakona *Retratos de hierro y agua. La imagen de la metrópoli de Bilbao en el cine documental (1897-1997)* [Burdinazko eta urezko erretratuak. Bilboko metropoliaren irudia zinema dokumentalean (1897-1997)] izeneko lanean UPV/EHU, Bilbo, 2016, 136-144. orr.

**27** Ikus José Luis de la Granja, «La II República y la Guerra Civil» [II. Errepublika eta Gerra Zibila] in José Luis de Granja eta Santiago de Pablo (koord.), *Historia del País Vasco y Navarra en el siglo XX* [Euskal Herriaren eta Nafarroaren historia XX. mendean], Biblioteca Nueva, Madrid, 2002. 57-87. orr.

**28** Joxean Fernández, *Cine y Guerra Civil en el País Vasco (1936-2006)* [Zinema eta Gerra Zibila Euskal Herrian (1936-2006)], Doktorego tesi, Nantes-ko Unibertsitatea-Zaragozako Unibertsitatea, 2006.

**29** Abertzalesunaren Agiritegia (Artea, 2005), GE, 444-4. Haren portaerak eta adiskidetasun politikoaren zerrenda ikusita, ez da zaila pentsatzea haien sinpatiak sozialismotik gertuago zeudela beste ezein indar politikotatik baino.

**30** AN (Euskal Abertzalesunaren Arteko Agiritegia), GE, 453-2.

**31** Datu zehatzak 2006ko urrian Concepción Zaracondegia y Ferns, Eduardo Díaz de Mendibilen alargunarekin izandako elkarriketatik dator. 91 urte zituen, baina oroinmena eta adeitasuna bere horretan zituen. Harekin izandako aspaldiko elkarriketak atsegina hura Iñaki Goiogana (AN) eskuzabaltasun ezagunari zor diot, berak eman baitzizkidan harremanetan jartzeko datuak.

**32** Jardiel Poncelaren zinema-lanen errepasso orokor baterako, ikus Emeterio Diez Puertas, *Historia social del cine en España*, Fundamentos, Madrid, 2003, 349-362 orr.

**33** Julián Casanova (koord.), *Morir, matar, sobrevivir. La violencia en la dictadura de Franco*, [Hiltzaia, erailtzaia, bizirautea. Biolentzia Francoren diktaduran], Crítica, Madrid, 2002, 5. or.

**34** Cfr. AN, GE, 399-7; AN, GE, 702-4; AN, GE, 700-1; AN, GE, 701-1; AN, GE, PNV-24-9. Ikus, halaber, Santiago de Pablo, *Tierra sin paz*, 183-187 orr.

**35** Irujok Mendibili bidalitako gutuna, 1940ko apirilaren 12an. Cfr. AN, GE, 479-3.

**36** Paul Preston, *Franco. Caudillo de España*, Mondadori, Barcelona, 1994, 490-498. orr.

**37** Enrique Moradiellos, *La España de Franco (1939-1975)*, Síntesis, Madrid, 2000, 70. or.

**38** E. Diez Puertas, *El montaje del franquismo*, Laertes, Bartzelona, 2002, 324. or.

**39** José Enrique Monterde, «El cine de la autarquía (1939-1950)» in Román Gubern eta beste, *Historia del cine español*, Cátedra, Madrid, 2004, 181-238. orr.

**40** Ordurako Ikuskizunen Sindikatu Nazionalak (Miguel Echarri-k) ofizialki antolatutako 1954ko zinemaldiaren *Revista del Festival* aldizkariaren editorialeko azken lerroak nabarmen baino nabarmenagoak dira: Donostiarak «bere ateak eta bihotza» irekitzen zizkien Zinemaldira bertaratu zirenei, «ziuri, bere herrialdeetara itzultzen direnean, Espainiaren egia eta Francisco Franco Estatuko Buruaren agindupeko berpiztea aldarrikatuko dutela munduaren aurrean».

**28** Joxean Fernández, *Cine y Guerra Civil en el País Vasco (1936-2006)*, Doctoral Thesis, University of Nantes-University of Zaragoza, 2006.

**29** Archivo del Nacionalismo (Archive of Basque Nationalism, hereafter AN, Artea, 2005), GE, 444-4. To judge from his behaviour and list of political friendships, it is reasonable to assume that his sympathies were closer to socialism than any other political force.

**30** AN, GE, 453-2.

**31** The exact data come from my interview with Concepción Zaracondegia y Ferns, the widow of Eduardo Díaz de Mendibil, in October 2006. She was 91 years old but her memory and kindness were fully intact. I owe the pleasure of that distant conversation to the proverbial generosity of Iñaki Goiogana (AN), who provided me with her contact information.

**32** For a general overview of cinema works by Jardiel Poncela see Emeterio Diez Puertas, *Historia social del cine en España*, Fundamentos, Madrid, 2003, pp. 349-362.

**33** Julián Casanova (coord.), *Morir, matar, sobrevivir. La violencia en la dictadura de Franco*, Crítica, Madrid, 2002, p. 5.

**34** Cf. AN, GE, 399-7; AN, GE, 702-4; AN, GE, 700-1; AN, GE, 701-1; AN, GE, PNV-24-9. See also Santiago de Pablo, *Tierra sin paz*, pp. 183-187.

**35** Letter from Irujo to Mendibil dated 12 April 1940. See AN, GE, 479-3.

**36** Paul Preston, *Franco. Caudillo de España*, Mondadori, Barcelona, 1994, pp. 490-498.

**37** Enrique Moradiellos, *La España de Franco (1939-1975)*, Síntesis, Madrid, 2000, p. 70.

**38** E. Diez Puertas, *El montaje del franquismo*, Laertes, Barcelona, 2002, p. 324.

**39** José Enrique Monterde, «El cine de la autarquía (1939-1950)» in Román Gubern et al., *Historia del cine español*, Cátedra, Madrid, 2004, pp. 181-238.

**40** In an editorial of the *Revista del Festival* in 1954, now already organised officially by the National Entertainment Union (Miguel Echarri), the final words are crystal-clear: San Sebastian opened up “its doors and its heart” to those attending the festival, “safe in the knowledge that when they return to their countries they will proclaim before the world the truth and the resurgence of Spain under the mandate of H. E. the Head of State, Don Francisco Franco”.

**41** Quim Casas (coord.), *Zinemaldia 1953-2022. Singularidades del Festival de Donostia / San Sebastián*, Nosferatu 18 de Donostia Kultura y Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2021.

**42** Data from the 2019 edition, the last held before the Coronavirus pandemic.

**43** This research work yielded a doctoral thesis: *Gure (zinemaren) Sor Lekua. Euskarazko lehen filmaren aurkikuntza, historia eta analisia*, Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea/Universidad del País Vasco, Bilbao, 2015. And, given that Josu Martínez is, additionally, a filmmaker, he also directed a documentary on the topic: *Gure Sor Lekuaren bila* (2016).

<sup>41</sup> Quim Casas (koord.), *Zinemaldia 1953-2022. Singularidades del Festival de Donostia / San Sebastián*, [Zinemaldia 1953-2022. Donostiako Zinemaldiaren berezitasunak], Nosferatu 18. zk. Donostia Kultura eta Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2021.

<sup>42</sup> 2019ko edizioko datuak dira, koronabirusaren pandemia baino lehen egindako azkena.

<sup>43</sup> Ikerketa lanak doktorego tesi bat eragin zuen: *Gure (zinemaren) Sor Lekua. Euskarazko lehen filmaren aurkikuntza, historia eta analisia*, Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea, Bilbo, 2015. Eta, Josu Martínez zinemagilea ere badenez, gaiari buruzko dokumental bat ere zuzendu zuen: *Gure Sor Lekuaren bila* (2016).

<sup>44</sup> Santiago de Pablo, *Cien años de cine en el País Vasco (1896-1995)*, Arabako Foru Aldundia, Gasteiz, 1996. or.

<sup>45</sup> Informazio eta Turismo Ministerioko Herri Kultura eta Ikuskizunen Zuzendaritza Nagusiaren 1968ko apirilaren 30eko dokumentua, J. M. Unsain-en (ed.), *Haritzaren negua. «Ama Lur» y el País Vasco de los años 60* liburuan bildua, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 1993, 135. or.

<sup>46</sup> J. M. Unsain (ed.), *Haritzaren negua. «Ama Lur» y el País Vasco de los años 60*, 76. or.

<sup>47</sup> Alberto Onaindia, *Hombre de paz en la guerra*, Ekin, Buenos Aires, 1973, 456. or.

<sup>48</sup> AN, EGIVENEZUELA, 347-6.

<sup>49</sup> Badugu filmaren kopia bat New Yorkeko Euskal Etxera, 1971n, helarazteko ahaleginaren berri. Ikus AN, Rezola, 149-2. Hori, zalantzarak gabe, Amerika osoko euskal etxeekin egingo zuten.

<sup>50</sup> Iñaki Azkarate eta Mari Carmen Gil (koord.), *Eduardo Ugarte. Por las rutas del teatro*, Saturraran Argitaletxea, Donostia, 2005, 30-31. orr.

<sup>51</sup> Imanol Zumaldeko arrazoizko zalantza aipatzen du zinegile hauen lanak (gerora José María Zabalzarenak ere bilduko ziren) euskal zinetzat jotzerakoan. Haren ustez, Eusko-ditik kanpo fakturatutako filmak izanik, «migratio» tematiko, lingüistiko eta ideologiko batzuk sortuko lirateke. Zalantzarak ez, ordea, euskal artisten talde hau gauza izan zen Madrilren «kalitate gorabeheratsuko» zinema ekoizteko, «baina haien arteko gailurrek aise gainditzen dituzte euskal lurrean bertan ekoitzitako zinemaren mailarik altuena». Gainera, film horietako batzuk zinema-aretoetan gehien ikusitako euskal zinemagileen lanen parte dira. Ikus I. Zumalde, «La transición cinematográfica vasca (1970-1980)», in Santiago de Pablo (ed.), *Los cineastas. Historia del cine en Euskal Herria. 1896-1998. 1896-1998*, Sancho el Sabio Fundazioa, Gasteiz, 1998, 208. or.

<sup>52</sup> Antza denez, izendapena aldatu egin zitekeen solaskidearen arabera. Nolanahi ere, denek ezagutzen zuten elkar aldez aurretik Donostiatik, eta batzuek marianistetan ikasi zuten: Víctor Erice, Santiago San Miguel eta José Luis Egea. Elkarrizketa José Luis Egearekin, 2022-4-26.

<sup>53</sup> Luis Martín Santos, *Condenada belleza del mundo*, Seix Barral, Bartzelona, 2004.

<sup>54</sup> José Enrique Monterde-k egin zuen *20 años de cine español (1973-1992)* liburuan, Paidós, Bartzelona, 1993. José María Zabalza irundarraren filmografia azpigeneroen zinemari argi eta garbi atxikitakoa izango litzateke, haren lehen bi filmak salbuespen

<sup>44</sup> Santiago de Pablo, *Cien años de cine en el País Vasco (1896-1995)*, Diputación Foral de Araba, Gasteiz, 1996. p. 65.

<sup>45</sup> Document from the General Office of Popular Culture and Entertainment in the Ministry of Information and Tourism, 30 April 1968, reproduced in J. M. Unsain (ed.), *Haritzaren negua. «Ama Lur» y el País Vasco de los años 60*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 1993, p. 135.

<sup>46</sup> J. M. Unsain (ed.), *Haritzaren negua. «Ama Lur» y el País Vasco de los años 60*, p. 76.

<sup>47</sup> Alberto Onaindia, *Hombre de paz en la guerra*, Ekin, Buenos Aires, 1973, p. 456.

<sup>48</sup> AN, EGIVENEZUELA, 347-6.

<sup>49</sup> There is an account of one attempt to send a copy of the film to the Basque centre of New York in 1971. See AN, Rezola, 149-2. This practice must have been very common amongst the Basque centres throughout the Americas.

<sup>50</sup> Iñaki Azkarate and Mari Carmen Gil (coords.), *Eduardo Ugarte. Por las rutas del teatro*, Saturraran Argitaletxea, Donostia, 2005, pp. 30-31.

<sup>51</sup> Imanol Zumalde discusses the reasonable doubt associated with including the works of these filmmakers (to which would be added those of José María Zabalza) in the category of Basque cinema. The fact that these were films registered outside the Basque Country would involve, in his opinion, a series of thematic, idiomatic and ideological "migrations". What is without doubt is that this group of Basque artists was capable of producing in Madrid a cinema of "uneven quality but whose peaks far exceeded the highest levels of the cinema produced back home". To this one should add that some of their films formed part of the most viewed works by Basque filmmakers in cinemas. See I. Zumalde, "La transición cinematográfica vasca (1970-1980)", in Santiago de Pablo (ed.), *Los cineastas. Historia del cine en Euskal Herria. 1896-1998*, Fundación Sancho el Sabio, Gasteiz, 1998, p. 208.

<sup>52</sup> It appears that the term varies according to who is speaking. Whatever the case, they had all known each other beforehand in San Sebastian and some of them had studied at the Marianist school: Víctor Erice, Santiago San Miguel and José Luis Egea. Interview with José Luis Egea, 26-4-2022.

<sup>53</sup> Luis Martín Santos, *Condenada belleza del mundo*, Seix Barral, Barcelona, 2004.

<sup>54</sup> As conceived by José Enrique Monterde in *20 años de cine español (1973-1992)*, Paidós, Barcelona, 1993. The filmography of José María Zabalza, from Irun, would clearly be part of subgenre cinema, with the very notable exceptions of his first two films: *También hay cielo sobre el mar* (1955), which was clearly influenced by Italian neorealism, populated by marginal characters and filmed in different towns on the coast of Gipuzkoa; and *Entierro de un funcionario en primavera* (1958). See Gurutz Albisu, *José María Zabalza. Cine, bohemia y supervivencia*, Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa, Donostia, 2011.

<sup>55</sup> The same doubts emerge here, but no more, as those raised by Imanol Zumalde in regard to the "thematic, idiomatic and ideological 'migrations'" of Basques at the Official School of Cinema in Madrid.

nabarmenak izanik: *También hay cielo sobre el mar* (1955), neorrealismo italiarraren eragin argiekin, pertsonaia marjinalez josia eta Gipuzkoako kostaldeko hainbat herrian filmatua; eta *Entierro de un funcionario en primavera* (1958). Ikus Gurutz Albisu, José María Zabalza. *Cine, bohemia y supervivencia*, Gipuzkoako Foru Aldundia, Donostia, 2011.

<sup>55</sup> Imanol Zumaldek Madrilgo EOko euskaldunen «migratio tematiko, linguistiko eta ideologikoen» inguruan planteatzen zituen zalantza berberak planteatzen dira hemen, baina ez gehiago.

<sup>56</sup> Edizio hartan, Nazioarteko Epaimahaiaren presidente Nicholas Ray izan zen.

<sup>57</sup> Eric Le Roy, *Yannick Bellon, La mirada de frente*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2019.

<sup>58</sup> Manuel Montero, «La transición y la autonomía vasca», in Javier Ugarte (ed.), *La transición en el País Vasco y España. Historia y memoria*, Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea, Zarautz, 1998, 93-120. or.

<sup>59</sup> Jardunaldien egitaraua eta ondorioak Santos Zunzunegiren *El cine en el País Vasco* (Bizkaiko Foru Aldundia, Bilbo, 1985) saiakerako eranskinetan daude.

<sup>60</sup> Susana Torrado Morales, «La evolución histórica del concepto de cine vasco a través de la bibliografía», *Sancho el Sabio Fundazioa*, 21. zk., 2004, 189. or.

<sup>61</sup> Ezeizari buruz eta euskarak zineman izan beharreko lekuaz, interesgarria da Carlos Roldán Larretaren artikulua, «Antton Ezeiza en el debate Cine/Euskera», *Fontes linguae vasconum: Studia et documenta*, 29. urtea, 74. zk., 1997, 129-142. orr. Eta, oraintsuago, Ezeizari buruz oro har, Maialen Beloki Berasategiren lanak ezinbestekoak dira: «Querido Antonio: Antzon! Antchon? Anton?», *ZINE. Cuadernos de investigación cinematográfica*, 3, 2022, 44-50 orr; *Antxon Ezeiza. Vidas, tiempos, obras*, Shangrila, Valentzia, 2022.

<sup>62</sup> Ikus J. Angulo, C. F. Heredero eta J. L. Rebordinos, *Entre el documental y la ficción. El cine de Imanol Uribe*, Euskadiko Filmategia-Caja Vital Kutxa, Donostia, 1994. ABC egunkariak adierazi zuen hura «ETA goresteke zine-inkesta» zela, eta Kantauriko Perla saria jasotzean Imanol Uribe zeraman janzkera ere kritikatu zuen, «maila horretako ekitaldi baterako desegokia zela». ABC, 1979/9/15 eta 1979/9/24.

<sup>63</sup> Hamarkada honetako euskal zinema guztiari buruz, ikus: C. de Miguel Martínez, J. A. Rebolledo Zabache eta F. Marín Murillo, *Ilusión y realidad: la aventura del cine vasco en los años 80*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 1999. Gainera, Casilda de Miguel-en «El cine vasco de los ochenta: a la búsqueda de la identidad propia» in Santiago de Pablo (ed.), *Los cineastas. Historia del cine en Euskal Herria. 1896-1998*, Sancho el Sabio Fundazioa, Gasteiz, 1998, 209-238. orr. Eta Jesús Angulo, «Laurogeiko belaunaldia. Un viaje de ida de ida y vuelta» in Joxean Fernández (ed.), *Cine vasco: tres generaciones de cineastas*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2015, 79-88 orr.

<sup>64</sup> Imanol Uriberen 90eko hamarkadaren hasiera arteko filmografian sakontzeko, ikus J. Angulo, C. F. Heredero eta J. L. Rebordinos, *Entre el documental y la ficción. El cine de Imanol Uribe*, Euskadiko Filmategia-Caja Vital Kutxa, Donostia, 1994.

<sup>65</sup> Elkarrizketa zinemagilearekin, 2005eko abuztuan.

<sup>66</sup> *El País*, 1984/3/9.

<sup>56</sup> The president of the International Jury was at that time Nicholas Ray.

<sup>57</sup> Eric Le Roy, *Yannick Bellon, La mirada de frente*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2019.

<sup>58</sup> Manuel Montero, "La transición y la autonomía vasca", in Javier Ugarte (ed.), *La transición en el País Vasco y España. Historia y memoria*, Universidad del País Vasco, Zarauz, 1998, pp. 93-120.

<sup>59</sup> The programme and conclusions of these debates can be found in the annexes in Santos Zunzunegui, *El cine en el País Vasco*, Diputación Foral de Bizkaia, Bilbo, 1985.

<sup>60</sup> Susana Torrado Morales, "La evolución histórica del concepto de cine vasco a través de la bibliografía", *Sancho el Sabio*, no. 21, 2004, p. 189.

<sup>61</sup> On Ezeiza and Basque in film see the interesting article by Carlos Roldán Larreta, "Antton Ezeiza en el debate Cine/Euskera", *Fontes linguae vasconum: Studia et documenta*, Año no. 29, No. 74, 1997, pp. 129-142. And, more recently, on Ezeiza in general, see the essential works of Maialen Beloki Berasategui: "Querido Antonio: Antzon! Antchon? Antón?", *ZINE. Cuadernos de investigación cinematográfica*, 3, 2022, pp. 44-50; *Antxon Ezeiza. Vidas, tiempos, obras*, Shangrila, Valencia, 2022.

<sup>62</sup> See J. Angulo, C. F. Heredero, and J. L. Rebordinos, *Entre el documental y la ficción. El cine de Imanol Uribe*, Euskadiko Filmategia-Caja Vital Kutxa, Donostia, 1994. The newspaper ABC spoke about "a cine-survey in praise of ETA" and even criticised the Basque Imanol Uribe's clothes on receiving the Pearl of the Cantabrian Award, since it was "most unbefitting for an act of such importance". See ABC, 15/9/1979 and 24/9/1979.

<sup>63</sup> On Basque cinema during this decade, see C. de Miguel Martínez, J. A. Rebolledo Zabache and F. Marín Murillo, *Ilusión y realidad: la aventura del cine vasco en los años 80*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 1999. Moreover, for a shorter approach focused on the concept of nation and gender, Casilda de Miguel, "El cine vasco de los ochenta: a la búsqueda de la identidad propia" in Santiago de Pablo (ed.), *Los cineastas. Historia del cine en Euskal Herria. 1896-1998*, Fundación Sancho el Sabio, Gasteiz, 1998, pp. 209-238. And Jesús Angulo, "La generación de los ochenta. Un viaje de ida y vuelta" in Joxean Fernández (ed.), *Cine vasco: tres generaciones de cineastas*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2015, pp. 79-88.

<sup>64</sup> For more on Imanol Uribe's filmography up to the early 1990s, see J. Angulo, C. F. Heredero and J. L. Rebordinos, *Entre el documental y la ficción. El cine de Imanol Uribe*, Euskadiko Filmategia-Caja Vital Kutxa, Donostia, 1994.

<sup>65</sup> Interview with the author in August 2005.

<sup>66</sup> *El País*, 9/3/1984.

<sup>67</sup> Various Authors, *Conocer a Eloy de la Iglesia*, Euskadiko Filmategia and Festival de San Sebastián, Donostia, 1996, p. 167.

<sup>68</sup> Interview with the author, 5/2/2008.

<sup>69</sup> Octavi Martí's review in *El País* del 13/1/1989 stated: "Ander eta Yul is a fiction which

**67** Hainbat egile, *Conocer a Eloy de la Iglesia*, Euskadiko Filmategia eta Donostiarra Zinemaldia, Donostia, 1996, 167. or.

**68** Elkarrizketa zinemagilearekin, 2008/2/5.

**69** Octavi Martík 1989/1/13ko *El País* egunkarian egindako kritikak honela zioen: «Ander eta Yul mundu erreal batean gertatzen den fikzio bat da, mundu horren ezaugarriez blaitua, pertsonaiak manikeismotik bizirik atera nahian. Joko zaila da, arriskutsua, eta funtzionatzen du, gidoiak eta errerealizazioak beharrezko eta ezinbesteko elementuak soilik erabiltzen saiatu direlako, informazio-pilakatik, naturalismotik eta erreduntziatik ihesi».

**70** Iritzi horretakoak dira, adibidez, Santiago de Pablo eta Carlos Roldán Larreta.

**71** 174/1990 Dekretua, ekainaren 26koan, Euskofilm S. A. sozietate publikoa sortzea erabakitzetan duena. Urte horretako azaroan elkartea Euskal Media izena hartu zuen.

**72** Kultura Ministerioaren datuen arabera, 1.200.193 ikusle eta 4.274.365,30 euro bildu ziren.

**73** Ángel Fernández Santos-ek honako hau esan zuen *El País* egunkarian (1991/8/31): «Enrique Urbizu, bere ibilbidean bi film luze besterik ez dituen errerealizadore español gaztea, dagoeneko zuzendari fidagarria da, Españolako zinemari ekarpen serioak egiteko dohain asko eta asko ditu, zeresana emango du eta talentu bitxi bat erakusten du, bere lanbidean ohikoa ez den nagusitasunaz gain».

**74** Enrique Urbizuren obran sakontzeko, ikus J. Angulo, C. F. Heredero eta A. Santamarina, *Enrique Urbizu. La imagen esencial*, Euskadiko Filmategia-Caja Vital Kutxa Fundazioa, Donostia, 2003.

**75** C. F. Heredero, *Espejo de miradas. Entrevistas con nuevos directores del cine español de los años noventa*, Alcalá de Henares-ko Zinemaldia, Madrid, 1997, 483. or.

**76** *El País*, Casimiro Torreiro-ren iruzkina, 1995/10/27.

**77** Ikus Jesús Angulo eta Antonio Santamarina, *Álex de la Iglesia. La pasión de rodar*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2012.

**78** Julio Medem zinemak sakontzeko, ikus J. Angulo eta J. L. Rebordinos, *Contra la certeza. El cine de Julio Medem*, Euskadiko Filmategia / Huescako Zinemaldia, Donostia, 2005, eta Zigor Etxebeste, *Julio Medem*, Malagako Zinemaldia / Cátedra, Madrid, 2010.

**79** Carlos Roldán Larreta, *El cine del País Vasco: de Ama Lur (1968) a Airbag (1997)*, Eusko Ikaskuntza, Donostia, 1999, 314 y 338 or.

**80** Ofizialki 2.195.939 ikusle izan ziren zinema-aretoetan. Bajo Ulloaren obran sakontzeko, ikus Jesús Angulo eta Antonio Santamarina, *Juanma Bajo Ulloa. Cine en las entrañas*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2016.

**81** Calparsorok zuzendutako beste tituluak *Pasajes* (1996), *A ciegas* (1997) eta, orduzko Madrilaren, *Asfalto* (2000) izan ziren. Ikus Jesús Angulo eta Antonio Santamarina, Daniel Calparsoro. *Cine de autor, cine de género*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2017.

takes place in a real world, steeped in its features, the characters trying to survive Manicheanism. It is a difficult, risky, game which works because both the script and production have managed to handle only the necessary, indispensable, elements, avoiding the accumulation of information, of naturalism and redundancy".

**70** This opinion is shared by, for example, Santiago de Pablo and Carlos Roldán Larreta.

**71** Decree 174/1990 of 26 June, by which it was agreed to create the Public Company Euskofilm Ltd. In November, the company will be renamed Euskal Media.

**72** According to data from the Ministry of Culture, its audience figures numbered 1,200,193 and it grossed €4,274,365.30 at the box office.

**73** Ángel Fernández Santos said in *El País* (31/8/1991): "Enrique Urbizu, a young Spanish filmmaker with only two feature films in his career, is already a solvent director, with many and more than good skills to make serious contributions to Spanish cinema, which will cause people to talk and he already shows signs of singular talent, as well as an unusual mastery of his trade".

**74** For more on the work of Enrique Urbizu, see J. Angulo, C. F. Heredero and A. Santamarina, *Enrique Urbizu. La imagen esencial*, Euskadiko Filmategia-Fundación Caja Vital Kutxa, Donostia, 2003.

**75** C. F. Heredero, *Espejo de miradas. Entrevistas con nuevos directores del cine español de los años noventa*, Festival de Cine de Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, 1997, p. 483.

**76** *El País*, review by Casimiro Torreiro, 27/10/1995.

**77** See Jesús Angulo and Antonio Santamarina, *Álex de la Iglesia. La pasión de rodar*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2012.

**78** For an in-depth study of Julio Medem's films, see J. Angulo and J. L. Rebordinos, *Contra la certeza. El cine de Julio Medem*, Euskadiko Filmategia / Festival de Cine de Huesca, Donostia, 2005 and Zigor Etxebeste, *Julio Medem*, Festival de Málaga / Cátedra, Madrid, 2010.

**79** Carlos Roldán Larreta, *El cine del País Vasco: de Ama Lur (1968) a Airbag (1997)*, Eusko Ikaskuntza, Donostia, 1999, pp. 314 and 338.

**80** Officially, it was seen by 2,195,939 viewers in cinemas. For a detailed examination of Bajo Ulloa, see Jesús Angulo and Antonio Santamarina, *Juanma Bajo Ulloa. Cine en las entrañas*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2016.

**81** *Pasajes* (1996), *A ciegas* (1997) and, by now in Madrid, *Asfalto* (2000) were the other films directed by Calparsoro. See Jesús Angulo and Antonio Santamarina, *Daniel Calparsoro. Cine de autor, cine de género*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2017.

**82** We are still in a mostly male world. The short film by Ana Díez, who returned to feature films by alternating works of fiction like *Todo está oscuro* (1996) and *Algunas chicas cruzan las piernas cuando hablan* (1999) and documentaries such as *La mafia en la Habana* (2000). Nevertheless, one should underscore the fact that some Basque women directors in the 1990s only managed to shoot one feature film in their career: Arantza

<sup>82</sup> Bizi garen mundu hau gehienbat maskulinoa da oraindik. Horren kontrako adibidea Ana Díez da, film luzeetara itzuli baitzen fikzioa –*Todo está oscuro* (1996) edo *Algunas chicas cruzan las piernas cuando hablan* (1999)– eta dokumentala –*La mafia en la Habana* (2000)– tartekatuz. Hala ere, azpimarratzeko da laurogeita hamarreko hamarkadako zenbait euskal emakume zuzendarik film luze bakarra filmatzea lortu zutela: Arantza Lazkano *Urte ilunak* (1991) lanarekin, Mirenxtu Purroy *Denboraren gibelean* (1993) filmarekin eta Nuria Ruiz Cabestany *Viaje de ida y vuelta* (2000) lanarekin. Helena Tabernari buruz, ikus Carlos Roldán Larreta, *La luz de un sueño. El cine de Helena Taberna*, Euskadiko Filmategia / Nafarroako Filmategia, Donostia, 2018.

<sup>83</sup> Bajo Ulloa, Urbizu eta Calparsororen hitzak dira, in Joxean Fernández (ed.), *Cine vasco: tres generaciones de cineastas*, 216-217. orr.

<sup>84</sup> Josu Martínez, *Irudiz eta euskaraz*, 247. or.

<sup>85</sup> J. Angulo, J. L. Rebordinos eta A. Santamarina, *Breve historia del cortometraje vasco*, Euskadiko Filmategia / Gipuzkoako Foru Aldundia, Donostia, 2006.

<sup>86</sup> Ikus Ainhoa Fernández de Arroyabe, Nekane E. Zubiaur, Iñaki Lazkano, *Kimuak-eko film laburrak. Semillas del cine vasco*, Comunicación Social, Salamanca, 2014.

<sup>87</sup> Azken bi zuzendari horiek joera-aldaketa argia markatu zuten beren dokumentalekin, ETAREN biktimengen jarri baitzuten interesa. Eterio Ortegaaren filmen gidoien eta ekoizpenaren atzean, Elías Querejeta ekoizlea zegoen. *La pelota vasca. La piel contra la piedra* (Julio Medem, 2003) aurrerago azalduko dugu.

<sup>88</sup> *La conspiración* (2012) telefilma Elías Querejetak ekoitzi zuen. Olea *El pisito* filmaren antzerkirako egokitzapenaren arduraduna izan zen, eta ekoizle-lanak ere egin zituen, besteak beste. Izan ere, berak bultzatu zuen 2003an bere lagun Eloy de la Iglesiasen azken filma, *Los novios búlgaros*; 2006an hil zen.

<sup>89</sup> Ekarrizketa egilearekin, 2006ko abuztuan.

<sup>90</sup> Ia bi urtez, protagonista izan zen Espainiako bizitza kulturalean, eta espanyiar zinemak bere publikoarekin duen harremanaren inguruko ikuspuntu berrien sustatzaile karismatiko gisa agertu zen.

<sup>91</sup> Beste behin ere, urte hauetan emakume zuzendari batzuek debuta egin zuten, baina gero zaitasunak izan dituzte filmografia oportuna eraikitzeko: besteak beste, Susana Koska *Mujeres en pie de guerra* (2004) filmarekin, Aizpea Goenaga *Zeru horiek* (2006) eta *Sukalde kontuak* (2009) filmekin, Ione Hernández *1% esquizofrenia*-rekin (2006), eta Maitena Muruzabal eta Candela Figueira *Nevando voy* (2008) filmarekin.

<sup>92</sup> Aitzol Aramaio (1971-2011) modu tragiko goiztiarrean hil zen. *Un poco de chocolate* (2008) filmaren egile, Kimuak belaunaldiko beste adibide argi bat zen.

<sup>93</sup> Elkarrizketa Ana Díez-ekin, 2022ko ekainean.

<sup>94</sup> Espainiako kritikak faborito eman zuen sail horretarako. Ikus *El Diario Vasco*, 2011/9/24. Carlos F. Heredero kritikariak adierazi zuenez, «ez gaude urrun Don Siegel onenarenengandik, ez Robert Aldrich latzenarenengandik, ez Joseph H. Lewis lehorrenarenengandik, ez Siodmak ilunenarenengandik, ez *En la cuerda floja* (*Tightrope*, 1984) filmeko Richard Tuggerengandik, ez Fuller bortitzarenengandik, ez eta zinema mutuko

Lazkano with *Urte ilunak* (1991), Mirenxtu Purroy with *Denboraren gibelean* (1993) and Nuria Ruiz Cabestany with *Viaje de ida y vuelta* (2000). On Helena Taberna, see Carlos Roldán Larreta, *La luz de un sueño. El cine de Helena Taberna*, Euskadiko Filmategia / Filmoteca de Navarra, Donostia, 2018.

<sup>83</sup> They are the words of Bajo Ulloa, Urbizu and Calparsoro in Joxean Fernández (ed.), *Cine vasco: tres generaciones de cineastas*, pp. 216-217.

<sup>84</sup> Josu Martínez, *Irudiz eta euskaraz*, p. 247.

<sup>85</sup> J. Angulo, J. L. Rebordinos and A. Santamarina, *Breve historia del cortometraje vasco*, Euskadiko Filmategia / Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa, Donostia, 2006.

<sup>86</sup> See Ainhoa Fernández de Arroyabe, Nekane E. Zubiaur and Iñaki Lazkano, *Cortometrajes de Kimuak. Semillas del cine vasco*, Comunicación Social, Salamanca, 2014.

<sup>87</sup> In their documentaries, these two heralded a clear change in tendency, since they focused their interest on victims of ETA. Elías Querejeta was behind the scripts and production of Eterio Ortega's films. The case of *La pelota vasca. La piel contra la piedra* (Julio Medem, 2003) will be discussed below.

<sup>88</sup> The TV film *La conspiración* (2012) was produced by Elías Querejeta. Olea was responsible for adapting *El pisito* for the theatre and likewise worked as, among other tasks, a producer. In fact, in 2003 he was the driving force behind what would be the last film by his friend Eloy de la Iglesia, *Los novios búlgaros*, before he died in 2006.

<sup>89</sup> Interview with the author in August 2006.

<sup>90</sup> He played a leading role in Spanish cultural life for almost two years, revealing himself to be a charismatic driving force behind new perspectives with regard to the relationship between Spanish cinema and its audience.

<sup>91</sup> Once again, certain directors made their debut during these years who subsequently found it hard to establish a lengthier filmography. These included Susana Koska with *Mujeres en pie de guerra* (2004), Aizpea Goenaga with *Zeru horiek* (2006) and *Sukalde kontuak* (2009), Ione Hernández with *1% esquizofrenia* (2006) and Maitena Muruzaba, together with Candela Figueira, in *Nevando voy* (2008).

<sup>92</sup> Aitzol Aramaio (1971-2011) died tragically prematurely. He was another clear exponent of the "Kimuak generation", the director of *Un poco de chocolate* (2008).

<sup>93</sup> Interview with Ana Díez in June 2022.

<sup>94</sup> Spanish critics made him favourite in this section. See *El Diario Vasco*, 24/9/2011. The critic Carlos F. Heredero stated that "we are not so far off the best Don Siegel, or the harshest Robert Aldrich, or the driest Joseph H. Lewis, or the darkest Siodmak, nor the Richard Tugger of *Tightrope* [1984], or the most violent Fuller, and nor even of some beneficial—and forgotten—lessons of silent film". See *Cahiers du Cinéma España*, no. 48, 2011, p. 31.

<sup>95</sup> Urbizu is a renowned professor at the Universidad Carlos III and the ECAM. His

ikasgai probetxugarri eta ahaztuengandik ere». Ikus *Cahiers du Cinéma España*, 48. zk., 2011, 31. or.

**95** Carlos III Unibertsitateko eta ECAMeko irakasle itzaltsua da Urbizu. Arrastoa uzten ari da ikasle ugarirengan (David Pérez Sañudo bilbotarraren, adibidez), eta ikerketa bikain bat argitaratu berri du Carlos Gómez-ekin batera: *La caja de madera. Estudios sobre puesta en escena cinematográfica*, ECAM, Madrid, 2021.

**96** Urbizuren hitzaurrea, Jesús Anguloren eta Antonio Santamarinaren *Daniel Calparsoro. Cine de autor, cine de género libururako*, 20. or.

**97** Jordi Costa-ren kritika, *El País*, 2017/8/4.

**98** Honakoak dira literatura-lan horiek eta haien egileak: Anjel Lertxundi, *Hamaseigarrrenean aidanez* (Erein, 1983); Ramon Saizarbitoria, *Ehun metro* (Lur, 1976) eta Arantxa Urretabizkaia, *Zergatik panpox* (Hordago, 1979).

**99** Beñat Sarasola, «Otra gramática del desencanto. La obra cinematográfica final de Koldo Izagirre (1989-1992)», ZINE, 3. zk., Donostia, 2022, 5-31. orr.

**100** Adibide soil gisa, Eusko Jaurlaritzak 2019an emandako zuzeneko laguntzak 2.664.000 eurokoak izan ziren, kategoria hauetarako: gidoiak, dokumentalak, film laburrak, proiektuen garapena eta fikziozko film luzeak. Jakina, laguntza horiek bateragarriak ziren ETBren, Estatuaren laguntzakin edo bestelakoekin.

**101** Ez da, noski, euskal zinemagintzari laguntza irmoa ematen dion jaialdi bakarra: erakusleiho nabarmenak dira, baita ere, Bilboko Zinebi, Lekeitioko Euskal Zine Bilera edo Nantesko Zinemaldiko «La fenêtre basque» saila ere, besteak beste.

**102** Koldo Almundoz, «Hiru errealtate», *Berria*, 21/9/2011. El autor y compañero de generación sumaba en su optimista análisis *Bi anai* (Imanol Rayo, 2011), basada en la novela homónima de Bernardo Atxaga.

**103** Hurrenez hurren, honako hauen kritiketatik ateratako hitzak dira: Oti Rodríguez Marchante (ABC, 2014/9/24), Gontzal Agote (*Berria*, 2014/9/24), Juan Zapater (*Diario de Noticias*, 2014/9/24), Mikel G. Gurpegui (*El Diario Vasco*, 2014/9/24) eta Carlos Boyero (*El País*, 2014/9/24).

**104** José Luis Rebordinos zuzendariak eman zuen Zinemaldiari buruzko kalifikazio hori (*Gara*, 2014/9/29); eta kongresuari buruzkoa, Ricardo Aldarondo kazetariak, besteak beste (*El Diario Vasco*, 2014/10/5).

**105** Juan Zapater, *Diario de Noticias*-en, 22/9/2015; Harkaitz Cano, *El Diario Vasco*-n, 22/9/2022; Beatriz Martínez, *El Periódico*-n, 2022/9/22.

**106** ABC, 2017/9/25; *Dirigido por* (481. zk.), 2017ko urria; *El País*, 2017/10/20.

**107** *El Diario Vasco*, 2017/9/29; *El Correo*, 2017/10/20; *Deia*, 2017/9/17; *Diario de Noticias*, 2017/9/25.

**108** *Berria*, 2017/9/26.

imprint is being left in numerous disciples (David Pérez Sañudo, also from Bilbao, for example) and he has just published a magnificent study together with Carlos Gómez: *La caja de madera. Estudios sobre puesta en escena cinematográfica*, ECAM, Madrid, 2021.

**96** Prologue by Urbizu for the book by Jesús Angulo and Antonio Santamarina, *Daniel Calparsoro. Cine de autor, cine de género*, p. 20.

**97** Review by Jordi Costa, *El País* 4/8/2017.

**98** The literary works and their authors are the following: Anjel Lertxundi, *Hamaseigarrrenean aidanez* (Erein, 1983); Ramon Saizarbitoria, *Ehun metro* (Lur, 1976) and Arantxa Urretabizkaia, *Zergatik panpox* (Hordago, 1979).

**99** Beñat Sarasola, "Otra gramática del desencanto. La obra cinematográfica final de Koldo Izagirre (1989-1992)", ZINE, no. 3, Donostia, 2022, pp. 5-31.

**100** Merely by way of example, direct Basque Government grants in 2019 reached a total of €2,664,000 for the following categories: scripts, documentaries, short films, project development and fiction feature films. Obviously, these grants were compatible with those of ETB, state bodies and other sources.

**101** It is not, of course, the only festival which decisively supports the Basque film industry: Zinebi in Bilbao, Euskal Zine Bilera in Lekeitio and the "La fenêtre basque" section at the Nantes Festival are also, among others, standout windows.

**102** Koldo Almundoz, "Hiru errealtate", *Berria*, 21/9/2011. The author and companion of this generation summarised in his positive analysis *Bi anai* (Imanol Rayo, 2011), based on the novel of the same name by Bernardo Atxaga.

**103** Words taken from the review by Oti Rodríguez Marchante (ABC, 24/9/2014), Gontzal Agote (*Berria*, 24/9/2014), Juan Zapater (*Diario de Noticias*, 24/9/2014), Mikel G. Gurpegui (*El Diario Vasco*, 24/9/2014) and Carlos Boyero (*El País*, 24/9/2014), respectively.

**104** This classification of the festival was that of its director, José Luis Rebordinos (*Gara*, 29/9/2014) and that of the conference by the journalist Ricardo Aldarondo, among others (*El Diario Vasco*, 5/10/2014).

**105** Juan Zapater in *Diario de Noticias*, 22/9/2015; Harkaitz Cano, *El Diario Vasco*, 22/9/2022; Beatriz Martínez, *El Periódico*, 22/9/2022.

**106** ABC, 25/9/2017; *Dirigido por* (no. 481), October 2017; *El País*, 20/10/2017.

**107** *El Diario Vasco*, 29/9/2017; *El Correo*, 20/10/2017; *Deia*, 17/9/2017; *Diario de Noticias*, 25/9/2017.

**108** *Berria*, 26/9/2017.

**109** Interview with Oskar Alegria, 21/5/2014.

<sup>109</sup> Elkarrizketa Oskar Alegría-rekin, 2014/5/21.

<sup>110</sup> María Marcos, «La mirada de las documentalistas vascas», in María Pilar Rodríguez (coord.), *Cineastas vascas*, Euskadiko Filmategia Vasca, Donostia, 2022, 107. or.

<sup>111</sup> Euskal gatazkaren ondorioei buruz lan egin dute, halaber, ez-fikziotik –nahiz eta ikuspegি oso desberdinak– Bertha Gaztelumendi (*Mariposas en el hierro*, 2012), Amaia eta Aitor Merino (*Asier ETA biok*, 2014) edo Arantza Santesteban (918 gau, 2021) bezalako zinemagileek.

<sup>112</sup> Arlo honetan egindako ikerketa-lana bikaina da: André Madréen zinemak eta Ynchausti funtsak, adibidez, betiko aberastu dute euskal ondare zinematografikoa.

<sup>113</sup> Maitane Jungitu, *Kalabaza Planeta eta Juanba Berasategi. Panorámica de la animación comercial vasca*, doktorego tesi, EHU, 2019, 201. or. eta 413. or.

<sup>114</sup> M. P. Rodríguez, (coord.), *Euskal emakume zinemagileak*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2022.

<sup>115</sup> Mugariak benetakoak izan dira Sofia Oteroren Berlingo interpretazio onenaren saria *20.000 especies de abejas* filmarengatik; eta Malagako Zinemaldiko film onenaren Urrezko Biznagak: hurrenez hurren, *Cinco lobitos* filmak 2022an, eta *20.000 especies de abejas* lanak 2023an.

<sup>116</sup> Beharbada, honez gero, Françoise Etchegaray ere sartu beharko genuke zerrenda honetan, euskal ekoizle garrantzitsu gisa, nahiz eta Euskal Herrian jaioa ez izan; Éric Rohmer-en filmografiari estuki lotutako ekoizlea da. Ikus Françoise Etchegaray, *Cuentos de los mil y un Rohmer*, ECAM eta DAMA, Madril, 2022. Iparraldetik bertatik iritsi dira albiste onak ikus-entzunezkoen arloan: Gastibeltza Filmak, adibidez, 2018an Eñaut Castagnet, Josu Martinez, Katti Pochelu, Manex Fuchs eta Ximun Fuchs zinemagileek sortutako ekoiztetxea da.

<sup>117</sup> Gurrea eta Urresola Venezia eta Cannesen lehenago ere izanak ziren beren film laburrekin. Beren lehen film luzeekin Donostiako eta Berlingo zinemaldietako sail ofizialetan sartzea lorpen bikaina izan da.

<sup>118</sup> Asier Altuna zuzendariak arrisku horretaz ohartarazi zuen, «lanean jartzen zaitutze»; fenomenoaren jarraipenari buruzko zalantzak ere adierazi zituen, eta egiaztago egin zuen Euskal Herrian aldez aurretik bazen nolabaiteko oreka hautsi zela. Ikus: <https://www.zinea.eus/2022/12/22/elkarrizketa-asier-altuna-kontsumo-ohiturak>

<sup>119</sup> Ildo horretatik, interesgarria da Rob Stone-k eta María Pilar Rodríguezek «herritarren» euskal zinemaren eta «sentimenduaren» euskal zinemaren artean ezartzen duten aldea. *Cine vasco. Una historia política y cultural*, Comunicación Social, Salamanca, 2015, hainbat pasartetan.

<sup>120</sup> Neurri batean, Gipuzkoan egindako *Kalebegiak* (2016) izeneko film kolektiboak belaunaldien araberako sailkapen horren epitome gisa funtzionatu zuen; sailkapenak, jakina, historia hobeto ulertzeko balio du, baina ez da taxonomia geometriko gisa hartu behar.

<sup>110</sup> María Marcos, “La mirada de las documentalistas vascas”, in María Pilar Rodríguez (coord.), *Cineastas vascas*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2022, p. 107.

<sup>111</sup> Others have also worked on the consequences of the Basque conflict in non-fiction form, although with very different perspectives; filmmakers like Bertha Gaztelumendi (*Mariposas en el hierro*, 2012), Amaia and Aitor Merino (*Asier ETA biok*, 2014) and Arantza Santesteban (918 gau, 2021).

<sup>112</sup> His efforts as a researcher in this field are outstanding: the films of André Madré and the Ynchausti archive, for example, have enriched forever the Basque cinematographic heritage.

<sup>113</sup> Maitane Jungitu, *Kalabaza Planeta eta Juanba Berasategi. Panorámica de la animación comercial vasca*, Doctoral Thesis, UPV/EHU, 2019, p. 201 and p. 413.

<sup>114</sup> M. P. Rodríguez, (coord.), *Euskal emakume zinemagileak / Cineastas vascas*, Euskadiko Filmategia, Donostia, 2022.

<sup>115</sup> The prize for best actor in Berlin to Sofía Otero for *20.000 especies de abejas* and the Golden Biznagas for best film at the Malaga Festival which were awarded, respectively, to *Cinco lobitos* in 2022 and *20.000 especies de abejas* in 2023 were real milestones.

<sup>116</sup> We should, perhaps, already have introduced here Françoise Etchegaray as a very important Basque producer (although not born in the Basque Country) who is linked inseparably to the filmography of Éric Rohmer. See Françoise Etchegaray, *Cuentos de los mil y un Rohmer*, ECAM and DAMA, Madrid, 2022. There was also good news from the Northern Basque Country in the audio-visual field: Gastibeltza Filmak, for example, is a production company created in 2018 by filmmakers such as Eñaut Castagnet, Josu Martínez, Katti Pochelu, Manex Fuchs and Ximun Fuchs.

<sup>117</sup> Gurrea and Urresola had visited Venice and Cannes respectively with their short films. Their entrance in the official sections of the festivals of San Sebastian and Berlin with their first works was sensational.

<sup>118</sup> The director Asier Altuna warned of this danger because “they put you to work”, highlighting his doubts with regard to the continuation of the phenomenon and pointing to the breaking of the kind of previous equilibrium in the Basque Country. See: <https://www.zinea.eus/2022/12/22/elkarrizketa-asier-altuna-kontsumo-ohiturak>.

<sup>119</sup> In this sense, the difference that Rob Stone and María Pilar Rodríguez make between a Basque cinema of “individuals” and “feeling” is interesting in *Cine vasco. Una historia política y cultural*, Comunicación Social, Salamanca, 2015, *passim*.

<sup>120</sup> The collective film *Kalebegiak* (2016) functioned partly (from Gipuzkoan) as the epitome of this classification by generations which, obviously, serves to understand the development better but one should not take it as taxonomic geometry.

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## Joxean Fernández (Donostia / San Sebastián, 1973)

Euskadiko Filmategiko zuzendaria 2010eko abenduaz geroztik eta Donostia Zinemaldiko zuzendaritza batzordeko kidea 2011ko urtarileetik. Nanteseko Unibertsitateko irakasle titularra da, egun eszedenetzian badago ere. Historia Garaikidean eta Zinemaren Historian aditua da. Zaragozako eta Nanteseko unibertsitateetan doktore da tutorekidetzan eginiko *Cine y Guerra Civil en el País Vasco* (1936-2006) doktore tesiari esker. Nanteseko Festival du Cinéma espagnol zinemaldiko zuzendaritza batzordeko kidea da 2001. urteaz geroztik eta han «Euskal Leihoa» izeneko sailaren bultzatzailea izan zen. 2008an, *A las puertas de París* dokumentala zuzendu zuen Marta Hornorekin batera. Artikulu ugari idatzi ditu Euskal Herriko historia garaikideari eta zinemari buruz eta ondorengo liburuengoezinatzailea ere bada: *Federico Fellini eta Luis Buñuel* (biak Jesús Angulorekin batera), *Cine y Guerra Civil en el País Vasco* (Santiago de Pablorekin batera), *Conservación audiovisual en la era digital* (Alfonso del Amorekin batera), *De Lumière a Kaurismäki. La clase obrera en el cine* (Carlos F. Herederoinkin batera). Gainera, *Euskal zinema: zinemagileen hiru belaunaldi* liburuaren editorea da eta baita *Euskal Zinema-Cine Vasco-Basque Cinema*-ren egilea ere. City University of New Yorkeko (CUNY) Bernardo Atxaga Katedrako irakasle gonbidatua izan da 2012 eta 2017 urteetan. Elías Querejeta Zine Eskola martxan jartzen parte hartu du, eta eskolako Zuzendaritza Akademikoko kide da.

Head of the Basque Film Archive since December 2010 and member of the Management Committee of the San Sebastian International Film Festival since January 2011. Senior lecturer (currently on leave of absence) at the University of Nantes, specialising in Contemporary History and the History of Cinema. Holder of a PhD from the University of Zaragoza and the University of Nantes with a jointly supervised doctoral thesis titled "Cinema and Civil War in the Basque Country (1936-2006)". Member since 2001 of the management committee of the Nantes Festival of Spanish Cinema and promoter therein of the "Basque Window" section. He co-directed with Marta Horro the documentary *A las puertas de París* (2008). The author of numerous articles on the contemporary history of the Basque Country and cinema and the coordinator of the following books: *Federico Fellini and Luis Buñuel* (both together with Jesús Angulo), *Cine y Guerra Civil en el País Vasco* (with Santiago de Pablo), *Conservación audiovisual en la era digital* (with Alfonso del Amo), *De Lumière a Kaurismäki* and *La clase obrera en el cine* (with Carlos F. Heredero). He is, moreover, the editor of *Cine vasco: tres generaciones de cineastas* and author of the book *Euskal Zinema-Cine Vasco-Basque Cinema*. He has been a visiting professor occupying the Bernardo Atxaga Chair at the City University of New York (CUNY) in 2012 and 2017. He has collaborated on the launch of the Elías Querejeta Film School and forms part of its Academic Management.

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1. *El cine en el País Vasco*, Santos Zunzunegi.  
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41. *Urte berri on, amonal* (Telmo Esnal, 2011)
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43. *Handia* (Aitor Arregi, Jon Garaño, 2017)
44. *Oreina* (Koldo Almandoz, 2018)
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46. *Gartxot* (Asisko Urmeneta, Juanjo Elordi, 2011)
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Etxepare Euskal Institutua erakunde publiko bat da. Gure helburua nazioartean euskara, euskal kultura eta sorkuntza sustatzea eta ezagutzera ematea da, eta, horien esku, beste herrialdeekin eta kulturekin harreman iraunkorrik eraikitza. Horretarako kalitatezko jarduera artistikoak sustatzen ditugu, eta sortzaile, artista nahiz kultura-sektoreetako profesionalen mugikortasuna errazten dugu, baita euskararen eta euskal kulturaren irakaskuntza ere. Halaber, nazioarteko eragile kulturalekin eta akademikoekin elkarlana bultzatzen dugu. Zeregin horietan guztietaan Euskadiko kanpo ordezkaritzak gertuko bidelagun ditugu.

## **Etxepare Basque Institute**

The Etxepare Basque Institute is a public agency dedicated to promoting Basque language, culture and creative talent internationally, and to building lasting relationships with other countries and cultures in these areas. To this end, we foster quality artistic activities and support the mobility of artists and cultural industry professionals, as well as teaching Basque language and culture. We also encourage collaboration with international stakeholders in both the cultural and academic fields, working closely with the official Basque delegations abroad.





BASQUECULTURE.EUS  
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TO BASQUE CREATIVITY  
AND CULTURE

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