



# THE VESSEL

A FILM BY JULIO QUINTANA

## SYNOPSIS

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### Short Synopsis

Ten years after a tidal wave destroys a small-town elementary school with all the children inside, a young man builds a mysterious structure out of the school's remains, setting the town aflame with passions long forgotten.

### Long Synopsis

Music. Dancing. Fireworks. Childbirth. These are just a few things that vanished from a small fishing village after a massive tidal wave crushed the local elementary school, washing forty-six children out to sea.

Father Douglas Wood (Martin Sheen) urges the grief-stricken mothers to have more children, but they refuse, locked in a state of perpetual mourning.

Until one night when a local young man named Leo slips off the pier and drowns, only to mysteriously awaken three hours later.

"Could this be a sign from God?" the townspeople start to wonder. For the first time in years, Father Douglas sees a glimmer of hope in their eyes.

But then as if compelled by some inner force, Leo assembles a crude structure in his front yard from the remains of the destroyed school, igniting a storm of confusion and passion that will change the town forever.





## CAST BIOS

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### MARTIN SHEEN - Father Douglas

Multiple Emmy and Golden Globe Award winner Martin Sheen has appeared in more than 65 feature films including Terrence Malick's *Badlands* (1973), Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* (1979), *Wall Street* (1987), *Gandhi* (1982) and a Golden Globe nominated breakthrough performance in *The Subject Was Roses* (1968). For television audiences, Sheen is best recognized for his six-time Emmy nominated performance as President Josiah Bartlet in *The West Wing* (1999).



### LUCAS QUINTANA - Leo

Lucas Quintana is a Cuban-American actor and Latin jazz pianist. Often compared to a young Al Pacino, Lucas became interested in acting at the age of fourteen, and he has been collaborating with his older brother Julio ever since. The two brothers have made several short films together, and when people ask Julio how he came up with the story for *The Vessel*, his answer always involves wanting to write a movie for his brother. *The Vessel* is Lucas's feature film debut.



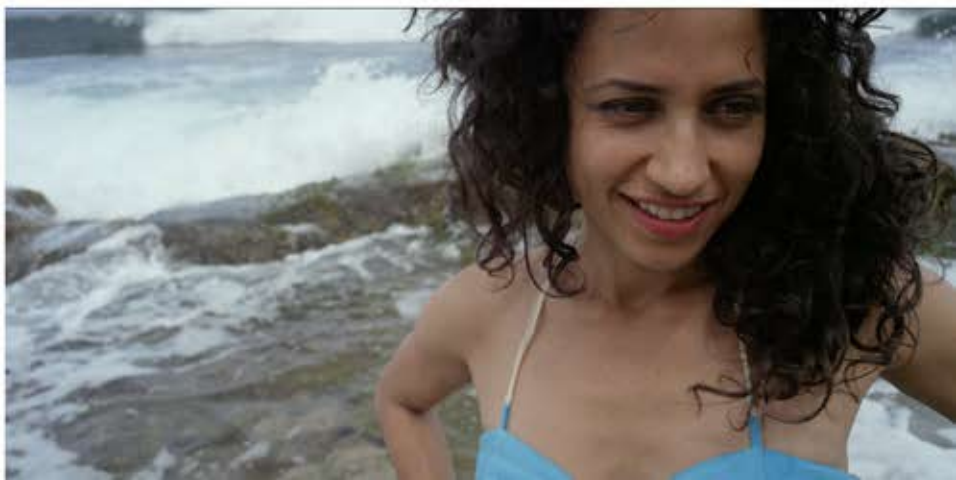
### JACQUELINE DUPREY - Fidelia

With classical training from the Yale School of Drama and her rich emotional range, Jacqueline Duprey has built a career on stage in the U.S. and abroad, performing at many of the nation's foremost regional theaters, including Yale Repertory Theater and The Alliance Theater. In New York she worked on Broadway in the production of Pulitzer Prize winner *Anna in the Tropics* at the Royal Theater, and most recently, she played Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's *Master Class* at The University of Puerto Rico Repertory Theater.



### ARIS MEJIAS - Soraya

Aris Mejías is an award-winning Puerto Rican actress who began her international career in such films as *Cayo* (2006), *The Caller* (2011), and most notably *Che* (2008), directed by Steven Soderbergh. She also stars in the three-time award-winning film at Tribeca Film Festival *Una Noche*, Cannes Short Film Corner selection *Endless Cycle*, Latin Grammy winner *Loco de Amor: La Historia*, and was most recently cast as the leading lady in *Sol de Medianoche*. She also owns and operates her clothing label, Skin Onion.





## TEAM BIOS

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### **JULIO QUINTANA - Writer/Director**

Julio Quintana is a Cuban-American writer and director from Austin, Texas. After years as a freelance cinematographer and camera operator, with work appearing in various films including Terrence Malick's *The Tree of Life* (2011) and *To the Wonder* (2012), Julio makes his feature directorial debut with *The Vessel*. Julio is also actively writing and developing scripted television content as Creative Director at Austin-based production company Bat Bridge Entertainment.

### **MARLA QUINTANA - Producer**

Marla Quintana is a producer and production manager of narrative features, documentaries, and television docu-series, who has run productions such as *Marshal Law: Texas* with Jerry Bruckheimer Television, the CNN Original Series *High Profits*, and most recently an all new production with Showtime. She currently serves as Chief Operating Officer and Head of Production for Bat Bridge Entertainment.

### **TERRENCE MALICK - Executive Producer**

Terrence Malick is the writer and director of such renowned films as *Badlands*, *Days of Heaven*, *The Thin Red Line*, and *The Tree of Life*. Major Academy Award nominations include Best Director for *The Tree of Life* and *The Thin Red Line*, Best Picture for *The Tree of Life*, and Best Adapted Screenplay for *The Thin Red Line*. Major international awards include Best Picture at the Berlin International Film Festival for *The Thin Red Line*, Best Director at Cannes Film Festival for *Days of Heaven*, and the Palme d'Or for Best Picture at Cannes Film Festival for *The Tree of Life*.

### **SARAH GREEN - Executive Producer**

Sarah Green has produced thirty films over the last twenty-five years. She made five films with writer/director John Sayles (including *The Secret of Roan Inish*), five with writer/director David Mamet (including *State and Main*), and six films with writer/director Terrence Malick. She also produced *Frida* for Julie Taymor and *Girlfight* for Karyn Kusama, and is in post production on her fourth picture with writer/director Jeff Nichols (*Take Shelter, Mud*).





## CREW



Writer and Director  
Producer  
Executive Producers

Co-Executive Producers

Associate Producer  
Production Manager  
Director of Photography  
Production Designer  
Boat Design & Engineering  
Costume Designer  
Head of Makeup and Hair  
Casting Director  
Composer  
Editors

Sound Re-Recording Mixer  
Colorist

JULIO QUINTANA  
MARLA QUINTANA  
TERRENCE MALICK  
SARAH GREEN  
MARTIN SHEEN  
MICHAEL H. ROCKAFELLOW  
STEPHEN GERMER  
JEFFREY KEELS  
JODY M. WINGROVE  
KEITH TOWNSHEND  
ROSEMARY TOWNSHEND  
RICHARD JONES  
KELLI WEINZIERL  
JENNA JACKSON  
ANTHONY JACKSON  
CHRISTIAN SOSA  
MARK JOSEPH  
MARK ROGERS  
ANNABELLE MULLEN  
SANTIAGO BENET MARI  
GERARDO VEGA  
ALEX QUINTANA  
NATALIA COLLAZO  
ABADHA LILA  
ZORAIDA SANJURJO LOPEZ  
HANAN TOWNSHEND  
A.J. EDWARDS  
DON SWAYNOS  
CHRIS KEYLAND  
BRANDON THOMAS





## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In every possible sense, *The Vessel* is a love story. The romantic love between Soraya and Leo. The maternal love between Leo and his mother. The spiritual love between Father Douglas and the townspeople.

But the central element running right through the heart of *The Vessel* is the concept of mystery. As the grieving parents try desperately to grasp the meaning of their tragedy, they become paralyzed by their inability to understand. Mystery itself becomes a hostile element in their lives, something to be feared and avoided. So it is appropriate that Leo's cryptic structure becomes the catalyst for growth, demonstrating that mystery can also be a source of comfort and reconciliation.

Great care was taken to create a sense of universality in *The Vessel*. All dialogue scenes were filmed in both English and Spanish resulting in identical movies in two different languages. On-set dialect coaches ensured that all accents remain neutral, avoiding colloquialisms that might reveal the actor's nationality.

Similarly, the time period of *The Vessel* is purposely left undefined. All modern technologies such as televisions, computers, and cell phones were meticulously removed, resulting in the illusive feeling of a time capsule, similar to present day Cuba.

My hope is that through the story and characters of *The Vessel*, audiences everywhere will be transported to a romantic and emotional world in which mystery is not a menacing force, but a profound instrument of beauty and healing.



## REVIEWS



“Exquisite visual acumen ... conjures a timeless hamlet devoid of modern appurtenances, the kind of enchanted place where miracles - like breaking the shackles of paralyzing despair - can happen.” --- **The New York Times**

“Thrilling ... compelling ... a major work by an exciting new talent.” --- **The Village Voice**

“... A strange brew: stark yet beautiful, urgent yet dreamlike ... the strikingly shot *The Vessel* is one mind-trip worth taking.” --- **Los Angeles Times**

“Simple and yet elliptical, the film is a redemptive work that neither condescends nor patronizes ... *The Vessel* speaks eloquently. It’s a testament to the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen.” --- **The Austin Chronicle**

“How the film progresses and how the plot unfolds is a divine and spiritual pleasure ... its ultimate message, is as powerfully felt and gorgeously realized as anything one may see on screen this year.” --- **The Film Stage**

“... A rather timeless story of despair, faith and rebirth in a manner smart enough intellectually and with frequent eye-popping visuals that make the trip worthwhile ... Quintana and his cinematographer (Santiago Benet Mari) ... conspire to make this one of the most visually splendid films in a long while.” --- **TrustMovies**

“Bravo to director Julio Quintana for assembling a masterful piece of work.” --- **Reel News Daily**

“This is a gentle, poetic, touching film, itself a vessel with a message of hope. It does not pretend to answer the question of why bad things happen to good people, but it reminds us that when they do, there are other good people paying attention.” --- **Beliefnet**

“The only way out is through ... that’s good wisdom and it’s reflected in the movie *The Vessel* ... Maybe God is like a mother who wears a pink dress – pointing us to a more colorful world.” --- **Patheos**

“*The Vessel* is a very sacramental movie reminiscent of the golden age of artistic movies from filmmakers as diverse as Fellini and Bergman. It is very lyrical and very compelling - and entertaining.” --- **Movieguide**

“*The Vessel* is sober and thought-provoking, lyrical and beautiful. The issues it raises are timeless and universal.” --- **The Stream**

“The sea is a place of beauty, wonder, awe, romance, and danger. It gives life. And takes it. *The Vessel* leads movie goers on a journey into all of these mysteries. It looks starkly at grief. Takes you right to the depths of it. But doesn’t leave you there.” --- **Christopher West**, Best-selling author and lecturer on Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body





## Technical Specs

Year of Completion	2016
Release Date	September 16, 2016
Country of Origin	United States Puerto Rico
Language	Full English Version Full Spanish Version
Running Time	86 minutes (English) 85 minutes (Spanish)
Aspect Ratio	2:1
Format	DCP
Sound	D-Cinema 48k 7.1
Rating	PG-13

## Contact Information

Production Company	New Territory Pictures
U.S. Distribution	Outsider Pictures / Mucho Mas Media Paul Hudson 1127 Ninth Street, Suite 104 Santa Monica, CA 90403 310.951.0878 <a href="http://www.outsiderpictures.us">www.outsiderpictures.us</a>
International Sales	Recreation Ariel Veneziano 2913 Third Street, Suite 310 Los Angeles, CA 90405 310.305.1285 <a href="http://www.recreationgroup.com">www.recreationgroup.com</a>
Film Website	<a href="http://www.thevesselmovie.com">www.thevesselmovie.com</a>



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