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PRESS RELEASE

BITTER GOLD – World premiere in Warsaw IFF main competition.

The Chilean neo western BITTER GOLD by Juan Olea will celebrate its world premiere in Warsaw IFF main competition on Sunday 13th October.

Set in the extinct world of artisan mining in North Chile, this neo western centers the struggles and empowerment of a young woman, fighting to keep the family business against patriarchal structures and the law of the jungle.

Carola (16) dreams of higher education and a house by the sea, but lives with Pacifico, her father, in the middle of the Atacama Desert. Together with a small group of miners, they exploit an artisanal cobra mine to survive, although father and daughter hide a treasure, a vein of gold in which they secretly work at night with the intention of twisting their destiny.

One day, a miner discovers their secret and violently breaks into the gold mine. Pacifico and Carola defend themselves and kill the intruder but the father is seriously wounded. After hiding the body, Carola decides to take her father's place in the mine, face the hostility of the miners and her own immaturity to continue the pursuit of her longed-for dream.

The director Juan Olea comments on his film:

“My inspiration for this project comes from the Atacama Desert. This solitary place, exploited by generations of miners, evokes in me a contradictory sensation: the beauty and magnitude of the space versus the dryness, loneliness and vulnerability. With this film I highlight the value of a rich culture that has been neglected for centuries. It is incredible that artisanal mining persists in the 21st century. Chile and other countries have depended on mining for centuries, impacting their political, social and cultural structures. It is crucial to focus on this reality, because our extractivist economic system, heir to a colonial logic, is a source of poverty, inequality and discrimination.

I want to comment on this social/economical status by using cinema. It is not a traditional western, but an adaptation of some of its elements. The action takes place in lawless places, where justice is questioned and protection depends on each one. Nature and violence out of ambition are constant threats. There is a booty (the gold mine) for which the characters fight. The desert climate, its colors, the isolation and the immensity of the landscape contribute to an exotic atmosphere. The film is also about maturity. The protagonist goes from judging others to questioning her own convictions.”

In case you are interested to review the film or interview the director we would be happy to send you additional material and information as also arrange the interview (online or onsite).

The director, the main actress and the main actor attend Warsaw IFF from 11th to 15th October .

BITTER GOLD is produced by Francisco Hervé, Moisés Sepúlveda, Daniela Raviola and Felipe Egaña at Chile's Juntos Films (“El Otro”) alongside Cristóbal Zapata at Santiago-based La Santé Films (“Martín, el hombre y la leyenda”), Tom Schreiber at Germany's Plotlessfilm (“It's Quiet Here”), Virginia Bogliolo at Uruguay outfit Tarkiofilm (“Straight to VHS”) and Juan Bernardo González at Mexico's Whisky Content.

PRESS BOOK - TRAILER

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