

Los Niños de la Guerra

by Alize Sotelo Gutierrez



Format: Animated short film

Lenght: 11 minutes

Status: Pre-Production

Genre: Docufiction, Coming of Age

Technique: 2D, 3D, Motion capture

Target Audience: Young adults and above

Logline: In the aftermath of Guernica's bombing, the feisty 7-year-old Fermin finds himself as a refugee in Great Britain, grappling with the harsh realities of displacement. Amidst these challenges, he finds resilience as he rediscovers the emotional anchor of dance.



Synopsis: After the devastating bombing of Guernica, the Basque Government decided to take a desperate measure: evacuate as many children as possible to save them from the war. Fermín, who is only 7 years old, embarks on the Habana along with his two sisters, Eli and Lore, on their way to Great Britain for what is initially intended to be a 3-month trip.

We follow Fermin as we see how the children struggle with the challenges of displacement and learn to adapt to a new way of life together. Eventually, the Republic's defeat in the war makes it impossible for Fermin to return to the home he desperately longs for. Only then, in a world that at first seemed so unfamiliar, does our protagonist rediscovers his passion for dance as a means to not only survive, but also to find a sense of belonging.

Director Statement: As a Basque living in London, I feel deeply passionate and connected to this story, and this is why I want to contribute to making it more widely known. My purpose with this short film is to tell the story of the children who were evacuated to Great Britain and focus on the impact of the exodus and the consequences for them.

Spain has only recently begun a deep review of the implications and the impact of the Spanish Civil War on our current society. Because of the self-censorship after Franco's death, citizens are unaware of many events that affected ordinary people. I believe that my work could have a positive social impact, making people more aware and interested in this theme. Through the lens of this film, I aspire to evoke empathy, provoke thought, and initiate conversations that transcend geographical and cultural boundaries.

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Link to previous work:

CHOPPING WOOD CHIPS // <https://vimeo.com/619879912>
Password: CWC2022