

'ELLOS VOLVIERON'

'The Returned'

Written, directed, produced by

IVAN NOEL

*

D.C.P. Stereo, colour.

drama/thriller/supernatural, 93mins, Argentina 2015

*

CAST

Jorge Booth

Romina Pinto

Julio Mendez

Camila Cruz

The children: Lauro Veron, Valentina Sartorelli, Juani Molina

Cinematography: Ivan Noel/ Executive producers: Paul Sestina, Christian Luther, Ian Evans,
Production Design: Betiana Leonardo/ Line Producer: Lucas Lopez/ Film Editor: Guy Ducker / Sound:
Gaston Sahajdacny / Camera: Marcos Rostagno / Music: Ivan Noel / Script: Karina Bellina.
Associate producers: Rogier Kleij, Ruben Belfort, Adrea D'attri, Christophe Guilloux, Manfred
Hesper.

Noel films

N. Gonzalez, 147.

Jesus Maria, Cordoba, 5220, Argentina.

Tel: 0054 3525 504139 Email: ivan@noelfilms.com

Sales Agent:

one-eyed films

Betina Goldman

11 Ellerslie Road London W12 7BN UK

Tel + 44 20 874 01491 Email: info@oneeyedfilms.com

FESTIVALS



LOGLINE:

The kidnapping and mutilation of three young children creates violent ripples through their small community.



SHORT SYNOPSIS:

After an unexplained 3-day disappearance, three children return to their village mutilated and in an autistic state. Despite parallel investigations by police, villagers and school children alike, not a single suspect surfaces, other than their school teacher who claims they have, in fact, been murdered.

SYNOPSIS:

'They Returned' narrates the unexplained disappearance of three children from their small town, and their reappearance three days later in a semi-autistic state. Not even the children themselves are able to help anyone understand what happened. No clues or signs are left, other than two of them were mutilated.

As the police carry out their investigation, and the town slowly sinks into a deep state of suspiciousness, the small community of children - classroom friends of the missing three - run their own parallel search.

Only one person is a potential suspect: the children's classroom teacher, recently arrived from another town. He does not help his case when he attempts to make the school psychologist understand that the children were in fact murdered...



Julio Mendez as the teacher.
Director's biography/filmography:



Ivan Noel was born to a nomadic family, studying in 8 different schools and living in 12 different countries. His earliest contact with cinema was a short film he made at age 11, involving 200 extras from his school.

Film not being part of the school curriculum in the British school where he studied, he took up music, reaching concert-level classical guitar playing soon after. His university studies in film music composition led him to return to film, creating his own images to showcase his music. He has since won important prizes in Europe both for his photography, but also his compositions.

Ivan has been a school teacher for over 20 years, running in parallel a theatre school, and a music school, where his young talent hail from.

After selling his house in 2007, he financed his first feature film 'En Tu Ausencia' (Spain, drama, 2008), which was warmly received by festivals and critics alike.

He has since produced almost one feature film per year, usually depicting various aspects of childhood and adolescence, sometimes comic, serious or downright troubling.

His later films have been: 'Brecha' (Spain, drama, 2009), '¡Primaria!' (Spain, comedy, 2010), 'Vuelve' (Argentina. Psychological thriller. 2011), 'Limbo' (Argentina, black comedy. 2013), 'Ellos Volvieron' (Argentina, drama/thriller/supernatural, 2015).

In post-production with 'Burnt Knees' (drama/horror), 2016.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT.

Loosely based on the United States 'West Memphis Three' criminal saga, my film is a depiction of how such evil is not the result of a single person's actions, but rather a string of events, involving a string of people, and how these equally guilty parties shun their responsibilities by pointing fingers at others – or how evil is a thread that continually builds on itself, growing like a disease, until it is cut to the root.

Argentina - as depicted in the 'Abandoned Hospital' in the film - having often been a refuge for past war criminals (and victims), is replete with remnants of the past. And it knows well how, still today and oceans away, people still suffer the effects of crimes committed many decades ago.

Just as the salt level in the seas stopped rising just before it made life impossible, how the tides continually clean out pollution, or how antibodies instinctively attack intruders, nature has an inbuilt mechanism to correct any imbalance. I appear to have written about –without realising– a story based on the theory of Gaia. This natural 'correction' of evil is symbolically expressed through the victimized children in this film. They act without hate though. As their schoolteacher puts it 'there is not vengeance in a doctor's scalpel'.



Romina Pinto as 'Isabel'

