



BAD DAY TO GO FISHING

A film by Alvaro Brechner

"Engagingly quirky!" – John Frosch, *The Hollywood Reporter*

"Alvaro Brechner's ambitious debut is something like a retro *THE WRESTLER* by way of the Coen brothers." - Jordan Mintzer, *Variety*



Uruguay, Spain / 2009 / Drama-Comedy / Spanish with English Subtitles / 110 min. / 1:2.35 / Dolby SRD

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SYNOPSIS

Jacob van Oppen, the former strongest man on earth and his crafty manager, Orsini, make a good living by traveling around small South American towns, organizing wrestling exhibitions in run-down theaters. Once this oddball pair disembarks at the village of Santa Maria, business really kicks off: the local newspaper sponsors the fight and helping hands placard posters announcing an open call for a worthy adversary. Ever so resourceful, Orsini knows how to find the right combatant, but fishing in Santa Maria could lead to a bigger catch than he'd hoped for.

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

BAD DAY TO GO FISHING was Uruguay's official entry for Best Foreign Language Film to the 82nd Academy Awards®

OFFICIAL SELECTION Critics Week **CANNES** Film Festival

WINNER Jury Prize & Audience Award **CINE LAS AMERICAS** Film Festival

WINNER Best Film **LOS ANGELES** Latino Film Festival

WINNER of 10 Awards of the Uruguayan Film Critics Association, including Best Uruguayan Film, Director, Screenplay and Actor.

WINNER – Best Actor – **Mar del Plata Int'l Film Festival**

WINNER – FIPRESCI Prize – **Sofia Int'l Film Festival**

WINNER – Free Spirit Award – **Warsaw Int'l Film Festival**

WINNER – Best New Director – **Brooklyn Int'l Film Festival**

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Montreal World Film Festival

Palm Springs Int'l Film Festival

Pusan Int'l Film Festival

Sao Paulo Int'l Film Festival

BIOGRAPHIES & FILMOGRAPHIES

ALVARO BRECHNER
Director & Co-Writer

Born in 1976 in Montevideo, Uruguay, he lives in Spain since 1999. He has directed several documentaries for broadcasters like TVE and the History Channel and the 35mm short films *The Nine Mile Walk* (2003), *Sofia* (2005), and *Segundo Aniversario* (2007). These short films have participated in more than 140 international film festivals, including Clermont-Ferrand, London, Los Angeles, Chicago and Gijón (Spain), capturing several awards. *Mal día para pescar* is his feature film debut.

Filmography

2009 **Bad Day to Go Fishing** (feature)
2007 **Segundo Aniversario** (short)
2005 **Sofia** (short)
2003 **The Nine Mile Walk** (short)

GARY PIQUER

Born in Glasgow from a Scottish mother and a Catalan father. He has worked in Spain, the UK and the US. He studied Dramatic Arts at the Douglas Webber´s House of London.

Filmography

2009 **Bad Day to Go Fishing** Orsini
2008 **4000 euros** Miguel (voice)
2008 **Cenizas del cielo** Paul Ferguson
2008 **Imaginario**_Gary Gibson
2006 **Válido para un baile** (short)
2006 **The Kovak Box** Jaume
2005 **Somne** Benedict
2005 **The Feast of the Goat** Galindez
2005 **Arco iris** (short)
2004 **Romasanta: The Werewolf Hunt** District Attorney Luciano de la Bastida
2004 **León and Olvido** Damián
2003 **The Nine Mile Walk** (short) Nicky Welt
2000-2002 **¡Ala... Dina!** (TV series) Tomás

JOUKO AHOLA

Born in 1970, he is a Finnish strongman and actor. He won the 1997 and 1999 World's Strongest Man, and finished second in 1998. Ahola won the Europe's Strongest Man contest twice in 1998 and 1999, and finished fourth in 1996. Jouko won the World's Strongest Team in 1997 and 1999, and was second in 1998. Jouko was a very successful strongman competitor, despite being one of the smallest, at 6' 1" (1.85 m) and 270 lbs (122.5 kg), corresponding to a BMI of 35.8, which is low by WSM standards.

He is currently directing his focus towards films, and can be seen in *Kingdom of Heaven* and *Invincible*. He also serves as a judge and event organizer for the World's Strongest Man contest

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

by Sergio Ríos Pérez from Cineuropa

"We must safeguard the cross-cultural nature of cinema"

Álvaro Brechner (33) was born in 1976 in Montevideo, capital of Uruguay. Ten years ago, he decided to up sticks and move to Madrid to work as a film director. He went on to make several documentaries and shorts. Four years ago, he began work on his debut narrative feature, *Bad Day To Go Fishing*, which was 70% co-produced by Spain (Telespan 2000 and Baobab) and 30% by Uruguay (Expresso), and screened in Cannes Critics' Week.

Brechner shot the film in Uruguay, South America, but took along his team of Spanish collaborators. It's hardly surprising, therefore, that he rejects national labels and prefers a broader outlook: "I like to say that film belongs to planet cinema, although obviously each work also reflects the time and place in which it was made. What's wonderful about film is its cross-cultural appeal, which saw Jean-Pierre Melville recreate North American cinema of the 1930s in France, then came along John Woo, who brought Melville-inspired films to Asia, and finally, Tarantino discovered Woo and brought him back to the US. Films are always about the personality of their creators and the society in which they lived, but also about cinema itself. Nowadays, we focus on safeguarding regional film production, which is important, but we must also safeguard the cross-cultural nature of cinema".

This is a very fitting analysis when talking about his debut feature, which has echoes of many different genres: "I wanted it to have an air of 'Once upon a time...' I really like it when you see a film and you can immerse yourself in a particular world, not the world around the corner from your house, but closer to fantasy and dream. And I dreamed about one of those villages where you always see dawn and dusk, which is still part of the "western" idea, two men confronted with an inevitable fate".

These two men are Prince Orsini and Jacob Van Oppen, a manager and wrestler, respectively. They are touring around a series of remote villages in South America: "The film explores the process of identity formation and how we end up becoming what we believe we are. All the characters are constantly talking about what they are. Whoever feels the need to say this is hiding something. And what they're hiding is a lack of belief in themselves".

As for the future, *Bad Day To Go Fishing* has marked a turning point in Brechner's career: "Right now, I don't have many short-term plans, because I've been touring film festivals for three months. I have a completed script, which right now we're starting to show to people and I hope it will be able to secure greater European investment".

December 7, 2009

CREDITS

CREW

Director	ALVARO BRECHNER
Script writer	ALVARO BRECHNER, GARY PIQUER
Author of original work	JUAN CARLOS ONETTI
Composer	MIKEL SALAS
Director of photography	ALVARO GUTIERREZ
Editor	TERESA FONT
Production Design	GUSTAVO RAMIREZ
Costumes	ALEJANDRA ROSASCO
Make Up	ESTELA VALLEGRA

CAST

Name	Acting role
Gary Piquer	ORSINI
Jouko Ahola	JACOB
Antonella Costa	ADRIANA
Cesar Troncoso	HEBER