

*Festspiele*  
 72 Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Encounters



*A Little  
Come Package*

ANGELIKI  
PAPOULIA

UNA PELÍCULA DE  
GASTÓN  
SOLNICKI

CARMEN  
CHAPLIN



## Synopsis

Vienna, 2019 – the end of an era. The smoking ban in public places means that a part of Kaffeehaus culture has disappeared. Of all moments, this is the one that Angeliki chooses to buy an apartment with help from her interior designer friend, Carmen. Angeliki seems to have something against all of them: either the parquet floors creak, the tiles are the wrong colour or she is bothered by the proximity to a restaurant. How will she ever find a new home in this environment? Carmen feels like she's talking to a brick wall. Moreover, she simply cannot understand why Angeliki is refusing to part with her money. Journeying from Vienna to Andalusia, via salt flats overcast by mysterious shadows, Gastón Solnicki's fifth feature film is a brilliant lesson in generosity. A classic comedy dominated by women which brings together actors and non-actors in a lively, fragmented story. Narrated by Mexican writer Mario Bellatin and filmed by Rui Poças, this is a subtle and witty homage to the Austrian capital that discovers bygone splendour in ordinary things.

Antoine Thirion - Berlinale Catalogue





## **Director's Note and Formal Concept**

A Little Love Package is a film in which I wished to pursue my filmic transition, in the sense of working with materials inherently related to a certain tradition of narrative filmmaking, though still invested in a documentary register and the epiphany of the unexpected – which has always felt very natural to me. For the first time, I made a film based on a more preconceived structure, a certain kind of dramatic arc and its corresponding characterological subjects.

I have always been under a certain spell in regards to Vienna, ever since I first visited as a little boy. It is my ideal location, my cinematic paradise. A city out of time, so plenty of layers. An architecture that is very distant from my Argentine life, yet so familiar.

I was interested in portraying a 20th century Vienna. From modernist gems to the 70's Alt Erlaa. Wienkanal, private interiors and legendary cafés where different centuries condense in present layers, a very long living history now extinct in most European capitals. In addition, original autobiographical gags, such as those related to smuggling cheese, inject humor into a cinematic thread, that is featured in all my previous works.

I happened to be present during the last days of legal smoking in Vienna's coffehouses before the ban. And I thought it was a meaningful event, that closed a long era and that it would be an interesting introduction to a film.

I began staging for the camera within a very small scale. In A Little Love Package I made a new step in this direction, by continuing to have a keen eye for the context and landscapes in which our characters move, but more invested on the crafts of what we call fiction. In this film, for the first time, I have invited several friends with whom I had the honor to collaborate – actors, scientists and musicians. Very talented colleagues who play a key role in this production.





The opening viola solo, and other colorful fragments of Gerard Grisey's *Espaces Acoustiques* bring some spectral tension and magic to our film in contrast with other pieces from different periods. Our aim is to create a more open soundtrack in regards to traditional mixing standards that strengthens the emotion of the film from an aural perspective.

I wish we continue to create a working environment where pleasure and desire are present, for I believe that every film becomes the emotions it is made from. My second collaboration with my dear friend Rui Poças, has been crucial to this film, that we shot under strict lockdown, with very difficult conditions. I continued to edit with my dear friend Alan Martín Segal, who edited both my previous two films. We share an understanding of this very specific way of working. Our technique is becoming more optimized as we learn what its weaknesses and strengths are.

## Biography

Gastón Solnicki is an Argentine director and producer, born in 1978. He studied at the International Center of Photography and obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He directed his first film **Süden** in 2008. His second feature **Papirosen** premiered in Locarno in 2011, it won the Best Film Award at BAFICI and was released in the US. Solnicki's third film, **Kékszakállú** (2016), won the FIPRESCI for Best Film in Venice. It subsequently screened at TIFF, NYFF, and Viennale. **Kékszakállú** was selected by the noted monthly Artforum as one of the ten best films of 2016. In 2018, he directed and produced, **Introduzione all'Oscuro**, premiered in Venice 75. His films have recently been acquired by MoMA.

## Filmography

### Features

2008. **Süden**. Festivals, selection: BAFICI, Viennale. FIDMarseille

2011. **Papirosen**. Festival selection: Locarno, Viennale, IFFR, BAFICI (Best Film), Jerusalem (Best Film), Edinburgh (Special Mention), NYTimes Critics pick

2016. **Kékszakállú**. Festival selection: Venice Orizzonti (FIPRESCI and Bisato d'oro), TIFF, NYFF, Viennale. Artforum's, Film Comment's and Indiewire's Top Ten of 2016

2018. **Introduzione all'Oscuro**. Festival selection: Venice Fuori Concorso, NYFF, Viennale, IFFR, Jeonju, FICUNAM

2022. **A Little Love Package**. World premiere: Berlinale Encounters

### Shorts

2010. **Zhest**. Festival selection: BAFICI, Viennale, FIDMarseille, IFFR

2012. **Enjoy Yourself**. Festival selection: Locarno, Viennale, BAFICI

2014. **Este a Székelyeknél** (short film)

2019. **Circumplector** (short film). Festival selection: TIFF, NYFF, Viennale, Mar del Plata, IFFR

# Tech Specs

Austria - Argentina 2022

81 Minutes - Color

Director Gastón Solnicki

Cinematography Rui Poças

Editing Alan Martín Segal

Sound Design Jason Candler, Manuel de Andres

Sound Mix Leandro De Loredo

Production Sound Federico Colletta

Gaffer & Camera Assistant Julien Hogert

Assistant Director Estefanía Landesmann

Production Manager Lukas Gruber

Producers Paolo Calamita, Zsuzsanna Király, Gastón Solnicki

## Cast

Angeliki Papoulia

Carmen Chaplin

Mario Bellatin

Han-Gyeol Lie

Nikolaus Weidinger

Ernst Skarpil

Daniel Margulies

Michael Chaplin

Dolores Chaplin

Pedro Colletta

Alma Sutterlüty



## Contact

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## Production

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