

Iphigenia in Barcelona

ΦΡΗΦΕΣΙΠΦΑ ΒΑΡΚΕΛΟΝΙΑ

A thrilling, mind-twisting story by ALBERT VENTURA

ΣΥΝΟΡΣΦΣ

Marc is a young business man driving home from the airport at night. In the middle of a dark road, a police agent is blocking the road, threatens him with a gun, and forces him to take a turn against his will. Driving on a local road, Marc hits a stranger who was running in the opposite direction. Marc discovers the victim is blindfolded, dressed in a strange white clothing and has a string protruding from his mouth. Possessed by curiosity, Marc pulls the string and discovers a message wrapped in plastic: "open the black box in your suitcase". Marc opens the trunk of the car and finds inside the suitcase a black box hidden among his clothes. Inside there is a revolver, a small cassette player, a blue square piece of ceramic and an instruction manual to assemble a cubic puzzle. On the cassette there is a robotic voice describing

Marc has to find the other five parts of the cube, which are spread across the city and assemble it before sunrise to get his wife back.

his pregnant wife, their address and how they kidnapped her. Marc will have to participate in this secret game where surprisingly the whole city of Barcelona seems to be involved and at the same time he will have to meet the darkest side of his own past. The other participants that he will encounter, called "Iphigenia", will be the object of sacrifice in a decaying society. In this dark resurrection of Euripides' tragedy "Iphigenia in Aulis" written more than 2400 years ago, Marc will find the last chance for redemption.

ΔΙΡΕΤΟΡ

"Constant learning keeps my mind awoken"

ALBERT VENTURA (Barcelona 1978) has an extensive background in Science. He studied his Master and Ph.D in Biology in the University of Tokyo. He has always been involved in cinema and learned photography and movie directing in Tokyo and Barcelona. Fascinated by Asian culture and new challenges, he moved to Asia at the age of 23, first to Japan and eight years later to Taiwan where he has written and directed several shorts, which have been screened around the world and won awards. Having worked in all kind of environments with different international teams and speaking in six languages ("constant learning keeps my mind awoken" he states), he always tries to express his multicultural, scientific and artistic education as well as his experiences



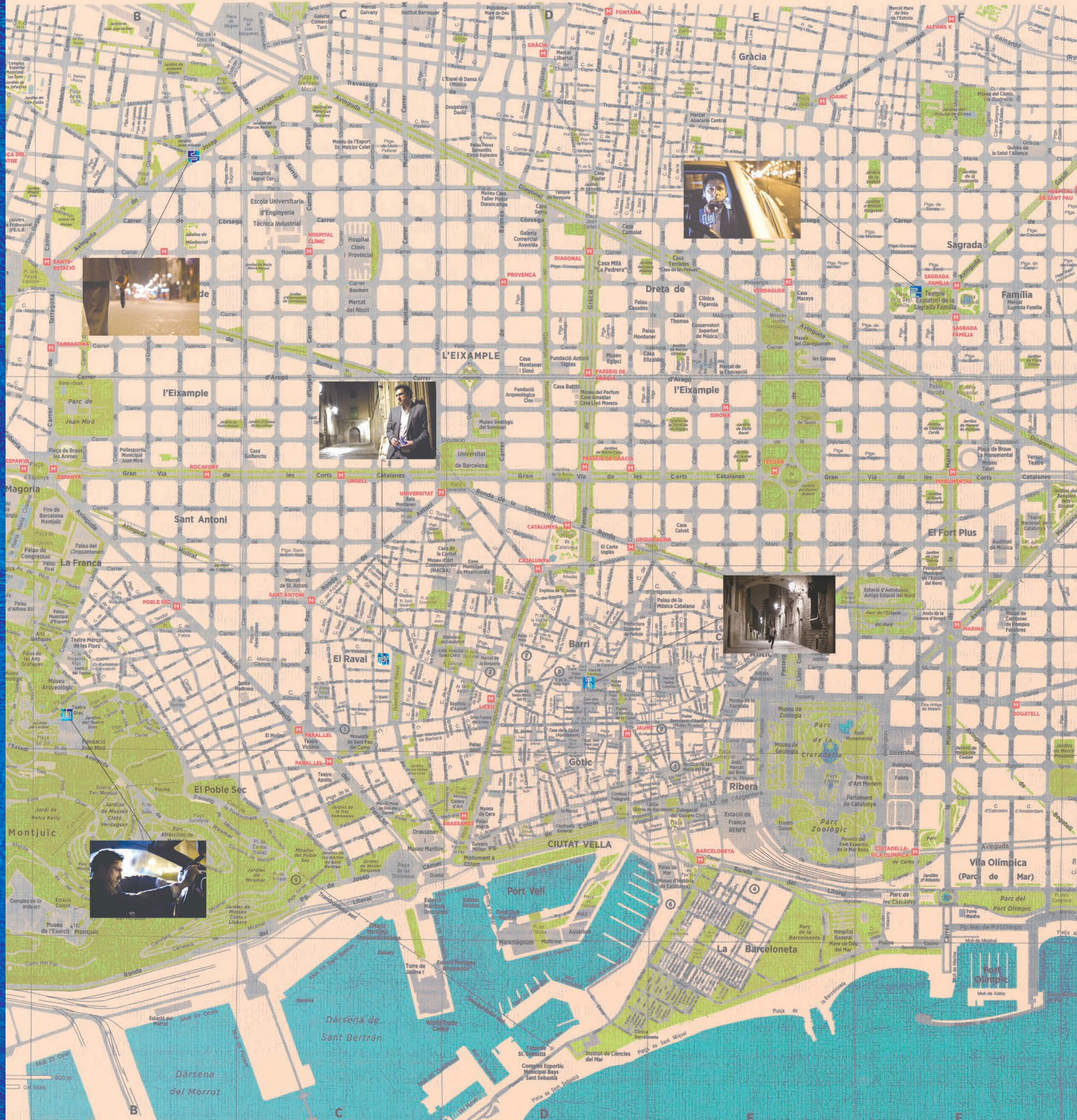
into his scripts in order to tell stories never told before. His most well-received short movies include ("Script", Japan 2011) and ("Swing", Spain 2013). He is currently on the post production of his latest work ("520 Huilan", Taiwan 2014) which will be released to festivals during 2014 and 2015. As a compulsive scriptwriter, he is promoting several long feature film projects.

WHY BARCELONA

Well known worldwide for its 2000 years of history, originality and creativity, Barcelona is a center of Mediterranean culture. Some legends say it was first a Greek colony called Kallipolis, but others say it was one of Hercules' settlements in the Mediterranean Sea. Its astonishing urban landscapes reflect the cultural value of the city and are the source of inspiration for international artists. "Iphigenia in Barcelona" takes place in this city because Barcelona is a perfect combination of old and new. History is turned into modernity with a unique artistic style in order to contrast the struggle in classic Greek society and in modern

"a city that brings out the best of you"

times. In addition, the multicultural spirit of Barcelona is found in the streets and in this story, where Catalan and Spanish are both spoken natively, you can easily coexist with other cultures and languages, like Chinese, Pakistan and South American, which makes this city live in multiple colors. Barcelona is a city where people also struggle to live, but at the same time inhabitants are proud to be here. A popular slogan in Barcelona is this "a city that brings out the best of you". These are the core ideas I want to express in the movie. For me, filming in my hometown is like a declaration of love for Barcelona.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have always liked writing stories that make the audience feel like they are a part of the plot and have to fight along with the main character to succeed in his mission.

With "Iphigenia in Barcelona", I wanted to suggest a new challenge, contextualized in a Barcelona punished by a very severe economic and moral crisis. In a dark context where corrupt authorities allow this cruel game to happen along with the passivity of the population, that enjoys and bets in this secret show attracted by the huge amounts of money.

In the actual Barcelona many people are struggling to pay their debts and mortgages and some of them are forced out of their homes and left in the streets by the banks, the same banks that are being rescued with public money by the government. This feeling of unfairness is one of the main sources of inspiration for this story. The emptiness that people feel with no job and no home is really close to the participants of the "Iphigenia game" like Marc, who fear for their own lives and those of their beloved ones. I believe that movies must be a reflection of their time, and I felt it was interesting to compare this feeling of desperation that exists in this city, with that of a classic Greek tragedy. Although written more than 2400 years ago, Euripides' "Iphigenia in Aulis" is also the reflection of a decaying society, where its characters feel they are not as great as they used to be, and fight with their own conscience questioning the meaning of ambition and rediscovering the value of the most important things of life such as love and compassion.

I thought it was very interesting and stimulat-

ing to suggest a parallelism between Euripides tragedy and this contemporary story. According to Euripides masterpiece, the Greek king Agamemnon sacrifices his daughter Iphigenia to the Gods so that the winds can blow again and the Greek boats can reach the shores of Troy. King Agamemnon lies to Iphigenia organizing a fake wedding with the legendary warrior Achilles. As we can see that corruption and the use of governors of its own citizens for personal purposes is something that was already present in classic Greek society.

It is not by chance that this story happens during the night, on one specific night. Night inspires mystery and awakens our fears. It brings out the shadows we have inside and cinema also shows these shadows visually, from Murnau's expressionism to Cinema Noir and the most recent thrillers. In terms of stylistic influences, the narrative use of shadow projections of Jacques Tourneur's "Back to the Past", the frame angle composition and the edition work of Alfred Hitchcock masterpieces like "Psycho". The aesthetics of a decadent modern society in Ridley Scott's "Blade Runner" and David Fincher's "Seven".

The main character will realize in this game that he has wasted his life until now and that the most important thing is to be beside the woman he really loves. Regret always comes too late, and although his time may now be limited, that may give Marc a last chance to sacrifice for what really gives a meaning to his life.

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이벤트 기획

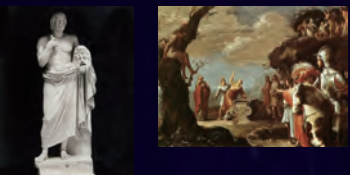
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REFERENCE

Sacrifice of Iphigenia from Euripide's
"Iphigenia in Aulis"



Jacques Tourneur's *"out of the past"*
with the expressive use of lights and shadows



"Blade Runner" and the bleak
urban landscape to reflect the inner
emptiness of the main character



Hitchcock's *"Psycho"* and *"North by
Northwest"*, use of angle and frame
composition are key references of
cinematographic language for the whole
suspense genre



"Minority Report" and *"Seven"*, are stories about characters with a mission that
takes them to the limit along with an intropective look of themselves. With a great
influence of impressionism and Noir.

