

NOMINADO AL OSCAR®

DEMIÁN
BICHIR

HÉCTOR
BONILLA

7:19

LA HORA DEL TEMBLOR

DIRIGIDA POR JORGE MICHEL GRAU



19 DE
SEPTIEMBRE
DE 1985

INSPIRADA EN
HISTORIAS REALES



SYNOPSIS

Early morning, in a Government building: all the employees have been called for a special meeting. While they get settled, a violent earthquake suddenly buries all of them beneath nine storeys of concrete and twisted metal. Stuck beneath the rubbles of the building, the few survivors - amongst which Martin, the night watchman, and Fernando, a senior government official – are left alone in the dark, clinging on for their lives while desperately waiting for help.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Chills and nostalgia accompany my memories. It's not the earthquake itself, or the objects bouncing and dancing, or the dizziness; it is not the fear and anxiety that stuck with me. My father was driving my brother and me down Havre Avenue in Mexico City when suddenly dozens of buildings collapsed like paper toys, just like that.

I remember the smell, the smell of gas escaping from the pipes shattered beneath hundreds of tons of rubble. I remember the smell of death seizing my nose. It was very early in the morning. I remember the smell that taught me what death is. There is a saying in my country, a joke that has some truth to it, it says, "you already have something to tell your grandchildren." And yes, this is what I want to tell them: It was 7:19 am on September 19, 1985. I was 12. An earthquake destroyed much of Mexico City, leaving thousands of people buried under rubble and thousands more without any utilities.

The catastrophe has reached Mexico. The greatest tragedy struck Mexico, a country that was not ready to take it. Mexico City was defeated. There is no definitive data on the number of deaths caused by the earthquake. There's estimates, guesses, made-up numbers or miscalculated figures. However, response to the disaster created heroes, courageous leaders. The earthquake of 1985 showed us how vulnerable we were as a country, but also taught us that we can be united as fellow citizens.

Today, almost thirty years later, I want to tell that story. I don't want to wait until my grandchildren are born to tell it. I want and need to tell it now, because time has made us forget that smell, the smell of gas, the smell of death.

This is the story of Martin Soriano and Fernando Pellicer, two men who, like thousands in the most destructive earthquake in the history of Mexico, found an unfair but inevitable death.

"7.19 am" is a film that reflects on how you have to leave this life. Two men who go from fear to anger on the road to resignation. Two men separated by their social class, their beliefs, their education and that, paradoxically, fate brings together in their final hour. An event that shocked the world, a tragedy that the country has failed to overcome. However, it served to erase all boundaries that stood between us as Mexicans, the world blurred its boundaries to provide support and show their humanity.

«7.19 am» speaks of the frontiers of man. The social and economic frontier, both portrayed in an extraordinary event in the life of two ordinary men. However, the true and great frontier explored in «7.19 am» is the border between life and death.

While Martin Soriano and Fernando Pellicer face their fate, their limitations keep them apart, they are not able to cross their own frontiers. Only an inner journey, a real liberation, will allow them to defeat their differences.

CAST

DEMÍAN BICHR
HÉCTOR BONILLA

SCREENPLAY

JORGE MICHEL GRAU
ALBERTO CHIMAL

CINEMATOGRAPHER

JUAN PABLO RAMÍREZ IBAÑEZ

EDITOR

MIGUEL SCHVERDFINGER

SOUND

CHRISTIAN GIRAUD

PRODUCER

MAYRA ESPINOSA CASTRO

CO-PRODUCER

DANIEL BIRMAN RIPSTEIN
MONICA LOZANO
GERARDO MORAN

PRODUCTION

VELARIUM ARTS

CO-PRODUCTION

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ALEBRIJE CINE
ZAMORA FILMS

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96'

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