



## Bola de Nieve - Docspace Electronic Press Kit

### 1. Synopsis

BOLA DE NIEVE

The sad man that always sang happy

Cuban, black, santero, homosexual, pro-revolutionary and, above all, musician, Bola de Nieve forms part of the Latin American myths of the 20th century. Ignacio Villa also had big success in Europe, Asia and the United States.

How was this man who, simply with the piano and his mango-monger voice made Edith Piaf, Andrés Segovia, Pablo Neruda, Paul Robeson, Josephine Baker, Alejo Carpentier, Nicolás Guillén or Pedro Almodóvar tremble with emotion?

Bola de Nieve, though a man under torment, used to say: "I'm a sad person but my songs sound glad". He and his time are the main features of this documentary that follows the sinuous path of this unique person, practically unknown except to the many people who loved him.

### 2. Credits

Director: José Sánchez-Montes

Specialised consultants: Marta Valdés and Roberto Zurbano

Scriptwriters: José Sánchez-Montes and Mariano Maresca.

Edition: Francisco López Rivera PKK

Music: Jordi Sabatés

Format: Betacam Digital

Producer Company: Ático Siete S.A.

Coproduced by Canal Sur (Spain), Canal Once (México), ICAIC (Cuba) and Media 3.14 (Spain)

Year: 2003

### 3. About the Film

“As with so many other things, the value of Bola de Nieve’s music is threatened today, more than by oblivion, by lack of acquaintance with it. This film has been put together in an attempt to rescue the life of those images that we can now only see trapped in the old movie reels. From the very onset, however, our efforts have assumed the limitation that Ignacio Villa, as any other person, was and is an enigma, and that he is fully entitled to remain so.

Bola de Nieve was an extraordinary musician who made the tradition he started out from take a giant leap forward, but he was also a complex character, both in public and in private, in mind and heart. That is what this work wishes to convey.”

José Sánchez-Montes and Mariano Maresca



The documentary includes the best audiovisual archives preserved of Ignacio Villa (Bola de Nieve) and the testimonies of:

ROBERTO ZURBANO who continues writing his book on Ignacio Villa

NISIA AGÜERO  
SANTIAGO AUSSERON  
MIGUEL BARNET  
ESTHER BORJA  
LUIS CARBONELL  
ALBERTO DOMINGO  
VICENTE GARRIDO  
ISRAEL GONZÁLEZ  
HAROLD GRAMATGES  
HELIO OROVIO  
ROGELIO PARÍS  
ANTONIO PEÑALVER  
MIRIAM RAMOS  
LÁZARO ROS  
JULIO SABRE  
RAMÓN VALDÉS  
DOMINGO VILLA  
RAQUEL VILLA  
GEORGINA PÉREZ

##### 5. Premieres and Festival Screenings

Premio al Mejor Documental 9º Mostra de Cinema Llatinoamericà de Lleida  
Mención Especial al Mejor Documental Muestra de Cine y Vídeo Latinoamericano de Managua, Nicaragua  
Premio del jurado Sección "Pueblos del mundo", Festival Internacional para la infancia y juventud de Buenos Aires.  
Premio Sara Gómez, Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano de La Habana.  
La Cinema Fe Latino Film Festival de Nueva York: Closing night  
XXI Festival Cinematográfico, Uruguay  
Festival It's all True, Brasil  
Providence Festival of New Latin American Cinema  
Festival de Cine Español de Málaga: Invitado especial  
Festival Internacional de Jóvenes Realizadores de Granada: Closing Night  
Cinesul, Festival Latino-Americano de Cinema e Vídeo, Brasil  
Los Ángeles Latino Film Festival  
Muestra de Cine y Video Latinoamericano de Managua  
NY International Latino Film Festival  
Vancouver International Film Festival  
Muestra Cinematográfica del Atlántico Alcances  
Docúpolis Festival Internacional Documental de Barcelona  
Union Latine La Cita Biarritz  
5ª Muestra Internacional del Documental, Colombia  
Festival dei Popoli, Italia



San Francisco Bay Area



Vistas Film Festival, Dallas  
Festival de Cine para la infancia y juventud, Buenos Aires  
Tiburón International Film Festival, USA  
Cambrige Latino Film Festival, Boston  
Festival de Cine Iberoamericano de Huelva  
La Habana Film Festival ,Cuba  
Bienal de cine de Annecy, Francia  
Festival de cine latino de Tubingen, Alemania  
Festival Internacional de Montreal, Canada  
Pan African Film Festival, USA  
Minneapolis, Sant Paul Film Festival, USA  
Muestra de documentales de Castilla la Mancha, España  
Muestra Documental Segundo Genero, Colombia  
Kuba in Film, Frankfurt  
5° Latin American Film Festival, USA  
Miami Gay and Lesbian Film festival, USA  
Denver Film Festival, USA

## 6. Famous Quotes

Bola de Nieve is a black García Lorca.

Rafael Alberti

Nobody sings La Vie en Rose like he does.

Edith Piaf

When we listen to Bola de Nieve it is as if we were attending the combined birth of the lyrics and the music he expresses.

Andrés Segovia

Bola de Nieve was wedded to music and lives with her in that intimacy, full of piano and jingle bells, throwing around his head the keyboards from heaven. Long live his earthly joy. Healthy cheers to his tuneful heart.

Pablo Neruda

His art is of the kind that crosses jauntily over the borders, making itself intelligible to us all.

Alejo Carpentier

Bola with his piano, Bola with his tailcoat in the nights of mundane etiquette. Bola with his smile and his song.

Nicolás Guillén



## 7. Biography of Jose Sanchez-Montes (Director/Co-Writer)

**José Sánchez-Montes, executive producer, director and co-writer of the documentary** has worked as the Director, Scriptwriter and executive producer of the **ATICO SIETE's projects** for eighteen years, being responsible for their development. He has also been a lecturer, a teacher in different courses on audiovisual media and an advisor for the creation of cultural programs of the Employment National Department, Andalusian International University, Andalusian Autonomous Government and Granada's City Hall. He has attended to courses and sessions of main programs of the European Union, such as EAVE, Medea and some others of the Media Program. Media, Andalusian Government, and several Festivals Expert for project selection, he is currently President of Docus Andalucía Association and member of the Board of Directors of Docus España.

**ATICO SIETE S.A. started its operations in December 1984** and it's experience in specific productions has made of the company a referent in Andalusia when it comes to this type of audio-visual programs:

- Creation documentaries
- 28-minute documentary series
- Cultural magazine programs for television
- Musical multimedia show productions
- Institutional and touristic promotional videos
- Production of websites and CD Roms

All of these have served as a continuous and specialised reference that have helped maintain a growing trend in both quantity and quality.

**PRINCIPAL AWARDS:** \* BOLA DE NIEVE, **Mostra de Cinema Llatinoamericà de Lleida Prize for the best documentary, Mención Especial al Mejor Documental Muestra de Cine y Vídeo Latinoamericano de Managua, Nicaragua. Premio del jurado Sección "Pueblos del mundo", Festival Internacional para la infancia y juventud de Buenos Aires. Premio Sara Gómez, Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano de La Habana.** \* CD ROM: FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA: From Granada to the Moon. Awarded 2001. Möebius Prize for the best pedagogic application. \*THE ART OF THE ENCOUNTER. Awarded 2001: First Creative Documentary Prize, 9th Festival de Creación Audiovisual, Navarra, Spain.\* THE LEGACY OF AL-ANDALUS. Awarded 2001: Premio a la Conservación Patrimonial, Muestra Internacional del Patrimonio Arquitectónico (MPA), Alcalá de Henares. Spain. \* ART ON THE STREET. Awarded 1999: The "Ideales del año" for the most important cultural activity during 1998, by the Ideal de Granada. \* PAISAJE DE LA MULTITUD (FGL: DE GRANADA A LA LUNA. Prize for the best creative documentary. Festival Internacional de Canarias, 1999. \* PALACE OF EXHIBITIONS AND CONGRESSES. 1x8' First Prize for the Best video on tourism by the European Federation for Congress Cities. '94. \* GLOBAL CLASHROOM. Awarded 1994: Prize for the best televisión proyect on education for adults by Cabal Sur TV's in public contest. \* GREEN BLOOD.



Awarded 1992. First Prize for the best Scientific TV "La Semana Internacional de Cine Científico de Ronda". \* THE PHOTOVOLTAIC ROUTE. Awards: 1991 First Prize in

journalism, by the National Institute of Ingeniering of Spain.1992 Special Mention-Premio Joaquín Costa in journalism. \* BITTER AS LIFE, SOFT AS LOVE AND SWEET AS DEATH. Awarded 1991. First Prize in Documentary videos by The International Video Show in Cadix, Spain. \* GRANADA, A CONGRESS CITY. Awarded 1991: The Golden ECU Prize, by European Federation for Congress Cities. \* THE INVISIBLE GARDEN. Awarded 1990: Premium to "the best video made by teachers". New edition for the University of Glasgow. \* THE CORDOVA INTERNATIONAL GUITARE FESTIVAL. Awarded 1990: Special International Premium by the Jury "Ville de Toulouse", France.

## 8. Photographs

### 8.1 Jose Sanchez-Montes (Director/Co-Writer)





8.2 From 'Bola de Nieve'





