



Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
Crystal Globe Competition

THE GIRLS ARE ALRIGHT

LOS ILUSOS FILMS PRESENTS

A FILM BY ITSASO ARANA



BÁRBARA LENNIE ♦ IRENE ESCOLAR ♦ ITZIAR MANERO ♦ HELENA EZQUERRO ♦ ITSASO ARANA

EDITING MARTA VELASCO CINEMATOGRAPHY SARA GALLECI ART DIRECTION & COSTUME DESIGN LAURA RENAU SOUND CARLA SILVÁN SOUND DESIGN & MIX PABLO RIVAS LEYVA
MUSIC PERFORMED BY KETH JADRETT AND JOSELE & ALONSO DÍAZ CARMONA MAKE UP & HAIR SARA AYALA 1ST ASSIST DIRECTION LIONEL BRAVERMAN COLOR NOEMI LALLAVE GRAPHIC DESIGN LAURA RENAU
PRODUCTION DIRECTION JAVIER LAQUENTE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ITSASO ARANA PRODUCED BY JONAS TRUEBA & JAVIER LAQUENTE WITH THE SUPPORT OF ALVARO DEMON FILMED BY GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA - ICAA
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ITSASO ARANA

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LOGLINE

A group of young women gathers at a country house for a week to rehearse a play.

THE GIRLS ARE ALRIGHT is a summer story about princesses, horses, toads, a fire, a party, a river, lots of letters, and even a confused prince.

SYNOPSIS

A writer summons four actresses to a country house for a summer week to rehearse her play.

Barbara and Irene are established actresses and treat each other as chosen sisters. Itziar and Helena are younger, they have just met, and will be twinning throughout the days. The house has been lent to them by Mercedes, a woman who has turned this old mill into her own kingdom. Julia, Mercedes' granddaughter, has been invited to participate in the play, taking advantage of the fact that she spends her summers at the mill with her grandmother.

The first few days it seems that the group is acclimatizing: to the environment, the town, the house, the play, to themselves. As the rehearsals progress, and as part of the creative process, the girls will share their yearnings and their own personal stories.

Barbara is pregnant and is in a time of reconversion, she seems to be looking at reality with new eyes, between fear and hope. Irene is eager to fall in love, and will face her own love battle. Itziar lost her mother when she was a child. It is the first time she talks about it, the first time that with the help of the others, she can begin to come to terms with her history. Helena is the youngest, wiser than she might seem, and wants to live the experience to the fullest. She attracts the young outsider who will end up captivated by this curious group. The writer has a score to settle with herself. Putting on the show is proof that she can finally, with the girls' help, turn her life lessons into her own personal legacy.

Gradually, a strange spell takes hold of the film. The girls create a curious ecosystem that will allow them to enter the fiction of the play, so that towards the end of the film, for a moment (as so often happens in this strange craft of telling stories and believing them), the reality of the filming and the fable of the play are diluted and form a strange summer tale, where the girls... the girls are alright.

INFO

2023 | Spain | 85 min

Language: Spanish | Subtitles: English

Screening Format: DCP flat 24fps / 5.1

Shooting Format: 1:1,66



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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was born into a family full of women. I have always been drawn to stories in which a group of women live together, despair, admire and envy each other; braid each other's hair. From the Heroides to The House of Bernarda Alba, from the Sleeping Beauties to Victorian stories, women wait, wish, dream and imagine, get impatient, write or pull each other's hair out in a kind of sisterhood that is both supportive and forced at the same time. A few years ago, I myself lived a lock-up with five women waiting for something. We waited for days and nights, all together, around a bed, for the promise of my father's death. That waiting resembled so many stories that had appealed to me... like a prophecy. THE GIRLS ARE ALRIGHT is born of those days, of that image.

THE GIRLS ARE ALRIGHT is also the result of the two passions that have shaped my life, theater and cinema, with the hope that in that exchange, something alive and unique can emerge; with the agility and the ability to capture the life of cinema and the rituality and the evocative power of theater.

It is a story about the creative processes themselves, about team creation, about the doubts and contradictions of a group of actresses who are being transformed and traversed by the materials of a play.

And it is also a period film and a contemporary film at the same time. Without renouncing literary stylization, it is an absolutely current film, fresh, about a coexistence of five young women in a country house, with their fears and their achievements, their personal and amorous conflicts, their small rivalries and comradeships.

THE GIRLS ARE ALRIGHT is a fiction with an essayistic spirit, open and free between genres, in which its interpreters are polyhedral, fragile, brave, clumsy and funny.

Itsaso Arana, 2023

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR / WRITER

Itsaso Arana

Itsaso Arana comes from a long career as an actress and creator.

She has starred in Jonás Trueba's feature films "You Have To Come And See It" (2022), Special Jury Prize at Karlovy Vary IFF, "The August Virgin" (2019), Special Jury Mention and FIPRESCI Award at Karlovy Vary IFF and one of the Top 10 Films of 2020 according to Cahiers du Cinéma, and "The Reconquest" (2016), part of the Official Selection at the San Sebastian Film Festival.

She has also acted in films such as "Las Altas Presiones" (2014) by Ángel Santos, Daniel Sánchez Arévalo's "Seventeen" (2019) and "The Volunteer" (2022) by Nely Reguera, and series such as "Reyes de la noche", and "The Girls at the Back".



In 2004, Itsaso formed the group of scenic arts La Tristura, with whom she creates, directs, and acts in her own productions. These plays have all been performed in theaters and festivals of international prestige in Spain, France, Germany, Finland, Poland, and Brazil, among others.

The Girls Are Alright, whose screenplay she wrote and co-stars in, is her first film as a director.

Filmography

2023 The Girls Are Alright

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

THE GIRLS ARE ALRIGHT was shot in just two weeks, with joy and intensity, and I would like to point out that during the creation process, the project did not go through any "lab" or "atelier", which is unusual in contemporary cinema and the films we see at festivals. The producers wanted to preserve Itsaso Arana's genuine sensibility, so that the film would not look like other films but instead, like her. Perhaps that is why it is not a film based on any model or fashion, which is another of its great values, in my opinion, and why I feel especially proud of it as a producer, as a filmmaker and as a viewer.

THE GIRLS ARE ALRIGHT is a fiction film but it also has a lot of documentary or "film-essay" feel to it. Itsaso wrote a beautiful, very personal script, which was later enriched over many conversations with the other four actresses, all of them contributing much of their own life and professional experiences. And that way of approaching their own stories is also reflected in the staging, light and sound. There is no obvious dramatic development or arc throughout the film; it's more like being with them and accompanying them. We may or may not identify with them, but we do recognize the uniqueness and disarming frankness, love, humor and sincerity they offer us.

Jonás Trueba, 2023



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CREDITS

CAST

Bárbara Lennie
Irene Escolar
Itziar Manero
Helena Ezquerro
Itsaso Arana

CREW

Director	Itsaso Arana
Screenplay	Itsaso Arana
Producers	Javier Lafuente, Jonás Trueba
Executive Producer	Itsaso Arana
Directors of photography	Sara Gallego
Editor	Marta Velasco
Sound design, music, mix	Carla Silván, Pablo Rivas Leyva



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INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS

For an updated list of selections and awards, please visit: <https://benditafilms.com/the-girls-are-alright/>.



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