

Alias Alejandro | V I T A A L E J A N D R O C A R D E N A S - A .

Alejandro Cardenas-A. was born in Peru in 1977. He grew up in Argentina, Brazil, Italy and Germany. In 1996 he finished school and started to work in different film departments as cinematographer, floor-recorder and editor. Since 1998 he has been studying at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dffb) in the directors class.

F I L M O G R A P H Y

- 2003/2004 **ALIAS ALEJANDRO**, documentary, DV Cam, Mini DV, 93 min.
sabotage films, ZDF- Das kleine Fernsehspiel, dffb
- 2002 **DER BLICK DURCH DIE FLASCHEN**, TV-Movie, Digi-Beta, 30 min.
a SFB und dffb production
- 2001 **...UND SO DAS GANZE LEBEN**, short 35mm, 15 min.
- 2000 **ERDBEEREN**, short, DV, 7 min.
- 1999 **RACHEAKT**, short, 16mm, 10 min.
- 1997 **KILLER**, short, DV, 10 min.
- Förderpreis ‚SPD im Europaparlament‘ at the Up-and-Coming Film Fest Hannover
- 1995 **ICH BIN DOCH EIN IDIOT**, short, VHS, 10 min.
- ‚Duisburger Medaille‘ at the 11th International Duisburger Amateur-Filmdays
- ‚Europäischer Komet‘ at the Up-and-Coming Film Fest Hannover

Alias Alejandro | VITA ALEJANDRO CARDENAS - A .

- 1993 **SCHEIBFILM**, short, VHS, 9 min.
- ‚Silver‘ at the Bundesfilmfestival of the BDFA
- 1. prize at the Berlin Film and Video Days
- Förderpreis at the 2nd European school film festival
- Förderpreis ‚Königs-Brauerei Duisburg‘ at the 9th Duisburger Amateur-Filmdays
- 1991 **DER VERSUCHT**, short, VHS, 5 min.
- film award of the „Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft“ at the
6th German school festival in Hannover
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Alias Alejandro | STAB

PRODUCERS

MARTIN CICHY

KARSTEN AURICH

EDITOR ZDF

BURKHARD ALTHOFF

COPRODUCTION DFFB

REINHARD HAUFF

LINEPRODUCER DFFB

MARTINA KNAPHEIDE

PRODUCTION MANAGER
GERMANY/SWEDEN

FREDERIKE NASS

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

CLAUDIA BÖRNER

PRODUCTION MANAGER
PERU

**JEDY ORTEGA
LUIS MACEDO**

DIRECTOR & SCREENPLAY

ALEJANDRO CARDENAS-A.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

FLORIAN SCHILLING

ANIMATION

HÉCTOR NAVARRETE

SOUND

MARTIN GRANATA

EDITING

CUINI AMELIO-ORTIZ

SOUNDDESIGN

JOCHEN JEZUSSEK

SOUNDMIX

MARTIN STEYER

SCORE

ZORT / ZORT & GO

FOOTAGE

**AUGUSTA FILM
DIFILM ARCHIVO FÍLMICO
BUENOS AIRES – ARGENTINA
ITN ARCHIVE / REUTERS**

Alias Alejandro I c a s t

Alejandro Cardenas-A.
Cuini Amelio-Ortiz
Victoria Cardenas Salas
Grete Cardenas Salas
Gabriel Cardenas Salas
Estella Salas León
Héctor Navarrete
Luis 'Luchin' Cardenas Schulte
Eduardo Cardenas Schulte
Gonzalo 'Lalo' Cardenas Schulte
Rosa Maria Salas Leon
Javier Ernesto Rivas Leon
Sofia Macher
Nelson Manrique
Ivan Inojasa
Julio Hilarión
Cipriano Capcha

Alias Alejandro | SYNOPSIS

When Alejandro was one year old, his father Peter Cardenas Schulte went underground and became commander of the radically left-wing Tupac Amaru Rebels (MRTA). Since then Alejandro, coming together with his mother to Berlin, hasn't heard anything of his father. Peter was arrested in 1992 and was given a prison sentence for life. The first time Peter got in touch with his son was through a letter written to Alejandro out of the high-security prison in Lima. In this letter Alejandro found out that he has a brother and a sister living together with Peter's second wife in Sweden.

„Alias Alejandro“ is a documentary road movie about Alejandro's journey to his arrested father Peter. During different stages of this journey Alejandro meets several people who he plans to question about his father.

On the other hand these people are going to confront Alejandro with his own story: his brothers and sisters, his relatives, friends of his father's childhood as well as officials and strangers.

What kind of picture was drawn of his father shortly before meeting him? How did the picture of his father turn out to look like? Is he a terrorist, a Latin American Bin Laden? Or is he a freedom fighter, a Che Guevara? Is he a Mafioso? A merciless criminal? And the most important question, is he a loving and beloved father?

Every time somebody asks me where I come from I need to smile inevitably and take a deep breath to reel off my essay almost learned by heart: I was born in Peru and one year later my natural father Peter decided to become revolutionary. He went underground and became commander of the radically left-wing 'Tupac Amaru' rebels (MRTA). My newly-wed mother Cuini did not like that, though... Finally we came to Berlin, where I have been living meanwhile. My mother has never concealed the fact who my 'real' father is and what he does. To be honest I was never really interested in him because I thought becoming a father is easy, being one is a different matter.

Nevertheless the figure, the shadow, the person of Peter Cardenas Schulte rested with my life. Every time I went to the Peruvian consulate everybody treated me carefully because I was the first-born child of one of the most wanted and dangerous terrorists in Peru.

Four years ago, it was my 22nd birthday, I received completely unexpected my first letter from my father. He wrote me out of prison. This was the first time I tried to surf the internet to inform myself about the revolutionary 'Tupac Amaru' guerilla movement. To be frank, I am unable to tell the difference between Zapatists and Sandinista. And honestly, I am not ashamed of this fact because I grew up in Europe and I have never worried about the political situation in Latin America. This uninterested political attitude probably refers to an ignorance of my generation that my mother always reproaches me for.

Two years ago I started writing a screenplay for my graduation film. This script deals with my childhood and the role of my father who is going to die in my screenplay. Since then I have thought about Peter and my brothers and sisters in Sweden every once in a while.

Alias Alejandro | STATEMENT ALEJANDRO CARDENAS - A .

When Peter had written me and had presented me with a fait accompli, he completely expected too much of me. I was so overtaxed that I did not even question my mother about him. I was just not ready for daring this enormous emotional step and for confronting me with my past and my genes. But I always knew I had to get it over with some time. When I had understood that I made my decision to be consistent and to capture this journey in a documentary. I am a film maker and the camera belongs to my life like the air that I breathe. I am conscious of the fact that I am completely at the mercy of the camera in this documentary but to be honest I would rather feel more secure in this case than going on the journey by myself.

Alias Alejandro | FESTIVALS

January 2005	Film Festival Max-Ophüls-Preis Saarbrücken, Germany
March 2005	Mar del Plata International Film Festival, Argentina
April 2005	It's All True International Documentary Film Festival, Brazil
August 2005	MovieEye Film Festival, Russia

festival contact German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dffb)
Public Relations and Festival Coordination
Erica Margoni

Potsdamer Straße 2
10785 Berlin
Germany

t: +49. 30. 257 59 152
f: +49. 30. 257 59 162

e-mail: margoni@dffb.de
