



THE CRY (LA LLORONA)

Written and Directed By
BERNADINE SANTISTEVAN

Written By
MONIQUE SALAZAR

Starring
CHRISTIAN CAMARGO ADRIANA DOMINGUEZ CARLOS LEON MIRIAM COLÓN

Produced By
BERNADINE SANTISTEVAN LAURA BLUM JAVIER RAMIREZ SANDOVAL
JUAN DAPENA HORACIO SOSA BRUCE M. GOLDSTEIN PETE SILVERMAN
LISA FRANCE DAVID GRAY ERIC BAGEOT TAMAR GADISH DARIO BIGI

Edited By
DARIO BIGI and DOUG FORBES

Original Music By
DEAN PARKER

Genre
SUPERNATURAL THRILLER

Film Length
80 minutes

Format
Super 16 mm

Film Location
NEW YORK, NY TAOS and PILAR, NM

Date of Production
2005

Producer's Website
www.thecrythefilm.com



ABOUT THE CAST

CARLOS LEON Carlos, an actor adored by the U.S. Latino community, plays the lead role of Detective Perez, a man whose carnal desires result in him becoming La Llorona's "perfect prey." Carlos has worked extensively in film, television and on stage. His film credits include *The Woodsman* (Pedro), *Anne B. Real* (Juan Gimenez), *Empire* (Hector), *The Big Lebowski* directed by Joel Coen and *Wishmaster 2: Evil Never Dies V* (Webber).

ADRIANA DOMÍNGUEZ Adriana, a well known celebrity in Spain, plays the lead role of Maria, a young mother haunted by her ability to have visions of La Llorona's victims before they meet their tragic fate. *The Cry* is Adriana's first U.S. film. Her film credits include *Bridge of San Luis Rey* (Pepita), *Noviembre* (Alicia), *El Regalo de Silvia* (Ines) and *El Sueno de Ibiza* (Chica).

CHRISTIAN CAMARGO Christian, most recently having received national fame as the nemesis to Dexter in the highly successful TV show of the same name, plays the role of Detective Alex Scott, a man with a dark secret from the past who is tormented by La Llorona. Christian is active in theater, television and stage. Credits include *Dexter the Serial Killer* (Rudy), *K-19 The Widowmaker* (Pavel), *Lip Service* (Stuart), *Double Bang* (Brian Jacobs), *Skylight* (Broadway play) and *Kit Marlowe* (play at the NY Public Theatre).

MIRIAM COLÓN Miriam, considered a matriarch among the U.S. Latino community, plays the role of Gloria, a curandera/witch who knows La Llorona's secrets. Miriam's numerous film credits include *All the Pretty Horses* directed by Billy Bob Thornton, *Lone Star* directed by John Sayles, *Sabrina* directed by Sydney Pollack and *Scarface* directed by Brian De Palma.

KATE BLUMBERG Kate plays the role of Judy Harwich, a woman who is cursed by La Llorona and forced to commit an unspeakable crime. Primarily a theater actress, Kate's credits include the plays *Writer's Block* and *Second Hand Memory* directed by Woody Allen, *Dangerous Corner* directed by David Mamet, and the films *Serendipity* (Courtney) and *Picture This* (Claire).



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION CREW

Bernadine Santistevan - Writer/Director

The Cry is Bernadine's first feature film. Bernadine was born and raised in a remote area in northern New Mexico. She studied engineering at Stanford University and business at the Wharton School of Business. She left her job as a venture capitalist for GE Capital in New York City to pursue her dream of making a supernatural thriller based on the Latino legend of La Llorona (the crying woman).

Richard V. López - Director of Photography

Rick has filmed more than 60 feature films, short films, commercials and documentaries. His work has screened at festivals around the world, including the Berlin Film Festival, Sundance, and the Hamptons Film Festival.

Dean Parker - Music Composer

Dean's work spans the film, television, theater, and music industries. He works regularly with the world class film music composer, Carter Burwell, as well as with clients such as David Byrne, NBC and HBO. Dean's film projects include *Being John Malkovich*, *Before Night Falls* and *Intolerable Cruelty*.



ABOUT THE FILM

LONG SYNOPSIS

The Cry is a supernatural thriller based on the legend of La Llorona- a Medea-like myth that has haunted the Americas for more than 500 years, with currently more than 28 million believers in the United States alone.

This haunting story takes place over the course of one ominous day when this anguished spirit terrorizes New York City. As La Llorona escalates her appetite for vengeance, a young mother (Adriana Dominguez) comes under her spell and collides with two detectives (Christian Camargo, Carlos Leon), a witch/curandera (Miriam Colón) – and the lives La Llorona cuts short.

Evocative and suspenseful, *The Cry* brings to life the chilling supernatural legend of La Llorona, proving there is no rest for a mother who murders her child... and that La Llorona is real.



LA LLORONA TIME LINE

La Llorona (the crying woman) has terrified Hispanics across the United States and Latin America for over five hundred years. Below is a historical timeline detailing her ascension as a living legend.

1502- In the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan, the goddess Cihuacoatl takes the form of a beautiful lady draped in white garments. Throughout the night she cries out in misery, “Oh hijos mios...ya ha llegado vuestra destruccion. Donde os llevare?” (Oh my children...your destruction has arrived. Where can I take you?) Many believe that Cihuacoatl was speaking of the future conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards.

1505- A girl child named La Malinche is born in the Aztec province of Coatzacoalcos of a noble Aztec family.

*Circa 1515- La Malinche is given to Mayan merchants for slavery. In addition to her mother tongue of Nahuatl (Aztec), she learns to speak Mayan.

*Circa 1521- La Malinche gives birth to two twin boys by Cortés. Cortés continues his conquests. The King and Queen of Spain, fearing that Cortés has betrayed them and is building his own empire, repeatedly ask him to return to Spain. He refuses, saying that if he leaves they will lose their new territories. The King and Queen send a beautiful Spanish lady to convince him to return

*Circa 1522- The Spanish lady seduces Cortés, convincing him to return to Spain with his two sons. Cortés tells La Malinche of his decision to return with his children and to leave her behind. La Malinche, now realizing the role she has played in helping Cortés massacre her people, prays to her gods for help. One of her gods appears to her and says, “If you let him take your children, one of them will return and destroy your people.” The night before Cortés’ departure, La Malinche escapes with the babies. Cortés’ soldiers soon discover her absence and set out after her. Upon arriving at the lake that Mexico City now rests on, the soldiers surround La Malinche. Just as they are at the brink of capturing her, she pulls out a dagger and stabs her babies in the heart, dropping their lifeless bodies into the water. La Malinche lets out a heart-wrenching cry, “Oh, hijos mios.” (Oh, my children)

*Circa 1531- La Malinche dies. Up to the time of her death she is seen and heard near the lake weeping and wailing for her children. She is given the name “La Llorona,” the crying woman.

1531- The first apparitions of La Virgen de Guadalupe occur in Mexico.

1547- Hernán Cortés dies of dysentery. In a letter preserved in the Spanish archives, Cortés writes “After God, we owe the conquest of New Spain to Doña Marina (La Malinche)”. While in Spain Cortés praises her name, in Mexico “Malinche” becomes a word denoting betrayal.

1550- The first documented appearances of La Llorona after La Malinche’s death occurs in Mexico City. She is most often seen on the night of a full moon, wandering the streets wearing a white dress with a light veil covering her face. Her agonizing cries terrorize everyone who sees or hears her. Her last stop is always La Plaza Mayor where she lets out her most desperate, horrific cry, after which she vanishes into the lake.

1550 – present- Sightings of La Llorona spread throughout the most of the Americas with people in each town/city/country believing she is local to their own area, creating a powerful and passionate belief in this horrifying ghost.

1970s- Like many Hispanics in the U.S. and throughout Latin America, the director of , Bernadine Santistevan, is told stories of La Llorona—a woman who, betrayed by her husband, drowned her children out of revenge in a nearby river. The punishment for this horrific act: La Llorona’s spirit is condemned to roam the earth for eternity, crying for her children. Bernadine, along with the other children in her small northern New Mexico town, is told that if she plays by the river alone or misbehaves, La Llorona will take her away.

1995- Susan Smith is found guilty of murder in the drowning deaths of her two sons by strapping them in their car seats and rolling the car into the John D. Long Lake in South Carolina. A portrait made of Smith is published where she is referred to as “A Modern Day Llorona”



1998-2003- Bernadine starts her search for La Llorona. Initially, she believes this ghost is from her home town in New Mexico. She soon discovers that La Llorona's reign of terror has blazed across Latin America and the United States.

In the end, Bernadine spends 5 years searching for La Llorona across the Americas—interviewing people who believe they have seen or heard her, collecting music, poems, and art work dedicated to her, and working with historians and Jungian psychologists who study La Llorona as a cultural phenomenon and universal female archetype.

2000- Bernadine creates a community website with some of the findings she has uncovered about La Llorona. To date, the website, LaLlorona.com, has been visited by millions and is being used by numerous schools and colleges across the U.S. as a teaching tool.

June 2001- Andrea Yates drowns her five children, ages 6 months to 7 years, in the bathtub of her suburban Houston, Texas home. Yates claims that she heard *voices*.

March 2002- Andrea Yates is convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Oct. 2002- A woman named Bernadine Flores drowns her two children and herself in a river near Pilar New Mexico.

2003- Bernadine writes a script about La Llorona titled , a contemporary supernatural thriller that includes much of the factual discoveries about La Llorona that she came across in her search.

2004- *The Cry* is shot in New York City and in northern New Mexico. Bernadine learns only a few days before shooting the key scene where La Llorona drowns her child that the river location she had selected is the same place that Bernadine Flores drowned her two children and herself.

May 2005- Brooke Shields' book "Down Came the Rain, My Journey through postpartum depression" is published.

2006-2007- *The Cry* is in post-production.

March 2006- Claudia, the post-production manager for *The Cry*, has a freak experience at work where tears of blood drip out of her eyes. In, La Llorona says, "Sisters. You're like me. You're fingers will scrape the bottom of the rivers searching for your child...and you will cry tears of blood."

May 2006- A screen test of a near complete version of *The Cry* is held in Santa Fe, NM where close to 2000 people stand in line for hours in the hope of attending the showing. A second unscheduled screening is held to accommodate the crowd, and *The Cry* is overwhelmingly well received.

July 2006- A Texas Jury overturns Andrea Yates' capital murder conviction and she is declared not guilty for reasons of insanity. Yates is committed to North Texas State Hospital.

End of 2006- *The Cry* is completed. Meanwhile, Bernadine receives numerous emails and phone calls from people throughout the U.S. who have heard of the Santa Fe test screening of *The Cry* and who want to watch the film.

Present- In the United States alone, an estimated 28 to 35 million Hispanics have grown up with stories of La Llorona, with this vengeful ghost considered by many to be the Latino world's "best kept secret." The majority of these "believers" are located in California, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Illinois.

After many years searching for La Llorona, Bernadine is still convinced that La Llorona is real.

*Based on legend

Research by Bernadine Santistevan

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DIRECTOR INTERVIEW ABOUT LA LLORONA

I heard about La Llorona when I was a kid growing up in New Mexico. Ever since I can remember, we were told these stories about a woman who drowned her kids in the river- basically to get revenge from her husband who had cheated her. But after drowning them, she realized what she'd done and let out this horrifying cry. From that moment she was condemned to roam the rivers forever, crying and searching for her children.

When we were kids, our parents always told us that La Llorona would take us away if we went to the river alone or if we misbehaved. On top of being completely scared stiff that she was going to get me, the whole idea that a mother would kill her own kid was just terrifying.

When I decided to make a movie, I knew it had to be about her. On the one hand, I definitely wanted to do something focused on my culture. And from a more personal perspective, having grown up in a very superstitious environment, making a movie about La Llorona was sort of a way for me to face my fears- with La Llorona being one.

I originally thought La Llorona was from my town. But I learned pretty quickly that she's basically everywhere and she's a big part of our beliefs for about 500 years. So I set out on a search for her across the U.S. and Latin America. I dug up historical sightings of her dating back hundreds of years. Interviewed people who believe they've seen or heard her. Collected stories, artwork, poems and songs about her. I also found quite a few similar legends from all over the world. In the end, it took me 5 years to get to a place where I felt that I knew La Llorona enough to write a story about her.

Making The Cry was definitely the hardest thing I've ever done in my life. But despite all the crazy struggles, if I had to, I'd do it all again. The Cry helped me learn so much about myself- about my culture, the power of women, how to face my fears- not to mention how to make a film. But I have to say that maybe the most important thing I learned is that nothing is more fulfilling and magical than pouring your heart and soul into a dream and making it come true.

I know La Llorona pretty well by now. And even though I'm not afraid of her anymore, I'm more certain of on thing than ever before. She's real. La Llorona is real.



FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS & OFFICIAL SELECTION

Silver Remi- WorldFest – Houston International Film Festival

LA International Latino Film Festival

NY International Latino Film Festival

Hamptons International Film Festival

Ravenna Nightmare Film Festival (Italy)



QUOTES

“This film might just keep you from getting a good night's sleep. The film, despite an NYC locale, feels like it belongs alongside some of the classic Japanese horror films over the last decade... a rich rising tension”
- Moving Pictures Magazine

“The Cry is part mystery, thriller and horror all wrapped up in an intense, edge-of-your-seat thrill ride that never lets up ‘til the very last frame. The acting is riveting. It's a thriller that pulls the audience in, you're holding on to something the whole time, gasping for air as each scene gets you closer to the final climax. The Cry is a haunting film that grabs hold, pulls you under and never lets you up to breathe. Highly recommended. Great film-making that will have you talking about it long after it's over.”
- angelfire.com/pq/moviereviews

“Scary, suspenseful and deeply disturbing. The cinematography in this film is beautiful and rich bringing depth and darkness to this supernatural thriller. An artistic and dark horror/thriller about an eerie legend that is very real to a lot of people. If you grew up being warned to come home before dark to avoid being caught by La Llorona then The Cry will bring all of your childhood nightmares to life. Even if you have never heard of La Llorona before, I suspect that, after watching this film, you will think twice before falling asleep on a river bank.”
- best-horror-movies.com

“The Cry is an absorbing, intense, provocative and deeply disturbing film.” - Home Media Magazine

“The Cry is a chilling supernatural film that will make you frightened and disturbed.” – filmarcade.net



monterey media inc., a uniquely independent studio

monterey media inc., incorporated in 1979, it is a privately owned entertainment industry company specializing in the creation, acquisition, distribution and sale of motion pictures and other programming. monterey media is actively engaged in all areas of domestic media, including theatrical distribution to theatres, film festivals, and other distinctive venues, and is presently increasing its release slate with a continued measured growth strategy.

The Company creates unique and distinctive release strategies tailored to each project. By way of example, in 2005, the Company established a joint venture for the creation of a special theatrical event in conjunction with AMC Theatres to launch the motion picture *Indigo: A one day, 603 North America* venue showing grossed over \$1,190,000 box office. Early theatrical releases included the enchanting *The Blue Butterfly* starring Academy Award® Winner William Hurt; *Nobility*, from Award-winning writer/director Turk Pipkin (which *Esquire Magazine* called “remarkable”), with a Gala Premiere benefiting Amnesty Int’l. on Earth Day; and the lauded tri-coastal release of, *PEEL: The Peru Project* (heralded as “reminiscent of Bruce Brown’s *Endless Summer*”).

Award-winning feature films included in the theatrical 2007 (and DVD) release slate were the poignant and compelling *Steel Toes* starring Academy Award® nominated David Strathairn, the family film *Eye of the Dolphin*, the true crime story of *Karla*, based upon the infamous and notorious “Ken and Barbie killer” murders; and the critically acclaimed *10 Questions for the Dalai Lama* premiering with Landmark Theatres in San Francisco, Houston, Chicago and Berkeley.

2008 releases will begin with *The Secrets* from Israel’s premiere director Avi Nesher; *The Cry* a suspenseful tale which has terrified Latinos for centuries; a family treat in *When I Find the Ocean* and the spiritual but dark *Ripple Effect* starring Forest Whitaker and Minnie Driver.

monterey is known for its creatively coordinated marketing strategies incorporating promotional alliances with such strategic partners as Wal-Mart, Fisher Price, Pepsi Cola, American Express, Amnesty International USA, Make-A-Wish Foundation® of America, Children’s Cancer Research Fund, KIDS FIRST!®, Days Inns, the International Motorcycle Shows, Healthy World Healthy Child, and Wahoo’s Fish Taco Restaurants.

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The monterey video division is the 2nd oldest independent video manufacturer and distributor in the United States, acquiring the exclusive rights for all video markets to completed motion pictures or other programming. monterey is well known for its broad marketing to all key retail, mail order and internet sites, schools and libraries, and specialty markets.

The versatile monterey video library encompasses unique feature films and documentaries as well as Multi-Platinum RIAA and ITA Award-winning Grateful Dead concerts; prestigious films such as *The Exonerated* starring Susan Sarandon, Brian Dennehy, Danny Glover and Aidan Quinn; celebrated sports programming including the Bruce Brown Films franchise of motorcycle films (*On Any Sunday*) and surf films (*The Endless Summer II*); the most prestigious educational yet entertaining library of films adapted from literature’s renowned authors combined with acclaimed performances from many of Hollywood’s greatest actors; and note-worthy children’s programming. In addition, monterey has the honor of being the first video market licensee of the American Film Institute.

10/07

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