

Rafa Russo

Rafa Russo is an award-winning Spanish screenwriter and director. His debut feature film THE MAN WITH RAIN IN HIS SHOES, which starred Penélope Cruz, Lena Heady, Douglas Henshall, Elizabeth McGovern and Mark Strong, was awarded Best Screenplay at Montréal World FF, nominated for Best New Director at the 1998 Goya Awards and released internationally by Trimark Pictures. His second feature AUNQUE TÚ NO LO SEPAS, an adaptation of the short story by Almudena Grandes, premiered at the 48th San Sebastian FF and was awarded the 2001 CEC Award for Best Adapted Screenplay by the Spanish Film Writers' Association. His next film AMOR EN DEFENSA PROPIA, which he also directed, was awarded Universal Studios' 2002 funding award for a debut feature. It won Best Film at Alcalá de Henares International FF and Málaga Spanish FF. He was twice-nominated for the 2003 Goya Award for Best Short Fiction for his short films HOY POR TÍ, MAÑANA POR MI (Álamo Films) and NADA QUE PERDER (Prosopopeya); the latter won the award after picking up more than 50 festival prizes internationally. His screenwriting credits for television include an episode of award-winning police procedural EL COMISARIO (Telecino/Bocaboca/Estudios Picasso) and a trilogy of single films (Distinto Films/TVE/TV3), about the lives of pioneering Spanish feminists, which were broadcast on International Women's Day 2011, 2012 and 2021 and received three nominations for the Gaudí Award for Best Television Film. His film about anarchist intellectual Federica Montseny won the award in 2021 and his film about politician, lawyer and women's suffrage campaigner Clara Campoamor was nominated for the 2011 Prix Europa. Alongside his work for film and television, Rafa is a successful songwriter and recording artist. His debut album A PETRIFIED FOREST (Conspiracy Records/Rough Trade) won plaudits at the NME and Melody Maker and caught the attention of legendary producer Mike Howlett, with whom he collaborated on his 1994 sophomore album DESPITE MYSELF (Mauve). Since then, he has released three more solo albums, scored a feature film and contributed original songs to another. His most recent album THIS STRANGE PLACE (Scratchy Records) was released in 2019. He has performed in the US, the UK and Europe and supported artists including John Martin, Tori Amos and Melissa Etheridge. In 2009, he published his debut short story collection PISOS VACÍOS (Caballo De Troya/Penguin Random House).

FEATURE FILM

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2023	DEVOTION (Devoción)	73140323PC [ES]	WRITER / DIRECTOR. 82' romantic drama. Spanish-language. Premiered at Málaga Spanish FF 2023. Spanish theatrical release (CineAND Distribución). Starring Joaquín Furriel, Elena Martínez
2023	THE MOVIE TELLER (La contadora de películas)	A Contracorriente Films [ES], Selenium Films [FR], Altiro Films [CL], Contadora Films [ES]	WRITER. 116' comedy drama. Spanish-language. Premiered at TIFF 2023. Spanish and Chilean theatrical release (A Contracorriente Films). Dir. Lone Scherfig Co-wr. Walter Salles, Isabel Coixet Based on the novel by Rivera Letelier Starring Bérénice Bejo, Antonio de la Torre, Daniel Brühl, Sara Becker, Alondra Valenzuela
2020	THE YEAR OF FURY (El año de la furia)	Aliwood Mediterráneo Producciones [ES], Gonafilm [ES], Cimarrón Cine [UY]	WRITER / DIRECTOR. 102' political thriller. Spanish-language. Premiered at TIFF 2020. Spanish theatrical release (Filmmax). Starring Alberto Ammann, Joaquín Furriel, Daniel Grao, Martina Gusman, Sara Sálamo, Maribel Verdú

2019	REMEMBER ME	Create Entertainment [US], F CommeFilm [FR], Kamel Films [ES], Lazonafilms[ES]	WRITER. 88' romantic comedy. English-language. Featured on Franklin Leonard's Black List. International theatrical release (Universal Pictures, Alba Films, Filmax, Shochiku). Dir. Martín Rosete Co-wr. Martín Rosete Starring Bruce Dern, Brian Cox, Caroline Silhol, Sienna Guillory, Brandon Larracuenta
2019	GET HER... IF YOU CAN (¿Qué te juegas?)	Movistar Plus+ [ES], Ajedrez Para Tres [ES], Bowfinger International Pictures [ES]	WRITER. 102' screwball comedy. Spanish-language. Premiered at Málaga Spanish FF 2019. Spanish theatrical release (A Contracorriente Films) Dir. Inés de León Co-wr. Pablo Alén, Breixo Corral, Astrid Gil-Casares Starring Leticia Dolera, Amaia Salamanca, Javier Rey
2015	JULIA'S DECISION (La decisión de Julia)	Liquid Works [ES]	WRITER. 85' drama. Spanish-language. Premiered at Valladolid International FF. Dir. Norberto López Amado Starring Marta Belaustegui, Josean Begoetxea, Fernando Cayo, Yolanda Ulloa WINNER: 2015 Ourense Independent FF - Best Actress WINNER: 2016 Toulouse Cinespaña - Best Cinematography WINNER: 2016 Toulouse Cinespaña - Best Score NOMINEE: 2016 Toulouse Cinespaña - Best Film
2013	LET ME SURVIVE	Banana Films [BE], Delux Productions [LU], Happy Moon Productions [BE]	WRITER. 95' true-story thriller. English-language. Premiered at International FF of India 2013. European premiere at Brussels International FFF 2014. Dir. Eduardo Rossoff Co-wr. Greg Latter, Eduardo Rossoff Starring Craig Fairbrass, Kierston Wareing, Isabella Blake-Thomas
2006	LOVE IN SELF DEFENCE (Amor en defensa propia)	Mediapro [ES], NBC Universal [US]	WRITER / DIRECTOR / COMPOSER. 100' romantic drama. Spanish-language. Premiered at Málaga Spanish FF 2006. Spanish theatrical release (United International Pictures). Starring Ana Fernández, Gustavo Garzón, Andrés Gertrúdx, Manuel Morón, Ginés García Millán WINNER: Universal Studios Awards 2002 - First Feature Film WINNER: Alcalá de Henares International FF 2007 - Best Debut Film NOMINEE: Málaga Spanish FF 2006 - Best Film
2000	WHAT YOU NEVER KNEW (Aunque tú no lo sepas)	Samarkanda [ES], Enrique Cerezo PC [ES]	WRITER. 110' romantic drama. Spanish-language. Premiered at 48th San Sebastián International FF 2000. Spanish theatrical release (Wanda Visión) Dir. Juan Vicente Córdoba Co-wr. Juan Vicente Córdoba, Antonio Conesa, María Reyes Arias, José Manuel Benayas Based on the short story by Almudena Grandes Starring Silvia Munt, Gary Piquer, Andrés Gertrúdx, Cristina Brondo, Daniel Guzmán WINNER: 2001 CEC Awards (Spanish Film Writers Association) - Best Adapted Screenplay

1998	THE MAN WITH THE RAIN IN HIS SHOES (Lluvia en los zapatos)	CLT [UK], HandMade Films [UK], Escima [ES], Mandarin Films [FR]	<p>WRITER / COMPOSER. 91' romantic comedy. English-language. Premiered at Sitges Catalan International FF 1998. International theatrical release (AMBI Group/Trimark Pictures).</p> <p>Dir. María Ripoll Starring Penélope Cruz, Lena Headey, Douglas Henshall, Mark Strong, Elizabeth McGovern</p> <p>WINNER: 1998 Sitges Catalan International FF - Best Film WINNER: 1998 Montréal World FF - Best Screenplay WINNER: 1998 Seattle Women's FF - Audience Award WINNER: 1999 Bogota FF - Best Film NOMINEE: 2000 Goya Awards (Spanish Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) - Best New Director NOMINEE 2000 Imagen Foundation Awards - Best Film NOMINEE: 1999 Puchon International FF - Best Film NOMINEE: 1998 Montréal World FF - Grand Prix</p>
------	---	---	---

SHORT FILM

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2013	YOU & ME	Stromboli Films [FR]	<p>WRITER / DIRECTOR. 17' comedy drama. English-language.</p> <p>Starring Anna Casas and Mark Schardan</p> <p>WINNER: 2014 Medina Film Festival - Best Screenplay</p>
2002	NOTHING TO LOSE (Nada que perder)	Prosopopeya Producciones [ES]	<p>WRITER / DIRECTOR. 21' drama. Spanish-language.</p> <p>Starring Jorge Bosch, Pilar Punzano</p> <p>More than 50 festival wins, including: WINNER: 2003 Goya Awards (Spanish Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) - Best Short Film</p>
2002	TODAY FOR YOU, TOMORROW FOR ME (Hoy por ti, mañana por mí)	Producciones Álamo Films [ES]	<p>WRITER. 25' thriller. Spanish-language.</p> <p>Dir. Fran Torres Starring Fernando Cayo, Roger Pera</p> <p>More than 20 festival wins, including: NOMINEE: 2003 Goya Awards (Spanish Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) - Best Short Film</p>
2000	THE COMPLIMENT (El cumplido)	Esicma [ES], Morena [ES]	<p>WRITER / DIRECTOR. 20' romantic comedy. Spanish-language.</p> <p>Starring Paulina Gálvez, Luis Tosar</p> <p>WINNER: 2000 Elche FF - Best Short Film WINNER: 2000 San Roque FF - Audience Award WINNER: 2000 Lorca FF - Audience Award WINNER: 2000 Aguilar de Campo FF - Best Actor</p>

TELEVISION

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
------	-------------------	---------	-----------------

2021	FEDERICA MONTSENY, THE WOMAN WHO SPEAKS (Federica Montseny, la dona que parla)	TV3 / À Punt / IB3Televisió / Distinto Films[ES]	WRITER. 85' historical biopic. Catalan-language. Premiered on three Catalan-language broadcasters simultaneously to celebrate International Women's Day 2021. Dir. Laura Mañá Co-wr. Mireia Llinàs Starring Màrcia Cisteró, Emilio Gutiérrez Caba WINNER: Gaudí Awards (Catalan Film Academy) - Best Television Film
2012	CONCEPCIÓN ARENAL, THE VISITOR OF PRISONS (Concepción Arenal, la visitadora de cárceles)	TVE / TV3 / Distinto Films [ES]	WRITER. 89' historical biopic. Spanish-language. Dir. Laura Mañá Co-wr. Laura Mañá Starring Blanca Portillo, Mabel Rivera, Òscar Rabadán, Anna Casas, NOMINEE: Gaudí Awards (Catalan Film Academy) - Best Television Film
2011	CLARA CAMPOAMOR, THE FORGOTTEN WOMAN (Clara Campoamor, La mujer olvidada)	TVE / TV3 / Distinto Films [ES]	WRITER. 93' historical biopic. Spanish-language. Dir. Laura Mañá Co-wr. Yolanda García Serrano Based on the novel by Isaías Lafuente Starring Elvira Mínguez, Antonia de la Torre, Mónica López NOMINEE: Gaudí Awards (Catalan Film Academy) - Best Television Film NOMINEE: Prix Europa - Best Television Film
2008	THE COMMISSIONER (El comisario)	Telecinco / Bocaboca [ES] / Estudios Picasso [ES]	WRITER. 1 episode. E13 S12. 60' police procedural. Spanish-language. Dir. David Carreras Starring Tito Valverde, Juanjo Artero, Marcial Álvarez, Jaime Pujol, Elena Irureta, Fernando Andina, Cristina Castaño Nominated for 9 Iris Awards (Spanish Television Academy), winning three over the course of the series, including: WINNER: 1999 Iris Award (Spanish Television Academy) - Best Fiction Programme

MUSIC

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2019	THIS STRANGE PLACE	Scratchy Records [UK]	COMPOSER / PERFORMER. 12-track album. Original compositions.
2011	SUNKEN SHIPS	Mondegreen Records [ES]	COMPOSER / PERFORMER. 12-track album. Original compositions.
2010	AMOR EN DEFENSA PROPIA	Mondegreen Records [ES]	COMPOSER / PERFORMER. 27-track original motion picture soundtrack. Original compositions, featuring tracks by Garrett Wall, Nacho Campillo and Martin Ansell.
1998	LLUVIA EN LOS ZAPATOS	Virgin Records [UK]	COMPOSER / PERFORMER. 13-track original motion picture soundtrack. Features one original composition, along with tracks by Lenny Kravitz, Papa Wemba, Alpha Blondy, Salif Keita, Zap Mama, Buju Banton, Mendo y Fuster and Ángel Illarramendi.

1996	RAGING CLOWNS	iRecords [UK]	COMPOSER / PERFORMER. 10-track album. Original compositions.
1994	DESPITE MYSELF	Mauve [UK]	COMPOSER / PERFORMER. 12-track album. Original compositions. Produced by Mike Howlett, formerly of The Affair, Gong and Strontium 90.
1990	A PETRIFIED FOREST	Conspiracy Records [UK], Rough Trade [UK]	COMPOSER / PERFORMER. 11-track album. Original compositions. Vinyl-only release. Reviewed favourably by Melody Maker and the NME. Performed in supporting slots for Tori Amos, Melissa Etheridge and John Martyn.

BOOKS

DATE	PUBLICATION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2010	EMPTY FLOORS (Pisos vacíos)	Caballo De Troya (Penguin Random House)	WRITER. Short story collection.