

# *Flores Tristes*

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY TEO MANUEL ABAD

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# *Technical Information*





**Original title:** Flores Tristes

**Genre:** Documental de creación

**Format:** high definition HDV

**Duration:** 90 min / 55 min

**Language:** Gallego

**Director:** Teo Manuel Abad

**Executive Producer:** Teo Manuel Abad

**Producers:** Teo Manuel Abad, Antonio Varela,  
Moncho Varela and Fernanda del Nido

**Production companies:** Formateo (Spain)

Pórtico (Spain)

Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)





# *Synopsis*





The last mass graves opened in Europe were not in Srebrenica or Kosovo. They were, last year, on the continent's most westerly point: Galicia, an autonomous region in the north of Spain. They were from the modern era's oldest war and post-war, the most idealistic and international of all European wars and the prelude to the Second World War: the Spanish Civil War. 70 years have had to pass before these graves could be opened.

Franco's dictatorship came to an end over more than a quarter of a century ago, but his death sentences have never been forgotten. More than a thousand Galicians, families of Franco's victims, want to unearth the truth, buried in ditches, hills and alongside cemetery walls for over 70 years: they want the remains of their brothers and sisters, parents or grandparents. They want to recover their memory after so many years of silence. Sad Flowers draws an analogy between the flowers that grow in these graves and ditches in Galicia with the living descendants who have finally spoken to us, breaking their long silence.

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*Director's note*





I lived and grew up in Franco's dictatorship the first 23 years of my life, under the boot of a general who caused a coup d'etat leading to thousands of deaths and a lengthy civil war. On his death, a state pact overseen by the still victorious army made the transition to democracy possible, but at the same time concealed the crimes and responsibilities of what they called the "past". In my land, Galicia, the situation was prolonged more than in the rest of Spain, due to the strong drift towards the right of its autonomous government presided over by an ex-minister of the dictator. The thousands of illegal assassinations during the war and the still even crueller post-war remain underground. Forgotten and covered in a cloud of oppressive silence. The children of the dead had to keep silent. And the children of their children.

70 years have passed. 70 years of silence. A terrifying and omnipresent silence which has changed the nature of these people. For the first time in Galicia a progressive government has created the conditions for the graves of the dead to finally be opened. It is time to talk about this silence. To let the children, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces and grandchildren of the dead, who now see the light, talk. I always wanted to write about the history of this silence. That is why I want to write this film. And this film will be called Flores Tristes.

**TEO MANUEL ABAD**







*EV* director





## TEO MANUEL ABAD - Director y Realizador.

Manuel Abad is one of the most experienced directors-producers in the Galician audiovisual industry. He started out in photography, where he stood out as an arts correspondent for various magazines, as well as for his photography exhibitions (Salas Anue, Os Arcados, Mestre Mateo, ...)

In the middle of the 1980s he began a solid career as a video creator, with some of his works selected in national and international festivals; he also formed a part of the first technical team at Galician Television where he had a notably innovative role as the producer of numerous TVG programmes, such as: Telexornal, A millor TV do mundo, Lendas do mar, Encontros, O mellor, Con perdón. Corazonada, A fala, Mar a mar, Televisión pirata, Luar...

He combines his professional life at Galician Television with an experimental career as an independent writer of films ("Contar"), videos ("O neno con pernas de pomba", "La fosa atlantica"), documentaries ("Lendas do mar", "Amalia"), fiction ("Pequeno Hotel"), dramatised documentaries ("A vida Aberta"), campaigns ("Galicia Terra Unica", "Xacobeo"), concerts ("Elton John", "Santana"), special events ("A Fala", "Luar da Solidariedade") and much more besides.

His long career has been rewarded on various occasions with awards and prizes such as: selected by the "Reina Sofia" Art Museum for his "Spanish Visionaries", at the Biennial Image in Movement Show (for his work "365"). Award at the International Video Festival in Madrid and permanent work at the Galician Contemporary Art Centre (with "Prologue"), Selection for Expo-92 (with "Hardo") and the San Sebastian Film Festival (with "Denantes").

He is currently working on his next film, the documentary "Flores Tristes".





*EV Productoras*





## FORMATEO, S.L.

Formateo S.L. was established in 2000 as an independent, unipersonal Galician production company by Teo Manuel Abad Abad, who has since performed his work in coproduction system or in terms of services for several clients. The following titles are among its productions:

FLORES TRISTES (SAD FLOWERS). Full-length documentary. In coproduction with Portico de Comunicaciones and Tic Tac Producciones. 2008

AMALIA, ULTIMA NOTICIA (AMALIA, LAST NEWS). Documentary on the last recording by Amalia Rodrigues before her death. For T.V.G (Galician Television). 2007

GALICIA, O IMPERIO DOS SENTIDOS (GALICIA, THE REALM OF THE SENSES). Documentary. With Faro Producciones. 2007

SON DE ESTRELAS (SOUND OF STARS). Music contest. With Voz Audiovisual. 2007

VERDE TRANSPARENTE (TRANSPARENT GREEN). Videodance. With Druida Ballet. 2006

UNHA NOITE NON E NADA (ONE NIGHT IS NOTHING). Late night show presented by Carlos Blanco. Pilot. 2007. With Filmanova S.A.

RAIL. Pilot cultural schedule. 2005. With Portico de Comunicaciones, S.A.

SANTOS E PECADORES (SAINTS AND SINNERS). Documentary series for T.V.G. 2005

XACOBEO 2004. Music and audiovisual shows. 2004. With Artiket, S.A.

Premios MESTRE MATEO, MM3 (MESTRE MATEO AWARDS). Audiovisual ceremony. 2003. With the Galician Academy of the Audiovisual.

PEQUENO HOTEL (SMALL HOTEL). Sitcom. 2001/2002. With CTV, S.A.

LUAR. Music show. Since the year 2000, for T.V.G.





## PORTICO DE COMUNICACIÓN

Pórtico, as a multimedia creation company, lends services for creating commercial ads, TV shows, documentaries, short films and movies. Pórtico owns all the necessary equipment for audiovisual creation (shooting, lighting, sound, edition and post-production), being one of the few companies to integrate High Definition in its facilities and its productions.

In 2001, Pórtico enters into cinematographic world with the short films, shot in 35 mm *Xinetes na Tormenta* (Riders on the Storm) (Best Director Award in Ourense Film Festival), and *Inútil* (Good for nothing) (Best Galician Short Film in 2001, and Best Short Film in Atlantic Axis). In 2004, Pórtico produces, along with Tesela and Televisión de Galicia TVG, the film *A Promesa* (The Promise), shot also in 35 mm and directed by Héctor Carré. This film also counted with the participation of TVE and Canal +. Some years later, Pórtico produces the documentaries *Himno Galego. Cen Anos* (Galician Hymn. 100 years) and *... vaime ser difícil esquecer* (... I will hardly forget), both aired on Televisión de Galicia.

The Company also reinforced its presence in TV with shows like the documentary series *Terra e Vento* (Earth and Wind), *En Clave Natural* (words play, means both "In Natural Form" and "Natural Enclave") and *Un Mundo de Historias* (A World Full of Stories), the musical show *Noitemóbil*, (Nightmobile) or the mystery magazine *Antes do Silencio* (Before the Silence)

Currently, Televisión de Galicia airs Pórtico's shows like *Natureza* (Nature), a daily micro show on Environment; the docu-soap *Criaturas* (Creatures), that now airs its fourth season in Prime Time Access in TVG, and the brand new daily culture micro show *Ben Falado* (Properly Said), about Galician Language.





Pórtico's hallmark is the show *Desde Galicia Para o Mundo* (From Galicia to the World) with 15 years of history at its backs in Televisión Española, that arrives every week to a hundred million homes across five continents. It is a magazine, with social, cultural, touristic and industrial content, with a great educational outreach, and it's broadcasted across five satellites, 3000 digital platforms, and many analog channels in America and Europe. Data of its fifteenth season talk by themselves about the success of this show, window from Galicia to the outside, with its two versions in both Spanish and Galician languages.

In Publicity, Pórtico has a great experience due to works like the promotional and publicity documentary series about the 13 Cidades Patrimonio da Humanidade (Cities World Heritage) with versions of sixteen and five minutes and nine languages; or the 66 videoclips for the Xacobeo Etapas do Camiño (St. James' Way Stages), or the seven clips *Os Camiños de Santiago* (The Ways of St. James)

Besides all these works, Pórtico has also made promotional videos for Hesperia Balneario de Guitiriz, Hotel Hesperia Lanzarote, Gran Hotel Hesperia La Toja, Televés, Einsa, Parques Naturais de Galicia (Galician Natural Parks), along with notorious multimedia performances such as *Vía Nova* (New Path), with CG images and slideshows; the 3D stereoscopic video for the Galicia Dixital exposition, or the multimedia artwork for 2005 Aichí World Expo (Japan), within the Spanish Pavillion.

Also, Pórtico has developed the videos *Himno Galego* (Galician Hymn), for the Tribute to Galician Hymn from TVG, TDT (Spanish acronym for DVB, Digital Video Broadcast), related to the recent analog shutdown in A Fonsagrada), or the videos *Letras Galegas* (Galician Letters) and *Premios Nacionais da Cultura Galega* (Galician Culture National Awards) in 2008; and the video *A Forza das Minorías* (The Strength of Minorities) for the 32nd International Ibbby Congress in Copenhagen.

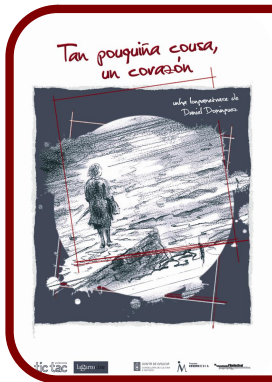




Amongst its latest publicity videos, are the spots Proxecto Home, Auga de Sousas, Marqués de Vizhoja (AGAPI Awards 2001 nominee), Ecoembes, Martín Códax, Axencia Galega de Desenvolvemento Rural, La Voz de Galicia: Facsímiles Espasa, Bolsa Vivenda en Alugueiro for IGVS, Ratibrom, IGAPE, Lectura for TVG, Santiago de Compostela, unha capital para Galicia, Promoción Productos Televisión de Galicia e Radio Galega, As Nosas Músicas, for Caixa Galicia, and Movemento contra a Lei de Murphy or O Futuro Promete, for the Work Council and the Schools and Universities Council, apart from many other spots, documentaries and promotional films.



Between 2008, 2009 and 2010, TIC TAC PRODUCCIONES will develop and produce several feature films such as:



### A HEART, SUCH A LITTLE THING

Development  
Directed by: Daniel Domínguez (*Fiction*)

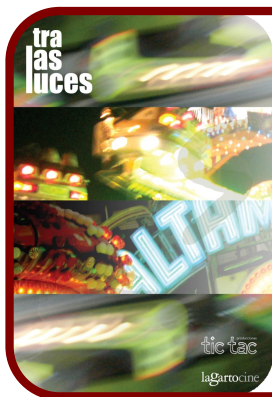
- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)
- Lagarto Cine (Argentina)



### 18 MEALS

Development  
Directed by: Jorge Coira (*Fiction*)

- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)
- Lagarto Cine (Argentina)
- Zircozine (Spain)



### BEHIND THE LIGHTS

In production  
Directed by: Sandra Sánchez (*Documentary*)

- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)
- Lagarto Cine (Argentina)



### FLORES TRISTES

In production  
Directed by: Teo Manuel Abad. (*Documentary*)

- Formateo (Spain)
- Pórtico (Spain)
- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)



### WHAT FAULT IS THAT OF THE TOMATO?

Postproduction (*Documentary*)

Directed by: Alejo Hoijman (Argentina), Paola Vieira (Brasil), Marcos Loayza (Bolivia), Carolina Navas (Colombia), Jorge Coira (Galicia, Spain) Josué Méndez (Perú), Alejandra Szeplaki (Venezuela),

- Lagarto Cine (Argentina) ·TV Zero (Brasil) ·Pucara Films y Alma Films (Bolivia) ·PatoFeo Films (Colombia) ·Tic Tac Producciones (Spain) ·Chullachaki (Perú) ·Estrella Films (Venezuela)



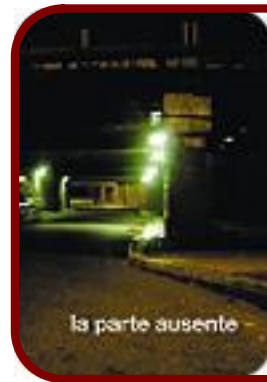


## THEY COME FOR THE GOLD, THEY COME FOR IT ALL

In production

Directed by: Pablo D'alo Abba –  
Cristian Harbaruk (*Documentary*)

- Lagarto Cine (Argentina)
- Mal Cine (Argentina)
- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)



## THE ABSENT PART

Development

Directed by: Gael Maidana  
(*Fiction*)

- Lagarto Cine (Argentina)
- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)

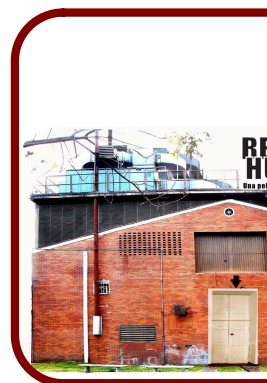


## DEAD PUPPETS

Development

Directed by: Ana Rovira  
(*Fiction*)

- Lagarto Cine (Argentina)
- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)



## RECURSOS HUMANOS

Development

Directed by: Jaime Escallón Buraglia  
(*Fiction*)

- Babilla Cine (Colombia)
- Lagarto Cine (Argentina)
- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)



## AGUA FRÍA DE MAR

Development

Directed by: Paz Fábrega  
(*Fiction*)

- Temporal Films (Costa Rica)
- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)
- Pimienta Films (Mexico)
- Les films du Requin (France)



## TODA LA GENTE SOLA

Postproduction

Directed by: Santiago Giralt  
(*Fiction*)

- M&S producción (Argentina)
- Lagarto Cine (Argentina)
- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)



## MANUEL AND ELISA

Finished

Directed by: Manuel Fernández  
Valdés. (*Documentary*)

- Tic Tac Producciones (Spain)



# Contact

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