

MEDIAPRO presents

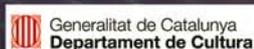
Barcelona

LA ROSA DE FOC

PRESS
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In Selected Theatres



**A journey through Barcelona
at the hands of Woody Allen, Joan Manuel Serrat,
Pep Guardiola and Eric Abidal**

**Manuel Huerga presents the conventional and lousy,
exquisite and shameless; elegant and roguish sides to Barcelona**

Using the most advanced 3D and DolbyAtmos technology

Barcelona, THE ROSE OF FIRE opens with a question: What is a city? The question is put to us by **Woody Allen, Eric Bilal Abidal, Daniel Brühl, Pep Guardiola, Rinko Kikuchi** and **Joan Manuel Serrat**. Six individuals, all of whom are sufficiently well-known around the world, and all of whom claim their own special bond with the city of Barcelona. Each one, in their own language, takes us by the hand and plunges you head first into a journey proposed by **MEDIAPRO**, directed by **Manuel Huerga** and with a screenplay from **Lluís Arcarazo**, accompanied throughout by the music of **Micka Luna**. This is a journey to discover and rediscover Barcelona as we have never experienced it before, using state-of-the-art advanced technology in 3D and DolbyAtmos.

Using a false take sequence, Manuel Huerga takes us on a deep-sea dive into the city using breathtaking images portraying a year in the life of Barcelona, with footage of the Twelfth Night procession, the Mobile World Congress, the street-festival in Gràcia, Sant Joan fireworks festival and celebrations in the Barceloneta neighbourhood or the massive September 11 demonstration in 2012. We will fly above and through the more touristy side of Barcelona, enjoying stunningly beautiful footage from Santa María del Mar, the Sagrada Família, the Pedrera, Camp Nou as well as the Plaza del Rey, and then take a trip through the more realistic side of the city as can be found on the assembly line at the Nissan factory, in the city's marketplace, Mercabarna, the Synchrotron Alba, the La Mina neighbourhood or the Food Bank.

Because, after all, what exactly is a city? What is Barcelona like? This city was referred to as The Rose of Fire during the 19th century because, according to Engels, it witnessed more barricade fighting than any other city in the world. *Barcelona, THE ROSE OF FIRE* portrays many of the faces of the multi-layered

cultural and DNA melting pot it has become as a result of its history and the ever-changing make up of its inhabitants; the true protagonists of life in Barcelona. We accompany Naoko, Elna, Pere, Mireia, Eric, Oriol, Pau, Khalil and Lola as we travel through the streets, squares, bars and marketplaces of a city that, on the surface, is presented to us as being "conventional and lousy, exquisite and shameless, elegant and roguish".

Barcelona, THE ROSE OF FIRE wishes to reveal to us much more than "the Barcelona everybody knows, the one they pour over in the travel guides, but also the city that you won't find in the guidebooks, the best kept secrets and most extraordinary details, the real Barcelona, the one that lives, breathes and is at work in the city, day-in, day-out", according to the director. In order to do this over a two-year period, the team undertook the painstaking task of recording and bearing witness to some of the city's more spectacular events, such as the historic September 11th demonstration in 2012, the most traditional festivals such as Sant Jordi and the musical and fireworks festival of La Mercè, as well as capturing snippets of daily city life from the Boqueria food market and the market in Sant Adrià. Stereoscopy images enable cinemagoers to dive straight in and integrate within this stroll around the city "completely transforming the spectators' viewpoint, which is not relegated to the outline of what is taking place on the screen in front of them". This, in the words of Manuel Hueriga, gives "an idea of a fresh, uncharted, different and original Barcelona". Based on an original idea from Manuel Hueriga and a script by Lluís Arcarazo, both of which would evolve during filming, given that they were forced to adapt accordingly to seasonal transformations and the pace of the city, and where fate would also have an important role to play.

Inspired by Ricardo de Baños' short film, "Barcelona by tram" (1908), Manuel Hueriga connects with the main city symphony films from the last century, while incorporating the very latest technological advances in audio and video and the magic of digital special effects. The Red Epic cameras used boast 5K resolution and ensure a level of quality and definition normally reserved for and only seen in super-productions such as *The Hobbit*. Cranes, helicopters, octocopters, travelling cameras, Steadycams, and underwater cameras were all mustered to steadily and relentlessly work through a hectic shooting schedule at the more than 100 locations required for the project. That said, the image is not the only relevant feature of **Barcelona, THE ROSE OF FIRE**. Its live soundtrack was also painstakingly recorded in order to wrap itself around the cinemagoer, bringing all the characteristic sounds of a city to the reality of the big screen. Ground-breaking technical advances such as DolbyAtmos technology were combined with the creative talents of Marc Orts (*The Impossible*) and the team made up of Michelle Child and Dave Whitehead, regular collaborators on the popular Peter Jackson trilogy (*The Lord of The Rings* and *The Hobbit*). The soundtrack, composed by Micka Luna, has the same objective: to assist the spectator in becoming drawn in by the images, to integrate themselves as they plunge dive into Barcelona. The music accompanies, highlights, and underlines the spectacular nature of the images. All of which combined, according to the director, go towards building "an experience for the senses, an immersive journey for the eyes and ears".

The common guiding thread throughout *Barcelona, THE ROSE OF FIRE* is the handful of anonymous characters. Barcelonians, as well as visitors, whom we meet and bump into along the way as we explore the city, which begins within the four walls of Naoko's apartment in the Barceloneta district and takes us as far as Tibidabo. With the immense challenges each of the stories presents, a year in the life of Barcelona is fashioned to experience and enjoy the city, following the advice of the narrator: "if you do ever visit this city, dive head first into it! Throw away the guidebooks. Tear up the maps. Go with the flow".

Duration:	104 minutes
Narrators:	Woody Allen (English) Eric Bilal Abidal (French) Daniel Brühl (German) Pep Guardiola (Catalan) Rinko Kikuchi (Japanese) Olga Kurylenko (Russian) Joan Manuel Serrat (Spanish) Benedetta Tagliabue (Italian)
Produced by:	Jaume Roures
Directed by:	Manuel Hueriga
Screenplay:	Lluís Arcarazo based on an idea from Manuel Hueriga
Music:	Micka Luna
Scenography:	Jordi Bransuela Esquiús
Director of Photography:	Jordi Bransuela Esquiús Isaac Vila Sergi Bartrolí
Post production Director:	Sergio Ochoa
Sound supervisor:	Micka Luna
Mixing:	Marc Orts
Montage:	Pablo Montes
Director of production:	Bernat Elias
Executive producer:	Javier Méndez

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