



PRESS BOOK
seven leagues



table of contents

synopsis 3

technical crew 4

technical details 6

project report 8

the dance company 9

the directors 11

contact details 12



synopsis

SHORT

A piece of news halfway across the world leads a group of people from different backgrounds to put something that seemed impossible into practice: children with motor disabilities forming a small dance company to be protagonists on a theatre stage.

LONG

A piece of news halfway across the world leads a group of people from different backgrounds to put something that seemed impossible into practice: children with motor disabilities being protagonists on a theatre stage. For families who have been suffering many defeats for years, something as seemingly ordinary as taking their children to dance classes is a major change in their lives. The voices of all those who make up this small dance company share an inspiring experience.

technical crew

DIRECTED BY JON ANDER SANTAMARÍA
MARCIA CASTILLO

WRITTEN BY JON ANDER SANTAMARÍA
AURORA EDO

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HUGO AZNAR
MARCIA CASTILLO

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS ANNE-MARIE PESSIS
GABRIELA MARTÍN
MERCEDES GARCÍA
GABRIELA AZNAR

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY VANESSA GONZÁLEZ
CLARA RADOSELOVICS

PRODUCTION MANAGER AURORA EDO

EDITOR VANESSA GONZÁLEZ

COLOURIST CLARA RADOSELOVICS

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JOTA HIDALGO

SOUND EDITOR JOSÉ SEPÚLVEDA

DIGITAL EFFECTS BY RICARDO TRIGO





A FILM PRODUCED BY

SIETE LEGUAS MEDIA
MEDIAPINZA
BALLETVALE+

IN COLLABORATION WITH

OBRA SOCIAL LA CAIXA
CASCADE DAFO
FUVANE (FUNDACIÓN VALENCIANA DE NEUROREHABILITACIÓN)

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

BARTOLOMÉ SERRA MARQUÉS AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTION CENTER (CEU CARDENAL HERRERA UNIVERSITY)
ESCUELA DE DANZA ESTHER MORTES
ACICOM (ASSOCIACIÓ CIUTADANIA I COMUNICACIÓ)



RUNNING TIME

65 MIN.

LANGUAGE

SPANISH, VALENCIAN AND ENGLISH

FORMAT

1.76:1 (16:9)

technical details

«Although many people tell you “you cannot write”, “you cannot dance”... you have to do it, either because you like it or because it makes you happy. Nothing else matters...»





project report

Sometimes, minor events can cause life-changing experiences. A piece of news on TV changed the life of the members of the [Balletvale+ Project's](#) team.

For **Marcia Castillo**, getting to know the stories of Gregg Mozgala and Tamar Rogoff through the [ABC News](#) was a turning point in her approach towards her daughter's recovery. Together with **Esther Mortes**, classical dance teacher, and **Patricia Morán**, physiotherapist, engineer and dancer, they created the **Balletvale+ Project**, which uses classical ballet as a tool in therapy for children with motor and functional disability. But the three founders of the project soon realised that **Balletvale+** was more than that: it was an experience of cooperation, inclusion and empowerment for the children and the volunteers who work with them in the dance room and their performances.

The original idea –the need to show this experience on the big screen– arises from **Hugo Aznar**, expert in media and civil society, who felt the need to tell an exemplary story: the one of both a mass media that provides solutions and a civil society with the ability to come together and mobilise itself selflessly.

SIETE LEGUAS wants to bring these ideas to other people and places and to show how much of a difference positive communication can make in our society.

the dance company

BalletVale+ is made up by children suffering from various motor disorders, infantile cerebral palsy with varying severity levels and other similar pathologies such as spina bifida or spinal muscular atrophy, and even diseases considered rare.

For these children, ballet had always been a forbidden activity. Furthermore, the fact that children with and without special needs get together during lessons is beneficial to both: while the first feel stimulated from being just like everyone else, the second lose their fear of what is different and learn the value of cooperation.

“Being on stage makes me happy because the whole audience looks at me and notices how I’m not that different from the rest.”





the directors

MARCIA CASTILLO



She holds a PhD from the University of Valencia and is a professor of Language of Advertising and Spanish Language and Culture. Her university career has been focused on the study of literature's avant-gardes and the image of women.

Her premature daughter's long path of physical rehabilitation became a valuable life lesson that she decided to share with society. Her experience in the world of cinema was one of an average devoted spectator of classic films. However, as often happens in life, difficulties make us reckless. Therefore, through a partnership with Jon Ander Santamaría, she decided to create a feature film, whose objectives include playing disability down and demonstrating the power of collaboration. Not only have new learnings emerged from this initial recklessness, but also the conviction that image is a privileged tool to make them travel further. *SIETE LEGUAS* wanted to give a voice to a choral tale that could guide other families going through similar experiences.

"If I could choose, I would choose not to have learned anything. But since I did not get the chance to, I accepted that learning makes us wiser because it teaches us that life is made up of a lot of things and most of them are worth it."

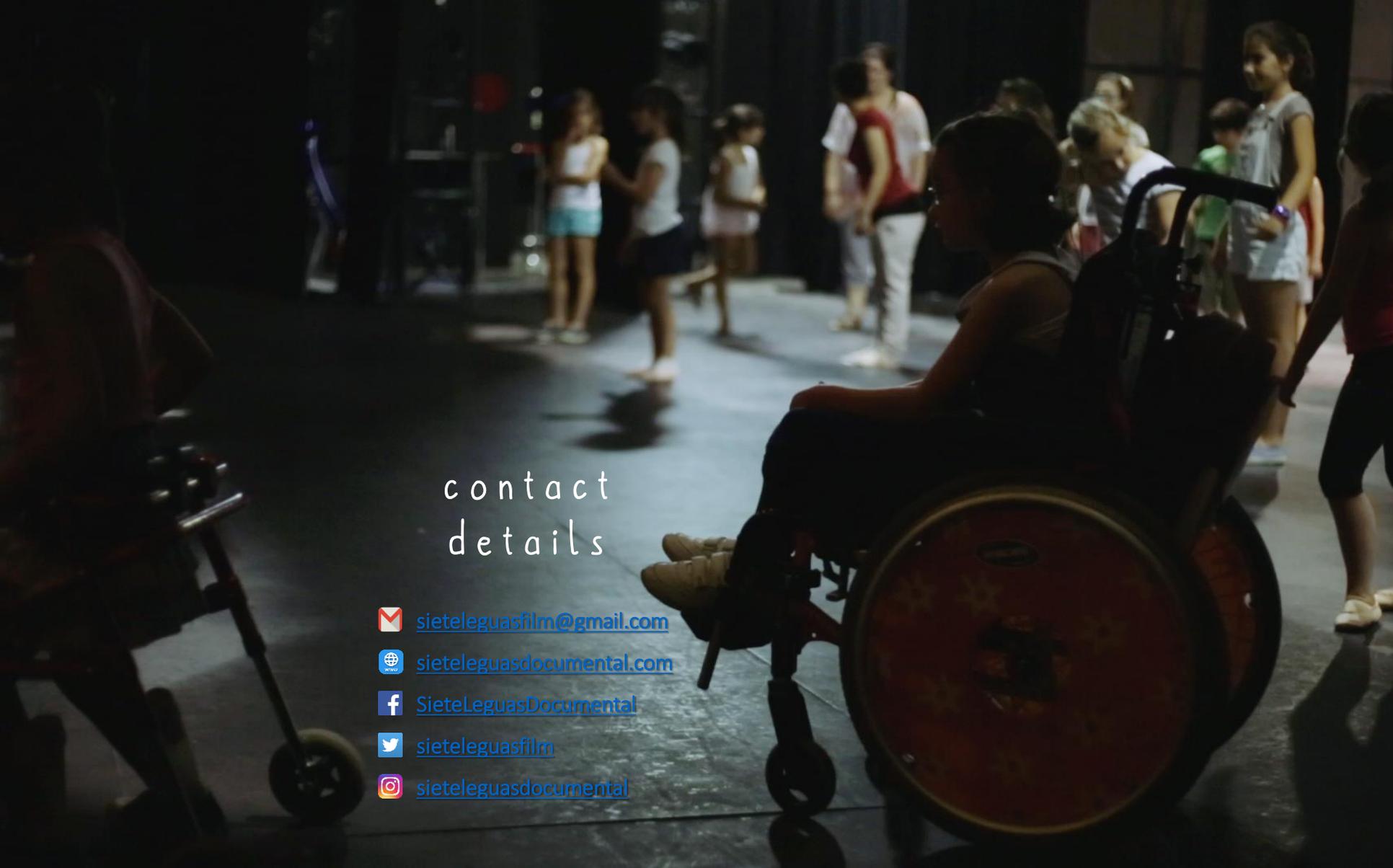
JON ANDER SANTAMARÍA



Journalism and audiovisual communication graduate. He was assistant director and screenwriter in several international documentaries about social issues.

In September 2013, he started working in Acca Media productions, where he developed various duties in different projects: Screenwriter assistant in the documentary *Gurba, la condena* (2014), awarded in the Sahara International Film Festival (FISHARA 2016); second direction assistant and co-writer in *Rising Nepal* (2016), documentary film about the four earthquake survivors' life in 2015; second assistant director and co-writer of *El caos y el orden* (2016), a documentary about the life and work of the abstract artist Manuel Felguérez, filmed in Mexico. Furthermore, he has also been co-writer and assistant director of *Me llamo Gennet* (première in 2019), a fiction film about the life of the first deafblind person to achieve a university degree in Europe, filmed in Spain and Ethiopia.

"When I met Marcia and she told me about this project, I knew immediately that it would be a great opportunity to launch it on the big screen. Thanks to my experiences around the world, I was able to notice that the small stories are almost always the greatest ones. The origin of *Balletvale+* is a small story that transcends and becomes great. We tried to stick to the same philosophy with *SIETE LEGUAS*."

A person is seated in a wheelchair in the foreground, facing away from the camera. The setting is a dark, dimly lit gym or fitness center. In the background, several other people, including children and adults, are visible, some standing and some in motion. The lighting is low, creating a moody atmosphere.

contact
details

 sieteleguasfilm@gmail.com

 sieteleguasdocumental.com

 [SieteLeguasDocumental](https://www.facebook.com/SieteLeguasDocumental)

 [sieteleguasfilm](https://twitter.com/sieteleguasfilm)

 [sieteleguasdocumental](https://www.instagram.com/sieteleguasdocumental)