

LOGLINE

She is bitter as dark coffee. He is sweet as cream. A blend of nostalgia and dreams.

SYNOPSIS

Set in the port city of Tampico, Mexico, *Café Chairel* tells the story of Alfonso and Katia, two lonely people burdened by loss, who find solace in each other's company at a small café. While their days may seem trivial, an unspoken transformation is quietly occurring, revealing the subtle yet profound impact of shared pain and their unexpected connection.



TRAILER

<https://youtu.be/jwmlUCtu3IM>

(Subtitles in English are available)



DATA SHEET



Title: Café Chairel

Genre: Drama, Comedy

Runtime: 110 min

Language: Spanish

Year: 2025

Company: Nopal Army Films

Director: Fernando Barreda Luna

Cast: Mauricio Isaac, Tessa Ia, Leo Deluglio

Writer: Fernando Barreda Luna, Atsushi Fujii

Producers: Jessica Villegas Lattuada, Ernesto Martinez

Arévalo, Fernando Barreda Luna

Director of Photography: Eduardo R. Servello

Production Manager: Andrea "Nina Kan" Juárez

1st AD: Argelia Martínez Escudero

Production Designer: Santos Moncayo

Costume Designer: Adriana Pérez Solís

Sound Recordist: Pablo Tamez

Sound Designer: Omar Juárez Espino

Composer: Uriel Villalobos

Locations: Tampico, Cd. Madero (Mexico)

Feature Song by Natalia Lafourcade

Camera: Arri Alexa Mini LF

Lens: Arri Signature Prime

Rent House: CTT Exp & Rentals

Film made with the support of EFICINE and Grupo Mexico

World Premiere: Sonoma International Film Festival
(USA)



PRODUCTION NOTES

Fernando Barreda Luna's second film, *Café Chairel*, is set for its World Premiere at the 2025 edition of Sonoma International Film Festival in the festival's competition section.

Café Chairel is a dramedy about two complete strangers who are dealing with their own sorrows. When their paths cross, they find solace in each other while trying to run a coffee shop despite knowing nothing about the business. Through their memories, we learn about their painful stories, while in the present they seem to be trapped in limbo, their lives on hold and without direction. Only through this great bond that they gradually build through coffee are they both able to heal their wounds and look forward.

It's a production of Nopal Army Films, by producers Jessica Villegas Lattuada (*Dad Wanted*), Ernesto Martínez Arévalo (*Nadie Sabrá Nunca*) and Fernando Barreda Luna (*Atrocious*) as director, producer, and co-writer with Japanese writer Atsushi Fujii. The photography is in charge of Eduardo R. Servello AMC (*Infection*).

For the lead roles, we have the stellar performances of Mauricio Isaac (*Lluvia*) as Alfonso, and Tessa la (*Los Adioses*) as Katia. In addition, we have the participation of Leo Delugio (*Who Killed Sara?*) and a special appearance by Hernán del Riego (*Un Extraño Enemigo*).

The filming took place in 2023 in locations in Tampico and Cd. Madero, Mexico. The goal was to portray the locality from a nostalgic perspective, rather than a touristy one. The main location was an old house in the Guadalupe neighborhood, built with Canadian pine in the Dutch style during the oil boom in 1921, which graciously lent by the Armstrong family, perfectly capturing the story's nostalgic feel.

For the filming, the production had the support of the local community, the municipalities of Tampico and Cd. Madero, as well as local businesses such as Café Costeñito and Café Degás. In addition to providing some locations and coffee for the crew, they offered invaluable assistance for the authenticity of the coffee handling through their star barista, Jenny Borrego, who is the current Mexican barista champion.

Nopal Army Films is seeking sales representation aligned with its aesthetic and tone. Screening requests can be directed to the producers via the contact information provided.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Fernando was born in Tampico, Mexico, but grew up changing cities every two years. After finishing his degree in Graphic Arts, he began working in productions as an assistant in different areas. He debuted as a director with *Atrocious* (2011), shot while living in Spain and selected at the Sitges Film Festival, where he also participated with *Kiss of Vengeance*, a short film shot while living in Los Angeles. Back in Mexico, in 2024 and two weeks before filming the movie *Alters*, of which he is the writer and producer, he left the set to donate an organ to his wife and producer Jessica Villegas, handing over the direction. He recently completed his second feature film *Café Chairel*, filmed in his hometown, while developing his next project on organ donation.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I discovered the story behind "Café Chairel" as a film programmer. Although it was not selected for the festival, it captivated me and after years of searching, I found the Japanese director to express my admiration. To my surprise, his film had never been shown and I couldn't allow that to happen. After a decade of friendship with Atsushi Fujii, I can now tell his story through my perspective, paying homage to his original work but rebuilding it from my particular corner of the world.



CONTACT

Jessica Villegas Lattuada
Producer
Nopal Army Films
T: +52 442 120 5684
E: jess_dan@yahoo.com

Fernando Barreda Luna
Director
Nopal Army Films
T: +52 442 1375256
E: ferbarreda@gmail.com

NOPALARMY
F I L M S

LINKS

Café Chairel Website: <https://www.nopalarmy.com/cafechairelfilm/>
Café Chairel Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cafechairel>
Café Chairel Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cafechairel>
Café Chairel X: <https://x.com/cafechairel>
Café Chairel IMDB Page: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt31062002/>
Café Chairel Trailer: <https://youtu.be/jwmlUCtu3lM>
Café Chairel Stills / Posters: <https://bit.ly/4g0JNVV>

Nopal Army Films Website: <https://nopalarmy.com/>
Like Nopal Army Films on FACEBOOK: <https://bit.ly/40DYAkR>
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