

THE HANDSHAKE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

# EL HUASO

a documentary by carlo guillermo proto

**“Talent is needed  
to make a private  
story personal  
and universal.  
Here it is done  
beautifully.”**

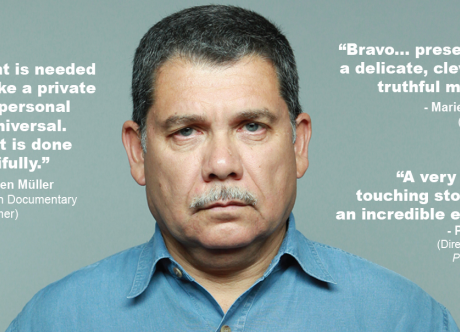
- Tue Steen Müller  
(European Documentary  
Programmer)

**“Bravo... presented in  
a delicate, clever and  
truthful manner.”**

- Marie Brassard  
(Playwright)

**“A very gentle,  
touching story with  
an incredible energy.”**

- Pawel Kloc  
(Director, *Phnom  
Penh Lullaby*)



# EL HUASO

## Synopsis

Struggling with short-term memory loss, Gustavo has retired from his business and finds some solace in his homeland of Chile by pursuing a childhood dream - competing as a "huaso" in rodeos. Awaiting the results of tests to determine whether he has Alzheimer's, and having long professed he would end his life if it became unbearable, he begins making preparations for his death, while his family struggles to accept his decision to end his life. *El Huaso* explores the pivotal point in one man's life where he takes it upon himself to shape his own mortality.

## Carlo Guillermo Proto

(Director / Producer / Editor)

Raised in Quillota, Chile and Mississauga, Ontario, Carlo Guillermo Proto makes his home in Montreal, Quebec. Much of his work focuses on the unique interplay between identity and human experience in relationship to issues of geography, ethnicity and perceived disabilities. Selected credits include: *Pura Sangre* (2005) and *Peggy, Denis and Lauviah* (2007). Carlo is the founder of **The Handshake Productions**. *El Huaso* is his first feature length documentary.

## Sergeo Kirby (Executive Producer)

Born in the British Columbia bush, Sergio co-founded the Montreal based production company *Loaded Pictures*, an independent documentary and dramatic film company. Selected credits include: *Wal-town* (2007), *Roadsworth: Crossing The Line* (2008) and *H2Oil* (2009).

## Ariel Escalante (Editor)

Born and raised in Costa Rica, Ariel studied at the International School of Film and Television in Havana, Cuba. Selected credits include: *Puro Mula* (2011) and *Los Minutos, Las Horas* (2009), programmed at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival, it received the *Special Jury Prize* at the 2011 Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.

## Guillermo Vedeccia (Story Editor)

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and raised in Waterloo, Ontario, Guillermo is known for his extensive work in theatre where he was awarded the Governor General's Award for his play *Fronteras Americas*. Made into a short film by the late Ramiro Puerta, the film has won numerous awards, including *Best Film* at the Tampere (Finland) and *Huesca* (Spain) International Short Film Festivals.

## Pablo Villegas (Sound Recordist)

Born in the city of Mendoza, Argentina and raised in Bogota, Colombia. Pablo graduated from the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technologies in London, Ontario and works as a sound recordist for Television and Documentary in Montreal. Selected credits include *The Fruit Hunters* (2012) and *Etats Unis d'Afrique* (2011).

## Benjamin R. Taylor (Cinematographer)

Born and raised in Adelaide, Australia, Benjamin currently lives and works in Montréal, Canada. His work uses documentary and experimental techniques to focus on geography and architecture. Selected credits include: *1981 Regressionists* (2009), *Las Vegas | The Meadows* (2011), *Niagara The Fiery* (2012).

## Mitchell Akiyama (Composer)

Born in Toronto and educated in Montreal, Mitchell is an electro-acoustic composer for fiction and documentary films. Selected credits include: *Ninth Street Chronicles* (2006) and *Roadsworth: Crossing The Line* (2009). Mitchell's original music can also be heard on the BRAVO short film *Red Shoes* (2009) and the multi-award winning documentary *The Corporation* (2003).

## Cory Rizos, CAS (Re-recording Mixer)

Born in western Canada, Cory makes his home in Beaconsfield, Quebec with his beautiful wife and two children. Selected credits include: *Up the Yangtze* (2007), *RIP: A Remix Manifesto* (2009), *Last Train Home* (2009) and *War of 1812* in which he won the 1999 Gemini for *Best Sound in a Television Documentary Series*.

## Daniel Duchek (Sound Recordist)

Born and raised in Calgary by Brazilian and Ukrainian parents, Daniel's first feature length documentary *1981 Regressionists* (2010) premiered at the 2010 RIDM documentary festival in Montreal, Quebec. The film deals with the investigation and intervention of his alcoholic childhood friend Phil.

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## Director's Message

**Gustavo is my father and as such I feel an additional responsibility to express his story with integrity and respect. If I didn't make this film I would have succumbed to a culture of silence and repression, a culture that too many of us have grown up in, where confronting the inevitability of death is silenced.**

**- Carlo Guillermo Proto**

## Background

After emigrating from Chile to Canada with his wife Ana in 1971, Gustavo sought to provide for his growing family. Initially, he had worked at any odd job possible from collecting worms for bait to driving forklifts.

Since then, he has become a successful entrepreneur, providing himself with a comfortable lifestyle.

Gustavo agreed to take part in this film as a way of explaining to his grandchildren why he chose to take his own life.

*El Huaso* does not only convey tragedy but explores struggle. Each scene peels back a layer of Gustavo's inner life through direct conversations with doctors and family members.



# EL HUASO

## Please Contact

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Founded in 2005 by director Carlo Guillermo Proto  
The Handshake Productions is a production company  
that operates out of Montreal, Quebec. We are interested  
in developing and creating documentary and fiction  
films with a focus on identity and socio-political  
issues. The Handshake is in the midst of  
developing a program for directors who  
have become the producers of their  
films. This new initiative will offer the  
opportunity to partner with a more  
experienced incorporated production  
company in order for directors to  
take their projects to the next level  
of funding, while maintaining  
full rights, ownership and  
creative control of their film.  
We will consider projects if  
they have received funding  
by federal or provincial  
councils or agencies.

For more infoation  
please visit us online:

[www.thehandshake.org](http://www.thehandshake.org)

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