



THE ACADEMY
OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

84th Academy Awards Nominee Questionnaire

Fernando Trueba / Nominated for: Best Animated Feature Film category for CHICO & RITA

What is your hometown? Where did you go to school?

I was born in Madrid, where I grew and went to school.

What was your first movie-going experience, and how did it affect you?

The oldest moment I can remember on a theater are some images of a Larry Semon short silent comic movie. Must be around 1959 or 1960. They use to play these old movies as companion to very long epic movies. And the image is about a cake battle. I don't know if that affect me but I love comedy and have made some.

Did you watch the Oscars growing up? Was it a family experience? Do you recall a particular favorite Oscar moment?

The time difference between LA and Madrid is 9 hours! So it couldn't be a familiar experience... When Fellini received his Lifetime Award was a great moment.

When did you decide that you wanted to make movies? What influenced you? Who or what inspired you along the way?

Around 15 or 16 I started dreaming about it and reading books about it and going to the Cinematheque. "The Wild Child" by Truffaut was a very important moment at that age. And even younger, watching Billy Wilder's "Love in the afternoon" was a revelation.

What's the most valuable piece of advice you ever got in your career?

Alfred Hitchcock used to say the most important piece of advice he ever got was from his father: "Avoid jail". And Billy Wilder told me several times: "Spend the most possible time with your son." Two great advices.

What was the biggest challenge you faced in the movie for which you are nominated?

Producing the score was quite an experience. With recording sessions in New York, Havana and Madrid, and lots of different groups and musicians. Recreate the sound of some classic jazz legends... It was an incredible, long but very amazing experience.

What was your most memorable moment on this movie?

Just to work with Mariscal is an incredible experience. He's funny, he's crazy, he's a genius, he's a child... Every single drawing that came out of his pen was a memorable moment for me. But also when we had the very first single shot finished, after years of work. It was just some seconds, but I watched it again and again, one hundred times.

What would be your dream movie project to work on?

I always had a dream of making a movie on Leonard Cohen. Dreamed about it for many many years.

What's the one thing that people would be shocked to know about you?

I'm the only man in the world that has accompanied Billy Wilder to the bank to get some cash and Robert Bresson to the garage to pick his car....!

Do you use social media? If you tweet, what is your Twitter name?

I don't even have a cel phone! Never never in my life wrote or read a Twiter! Don't even know how it looks like! I'm too busy reading and listening hard-bop records!

If you have a Facebook fan page, please let us know what it is called?

I just have my webpage www.fernandotrueba.com and yes there's a Facbook page of CHICO & RITA :

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