

Introduction to Director Tomás Alzamora and Producer Pablo Calisto. 3:06 min. Edited: Felipe Rivas. Photo & Design: Raymond Elman.

# Director Tomás Alzamora & Producer Pablo Calisto Make Timely Film

By Elman + Rivas

Two young Chilean filmmakers, Director Tomás Alzamora and Producer Pablo Calisto, made a timely and engaging allegorical film titled *La Mentirita Blanca* [Little White Lie] which won the Best First Screenplay award at the 2017 Miami Film Festival.

Alzamora (b.1990) grew up in San Carlos, a very small town 100 kilometers south of Santiago, where *La Mentirita Blanca* was filmed. Alzamora is also a rapper, a DJ, and a music producer because there was no one else in San Carlos who could fill those roles.

Pablo Calisto (b.1992) is a partner with Alzamora in a film development company called “Equoco,” and *La Mentirita Blanca* is their first feature film.


Starring noted Chilean comic actor Rodrigo Salinas, the film is centered on a small-town newspaper where there aren’t enough newsworthy stories to fill the pages, and advertising is almost non-existent, because nobody reads an empty newspaper.

Serendipitously, Salinas almost kills the town drunk, and has him photographed so it looks like a murder. They publish a sensational story in the struggling newspaper and the edition sells out. Knowing a winning formula when he bumps into it, Salinas continues to publish “Fake News” and the newspaper roars back to life.

The film was first released in 2014, long before Donald Trump made “Fake News” a rallying cry, and tied to the 21st century demise of the publishing industry, *La Mentirita Blanca* couldn’t be more prescient or timely.


The videos below are organized by topic and run between 30 seconds and 4 minutes. Click on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.

**SELF-CONFIDENCE: 1:36 min.**



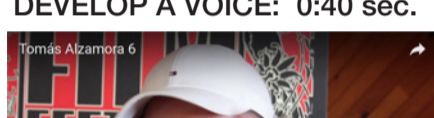
*You grew up in a small town with no movie theaters. What is your earliest memory of movies?*

**INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 4:04 min.**



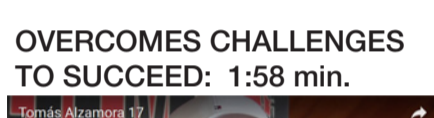
*What is your earliest memory of movies? And what are your favorite films?*

**STRONG DRIVE FOR ACHIEVEMENT: 1:44 min.**




*How did you learn to make films?*

**DEVELOP A VOICE: 0:40 sec.**




*Did you direct, shoot, edit and star in your early music videos?*

**OVERCOMES CHALLENGES TO SUCCEED: 1:58 min.**




*What are your favorite movies?*

**OPEN TO CHANGE: 2:32 min.**




*Do you like black and white movies?*

**PERSEVERANCE FURTHERS: 1:56 min.**



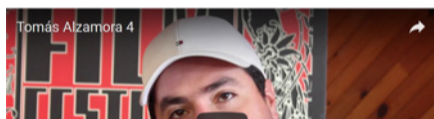
*Tell us about the lead character in *La Mentirita Blanca*. He looks a little like Seth Rogen. Was he intentionally overweight?*

**CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND: 0:40 sec.**




*Who came up with the idea of Rodrigo Salinas lying in bed naked playing the guitar?*

**COLLABORATION: 0:53 sec.**



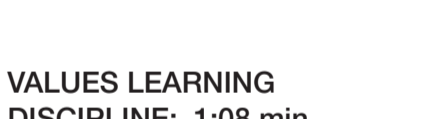
*When you connected with Rodrigo through Facebook, did he know about your reputation as a rapper?*

**COLLABORATION 1:22 min.**



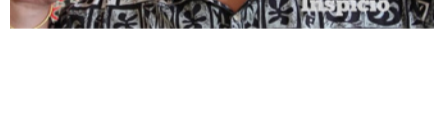
*Who edited “Little White Lie?”*

**VALUES LEARNING DISCIPLINE: 1:08 min.**



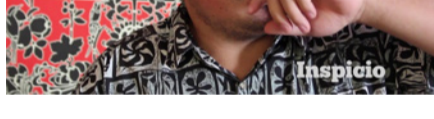
*What kind of research did you do regarding aliens and crop circles?*

**CRITICAL THINKING: 1:54 min.**




*Your movie is partially about “Fake News,” which has become such a trendy subject.*

**CREATIVE FLEXIBILITY: 0:54 sec.**




*What’s the story about the very real truck with the cracked windshield?*

**OVERCOMES CHALLENGES TO SUCCEED: 1:25 min.**



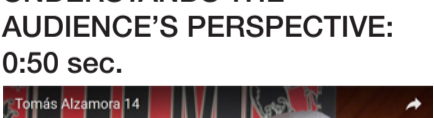
*What are the benefits of working with very little money and having to use props and sets that people donate?*

**UNDERSTANDS THE AUDIENCE’S PERSPECTIVE: 0:50 sec.**




*When I saw the term “shit-faced” in the subtitles, it made me wonder who did such an accurate translation into English.*

**VALUES LEARNING DISCIPLINE: 1:56 min.**



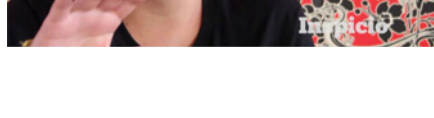
*How well do you understand the business of cinema?*

**COLLABORATION: 2:48 min.**



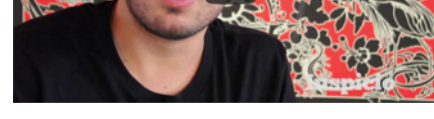
*What was the total cost of “La Mentirita Blanca?”*

**CRITICAL THINKING: 3:18 min.**




*Has “La Mentirita Blanca” been distributed in any countries as of March, 2017?*

**CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND: 1:01 min.**



*Have you started working on your next film?*

**COLLABORATION: 1:31 min.**



*My understanding is that you want to use Rodrigo Salinas as the star of your next movie. I think it’s very smart to build a group of movies around a character.*