

ZOKALO ENTERTAINMENT

In Association with

CARTEL SA

Present

A film by and starring

JESUS NEBOT

NO TURNING BACK

Also starring ←.....

Lindsay Price ***Chelsea Rendon***

Vernee Watson-Johnson ***Susan Haskell***

No Turning Back

(USA-Spain 2001)

V.O. ENGLISH 35mm. Dolby SR TRT: 99 minutes

Zokalo Entertainment

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NO TURNING BACK

LIST OF AWARDS



- 2002 ALMA AWARD. Outstanding Independent Motion Picture
- MALAGA FILM FESTIVAL, SPAIN. Audience Award: Best Feature Film
- RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. Grand Jury Award: Best Feature Film
- BIG BEAR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, CA. Grand Jury Award: Best Of The Festival
- HOPE AND DREAMS FILM FESTIVAL, NJ. Grand Jury Award: Best Film Of The Festival
- COMUNIDAD DE MADRID FILM FESTIVAL, SPAIN. Audience Award: Best Feature Film
- 2002 SAN ANTONIO FILM FESTIVAL, TX. Jury Honorary Award: Best Feature Film
- 2002 HOUSTON WORLDFEST, TX. Jury's Gold Award: Best Suspense Film
- 2002 CINESOL FILM FESTIVAL, TX. Jury Award: Outstanding Independent Film
- 2002 NEW HAMPSHIRE INTERNATIONAL FILM EXPO. Grand Jury Award: Best Film
- 2002 PALM SPRINGS INT'L. HISPANIC FILM FESTIVAL. Honorary Award: Best Film
- 2002 MARCO ISLAND INT'L. FILM FESTIVAL. Audience Award: Best Feature Film
- 2002 SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. Audience Award: Best Feature Film
- 2002 JAMERICAN INT'L. FILM FESTIVAL. JAMAICA. Jury Award: Best Feature Film
- 2002 ANNUAL SPANISH FILM GALA AWARDS: Best First Feature Film
- 2002 AGUILA AZTECA PERFORMING ARTS TRIBUTE Award -- Jesus Nebot
- 2002 GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD FOR BEST FILMMAKER -- Jesus Nebot
- 2002 LATINOS IN HOLLYWOOD AWARD For Best Director -- Jesus Nebot
- 2002 LATINOS IN HOLLYWOOD AWARD For Best Actress -- Chelsea Rendon
- 2002 ATLANTIC CITY INT'L. FILM FESTIVAL Best Actor Award -- Jesus Nebot

NO TURNING BACK



Terra.com

"One of the Top Ten Pictures of the Year"
Independent Film Society

SELECTED PRESS CLIPS **United States**

"A stunning thinking man's thriller. One of the best pictures of 2002."

Chris Gore, publisher. *Filmthreat.com*

"A riveting drama and social commentary that must be seen from beginning to end."

Don Wenner, *World View Press*

"Jesus Nebot gives a focused, impassioned portrayal, holding the film together and giving it impact and meaning."

Kevin Thomas, *The Los Angeles Times*

"A landmark film for young people all over the world. It should be screened in all universities and colleges."

Tracey Alexander, *The Hollywood Chronicle*

"A stunning achievement...Nebot will be the next breakout star."

Anka Theroux, *Imagine*

"**No Turning Back** has all the right elements: drama, humor, pathos and suspense."

Noelia Hueso, *The Hollywood Reporter*

"Nebot gives an impressive performance, holding the film together on the strength of his compelling presence."

Chuck Wilson, *LA Weekly*

"With **No Turning Back** film audiences are able to recapture viewing artistic freedom at its best."

Joseph Bradley, *Cubico.com*

"Impressive and powerful bit of filmmaking."

Carlo Cavagna, *Aboutfilm.com*

"I can't recall ever crying in a movie, but I openly admit that **No Turning Back** did make me cry. I take comfort in the fact that there truly wasn't a dry eye in the house."

Ronnie Adams, *Latinoreview*

"**No Turning Back** is an impactful movie and a clear example that there is no need to have a big budget in order to make an excellent and moving film. There is not a false note."

Charles Cotayo, *El Nuevo Herald*

"Every character's point of view is explored. You see humanity in all as one stereotype after another crashes to the ground."

Carolyn Bray, *Filmmaker Magazine*

"Mesmerizing, touching, and insightful. Nebot exhibits unquestionable great talent and has scored a big pointer to his name with a film of great humanity, beauty, and honesty."

Alexander Asch, *Mundo LA*

"**No Turning Back** deserves all the international festival awards has earned".

Cheryl DeWolfe, *Apollo Guide*

"Jesus Nebot makes it all work into a satisfying and socially conscious film as well... a compelling piece."

Dennis Przywara, *Filmthreat.com*

International

"An excellent film that realistically portrays the issues faced by illegal immigrants in North America."

Federico Casado Reina, *ABC (Spain)*

“A heart-wrenching story that appeals to the human spirit. Nebot gives a great performance.”

Magnus Henagulph, *The Royal Gazette* (Bermuda)

“Powerful, shocking, moving and unforgettable.”

Daniel Alvarez, *Panorama de Cine* (Spain)

“**No Turning Back** is the best antidote against the lack of solidarity.”

Fernando Herrero, *El Norte de Castilla* (Spain)

“An exceptional film... Excellent performances and an impressive directing debut.”

Leopoldo Reyes *El Debate* (Mexico)

“One of the most interesting films of the year.”

Gregorio Belinchon, *El Pais* (Spain)

“A very courageous and committed film that directly undertakes the issue of immigration.”

Alicia Ezker, *Diario de Navarra* (Spain)

“A very gratifying surprise.”

Joaquin Arando, *El Heraldo de Aragon* (Spain)

“**No Turning Back** is an excellent film.”

Javier Garcia, *Cine Independiente* (Spain)

“A True portrayal of today’s society.”

CanalSocial.com (Spain)

“One of the best films of the year.”

Zero (Spain)

NO TURNING BACK



CAST

PabloJesús Nebot (NYPD Blue, Dementia, Ole, The Sentinel)
Cristina.....Chelsea Rendon (ER)
Soid.....Lindsay Price (Beverly Hills 90210, Jack and Jill)
Detective Bryant.....Vernée Wastson Johnson* (Fresh Prince of Bel Air, The Kid)
Mrs. Knight.....Susan Haskell* (JAG, Mrs. Winterbourne, One Life to Live)
Steven Lightning..... Robert Vestal (ER, Out of the Life)
Dr. Knight..... Paul Ganus (Lethal Weapon 3, The Mask of Zorro)

(*) Emmy Award Winners

FILMMAKERS

Story by..... Jesus Nebot, Chris Sablan
Writers..... Julia Montejo, Jesus Nebot
Directors..... Julia Montejo, Jesus Nebot
Producer..... Jesus Nebot
Executive Producers..... Jesus Nebot, Eduardo Campoy
Co-executive Producer..... Soledad Fernandez
Associate Producer..... Chris Sablan
Consulting producer..... Concepcion Lara
Line Producer..... Robyn Lattaker Johnson
Director of Photography..... Ian Fox
Editors..... Irene Blecua, Andrea Zondler
Music Composition..... Steven Chesne
Production Designer..... Gail Mosley
Costume Designer..... Dujuana Brossman
Casting Directors.....A. Campanella, P. Cunningham, R. Azurdia

SYNOPSIS

After losing his wife and house to Hurricane Mitch in Honduras, Pablo (Jesus Nebot) illegally immigrates to the United States in an attempt to offer a better future for his five year old daughter Cristina (Chelsea Rendon). A few months later it is Cristina's birthday, and Pablo borrows his boss' truck to surprise his daughter at school and take her to watch the movie Tarzan. On the way there, a dog jumps into his path, and Pablo quickly jerks the wheel. He loses complete control of the truck and a tragic accident occurs.

Wild thoughts frantically cross his mind - he has no license, is an illegal immigrant, and has fatally injured a little girl. If he waits for the authorities to arrive, this accident could cost him what he values the most: his daughter and the betterment of her life.

He picks Cristina up from school, but his problems have just begun. Soid (Lindsay Price), a beautiful, mysterious, and story-hungry journalist, manages to follow him and strike a deal. She will drive them to Mexico, on the condition that she video tapes their adventure. She convinces him that nobody will suspect him, if he is being filmed.

Near the border, Pablo changes his mind. Not willing to give up his dreams of a better life for his daughter, he decides that there is no turning back... They will head to Canada.

The little girl who was hit dies, and a frantic pursuit headed by a hard-nosed female detective (Vernée Watson Johnson) takes place to bring the criminal to justice.

Scared and desperate, Cristina and Pablo alter their appearance and go underground.

Emotionally caught between what he has done, and his love and care for Cristina, Pablo will do anything to make sure that his daughter doesn't become another victim of his tragic destiny.

Directed and written by Jesús Nebot and Julia Montejo, **No Turning Back** was produced by Jesús Nebot and associate produced by Chris Sablan. It stars Jesús Nebot, Lindsay Price, Chelsea Rendon, Susan Haskell, Vernee Watson Johnson, Robert Vestal, Paul Ganus and Joe Estevez. The director of photography was Ian Fox, the editors were Irene Blecua and Andrea Zondler, the production designer was Gail Mosley, and the costume designer Dujuana Brossman. The film's music was composed by Steven Chesne.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Directors Julia Montejo and Jesus Nebot knew they had a story which had to be told. The film portrays an event ,which could happen to anyone, and the moral dilemma that follows.

The protagonist is an English literature professor from Honduras with strong ethics. Yet, in the heat of the moment, when he is confronted with the most difficult decision he has ever had to make, he chooses a path that could cost him his life.

The film questions the concept of the "American Dream." Pablo and Cristina are poor and persecuted by the police, but the father/daughter love between them is so special, that Soid, the journalist, considers them luckier than herself, who happens to come from a wealthy but dysfunctional family.

The film also explores the cultural and generation clashes of different characters who are forced to live and work together. This is especially obvious with the tense relationship between the two detectives who are searching for Pablo. Their lack of communication has tragic consequences.

At another level, the film portrays the controversial role the media plays during tragic events. The journalist is motivated by her selfishness to have a marketable story. However, the reality she witnesses enhances her social awareness as she realizes how the media can also be instrumental in bringing people together.

Finally, the film explores the social consequences of illegal immigration, a subject matter that generates heated debates all over the world, but that has rarely been portrayed on the big screen. We explore the human story behind these immigrants, who are considered criminals for crossing the border without a permit in an effort to provide a better future for their families.

Nebot says, **No Turning back** presents us, through its characters, the cultural and ethnic diversity so prominently present in Southern California which is slowly becoming a reality in the rest of the world. It brings to our attention the importance of having respect and appreciation for other cultures and points of view in order to build a society in which we can all live peacefully. "

The film came in a mysterious way. As Nebot was leaving the gym on September 19, 1999, an Asian-American radical journalist approached him. She told him she had read an article on his production company, Zokalo Entertainment, and had selected him to bring her story to the big screen. She identified herself as Soid, and proceeded to tell Jesus her adventure. Not only did she recount her experience, she also showed him actual footage she had recorded. Jesus was blown away, and knew he had something special here.

After his conversation with Soid, Jesus quickly went to his office and told Associate Producer, Chris Sablan, what had just happened. They were both excited and quickly began to work on their next project, **No Turning Back**. Shortly after, Nebot decided to add Julia Montejo to the team. Both Montejo and Nebot were going to write and direct the project.

The casting process for the film was an enduring task. One of the most difficult parts to cast was Cristina, the lead. The directors needed a six year old girl who was bilingual and could convincingly pass for a little boy. After months of searching, they called in newcomer Chelsea Rendon. While reading the part opposite Jesus Nebot, this free spirited girl took the liberty to criticize Jesus' acting and started directing the scene herself. She could definitely cause some trouble on the set, but her rebellious personality was perfect for the role of Cristina and the directors felt it was worth taking the risk of hiring her.

Financing was the most difficult part of the project. After being rejected by hundreds of companies and investors in the United States, Cartel, one of the largest production companies in Spain saw the potential of the film and decided

to join as co-producers. This commitment allowed the filmmakers to begin principal photography. With almost half of the financing in place, the producer's desperately searched for the remaining funds. Among different strategies, they lit candles in the office hoping "the universe" would bless them with the much needed money. A Nigerian who claimed to be an official in his country contacted them and offered them a check to complete financing as long as he could use their account to transfer several million dollars. Obviously, this was a scam, but the filmmakers had to explore every ally. A very valuable investor turned out to be Jesus' mom who always dreamt of him... cutting his hair. Since that was one of the requirements for Jesus to successfully play the role of Pablo, she felt that her investment would ultimately be worth it.

Production wasn't any easier. These determined filmmakers shot the film in three weeks. Not only did they have a multitude of locations, given the story was a road movie, but they had to adhere with the strict schedule the Screen Actors Guild had when working with six year old children. On the very first day of the shoot, one of the picture cars broke and from there, obstacles arose everywhere. The filmmakers of **No Turning Back** were able to overcome all their challenges thanks to an amazing crew who worked for the story instead of the money.

ABOUT THE CAST

JESUS NEBOT (Pablo) Award-winning Latino filmmaker/producer/actor
Jesus Nebot, is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in Madrid and

the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in New York on scholarship from the Spanish Government. Nebot is internationally known for his starring roles in the top-rated and award-winning television series, **La Loba Herida** and **Divina Obsesion** which were distributed by Warner Brothers International to 27 countries. Nebot's recent acting credits in the United States include FOX's **NYPD Blue**, NBC's **Boomtown**, and the independent features **Dementia** and **Final Voyage** with ICE-T. On stage, he was last seen playing the title role in Shakespeare's **The Merchant Of Venice** and the lead character in Federico Garcia Lorca's **Blood Wedding** at the prestigious Los Angeles Theatre Center. His work as an independent producer started with the feature films **Little Heart**, **Somebody's Hero** and **Ole** in which he also starred. In 1999 Nebot founded Zokalo, an independent production company based in Santa Monica, California. Zokalo's critically acclaimed first feature **No Turning Back** was recently released theatrically in Europe and will open in the United States in June 2003. The film has already won 16 INTERNATIONAL BEST FEATURE FILM AWARDS, including the 2002 ALMA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT MOTION PICTURE, the most prestigious award for any Latino production shot in the United States. Demonstrating the versatility of his talent, Nebot wrote, directed, produced and starred in the film. His touching performance as Pablo has been praised by film critics and granted him the BEST ACTOR AWARD at the 2002 Atlantic City International Film festival. Zokalo has five other projects in different stages of development: the television sitcom **Hollywood Dreams** the documentary **Bedroom Conversations** and the feature films **In the Name of**

Love, Nothing but the Truth and **Muneera**, Nebot's next directorial picture. Nebot has been named STAR FILMMAKER of 2002 by the non-profit organization Latinos in Hollywood and recognized with the OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD by Nosotros, a prominent non-profit organization founded by actor Ricardo Montalban. Nebot has also been the recipient of the 2002 AGUILA AZTECA PERFORMING ARTS TRIBUTE AWARD and The Southern California Motion Picture Council's GOLDEN STAR HALO AWARD FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY.

LINDSAY PRICE (Soid) was born and raised in Southern California, where she began her career in commercials and was cast in episodic television by the age of 6.

Prior to her role as Soid on **No Turning Back**, Price starred in **Jack and Jill** and as Janet on **Beverly Hills, 90210**. Prior to that, she also starred in **All My Children** for three years and followed with two years on **The Bold and the Beautiful**. She has also guest starred on shows including **Frasier**, **C-16**, **Boy Meets World** and **Head Over Heals**.

Price has also starred in several independent films including **Hundred Percent**, **Angus Bethune**, **The Purple People Eater**, and **The Jamie Fort Story**.

VERNEE WATSON JOHNSON (Detective Bryant) did her first national commercial at the age of 19 which led to over 200 more and the receipt of a Clio Award. She has appeared in such TV shows as **LA Law, Murphy Brown, Welcome Back Kotter, Carter Country, Love Boat, Fantasy Island, Benson, Hill Street Blues, The Jeffersons, Vegas, A Different World, Married with Children** and more. She has co-starred movies such as **Norman, Is That You?, The Violation of Sara McDavid, Death by Reason of Insanity, Boy in the Plastic Bubble, All Night Long, Showdown in Little Tokyo** and the docu-drama **Angel Dust - The Wack Attack** for which she won an EMMY AWARD.

Her talents extend to voice-overs in various animated cartoon series including **Captain Caveman, Scooby-Doo, The Flintstones, Batman, Superman** and the voice of "Danielle" on **Baby Talk**. She has owned an acting school for children and continues to guide aspiring actors and actresses of all ages through workshops, seminars and private coaching.

SUSAN HASKELL, (Mrs. Knight), a native of Toronto, Canada, began modeling at age sixteen and was cast in numerous commercials while still in high school. She attended Tufts University in Boston where she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biopsychology.

Susan then studied acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City. Upon graduating from AADA, Susan's portrayal of "Marty Saybrooke" on **One Life to Live** earned her a daytime Emmy. She then moved to L.A. Some of her most recent television credits are **E.R., The District**, and

recurring roles on **JAG** and **18 Wheels of Justice**. Her film credits include **Mrs. Winterbourne** starring Shirley MacLaine and Brendan Fraser and **No Turning Back**. She has just completed the lead role opposite David Caruso in a film called **Black Point**.

Susan is a celebrity spokesperson for The Brain Injury Association (BIA), in the U.S. and in Canada, "I Am Worth It"—a campaign for women and children in shelters.

CHELSEA RENDON (Cristina) developed her love for acting at an early age, and began studying acting at the age of four. Shortly after, she starred in two commercials and took part in a fotonovela (a photo shooting advertising magazine). Chelsea has been in numerous commercials and can currently be seen in the McDonald's commercial promoting the film **The Emperor's New Groove**. She has recently completed an episode of **E.R.**

ROBER VESTAL (Steven Lightning) makes his feature film debut with **No Turning Back**. Previously, he's done theater and short films both in LA and his native Chicago. **Out of the Life** was an Official Selection of the Rotterdam International Film Festival. His television credits include **E.R.**. Vestal is a graduate of The University of Chicago, earning a degree in English Literature.

PAUL GANUS (Dr. Knight) was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan and attended Alma College, where he double-major in political science and theatre and graduated cum laude.

Ganus made his feature film debut in **Permanent Record**. He appeared in **Double Revenge**, before starring in **Crash And Burn**. He soon followed with roles in **The Silencer**, **Forever Young** and **Lethal Weapon 3**. Other films include **Managua**, **Monolith**, **The Mask Of Zorro** and **La Ultima Llamada (The Last Call)**.

Ganus played the title role in 160 episodes of the television series **Shadow**, and co-starred in 120 episodes of **Demasiado Corazon**, both in Mexico. He also had a recurring role on **The Young And The Restless**, **Days Of Our Lives**, **Running With Scissors** and **Dallas**.

Ganus is a national print spokesperson for Nestle and hosted the Mrs. California International 2000 Pageant.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Producer/Director/Writer/Actor JESUS NEBOT (Please see ABOUT THE CAST)

Director/ Writer JULIA MONTEJO completed her studies in screenwriting, directing, producing and literature from UCLA, on a three-year full ride scholarship from the Government of Navarra.

Montejo was first hired as a screenwriter for director Julie Carmen to work on the feature **Deep Song**. Shortly after, she wrote the feature, **The Count**, a script based on Alexander Dumas' novel, **The Count of Monte Cristo**, for Concepcion Lara's *Mediaopolis*.

Montejo moved to Venezuela to work for director Lorenzo Vigas on the rewrite of the feature **Therapy**, which is slated to be shot in New York. While there, she served as a consultant and story editor for television production company, *Canal Uno*.

Montejo has also worked as staff writer for top Spanish television series, including "La Cocina de Baldo," and high rated sit-com, "Siete Vidas."

Montejo has been published in the distinguished poetry magazine Rio Arga and is an Associate Professor in screenwriting at the University of Navarra.

Associate Producer CHRIS SABLAN graduated from the University of Southern California studying both Marketing and Film. At the same time, being only 20, he produced, directed and wrote Sony's hit variety college sketch show **Surfing Channels**.

Sablan was then hired by *Canal FOX* and *FOX Kids* as a Creative Services Specialist designing and writing cable guides for over 12 million subscribers. He left *FOX* to join *Codikow Films'* development department working under the supervision of successful independent producer Stacy Codikow.

Sablan moved on to work for eight time Emmy Award Winner, Robert Dean, under his *Vantage Point Productions* banner, where he was heavily involved in the development and production of three documentaries for *Discovery Communications*.

Sablan is currently director of development for Jesus Nebot's *Zokalo Entertainment*.

Line Producer ROBYN-LATTAKER JOHNSON earned her MFA in film directing from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, where she graduate with honors.

Robyn has worked with several feature filmmakers including Rusty Cundieff, Mario Van Peebles, and Tony Vitale. Her credits include **Very Mean Men**, which screened at the Cannes Film Festival starring Martin Landau, Matthew Modine, Burt Young, and Scott Baio, **Duty Dating** starring Lauren

Sinclair, Paul Statterfield, and Susan Barnes, **My Brother Jack** which showcased at the Hampton's Film Festival and starred Marco Leonardi (**Like Water For Chocolate, Cinema Paradiso**), and many other features, music videos, short films, and commercial projects.

Director of Photography IAN FOX has worked with the best in the industry. Fox's impressive body of work as a cinematographer includes **Runaway Bride** with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, **Twister** directed by Jan de Bont, **Very Bad Things** with Cameron Diaz, and **The Abyss** directed by James Cameron.

Editor IRENE BLECUA has worked with some of the top editors and filmmakers in her natal Spain. Among her numerous credits as an assistant editor we can mention **Two Much** starring Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith.

Editor ANDREA ZONDLER graduated from the American Film Institute and started her film career as a cinematographer. She then took up editing and has not stopped ever since. Her recent work includes **Skeleton Woman, Dreamers**, and **Camera Obscura**.

Composer STEVEN CHESNE has received numerous awards for outstanding achievement for his compositions from several organizations including ASCAP, Billboard, and USC School of Music.

His works have been performed by the *Ventura Symphony*, the *L.A. Modern String Orchestra*, *The Los Angeles Ars Symphonia Orchestra*, the *La Mirada Symphony*, *Mehli Mehta's American Youth Symphony*, as well as by members of the *Los Angeles Philharmonic*, the *L.A. Chamber Orchestra*, the *Hollywood Bowl Orchestra*, and the *Pacific Symphony*.

Chesne has composed the scores for over 300 episodes of prime-time, network shows including **Batman: the Animated Series**, **Family Man**, **Family Matters**, **Hangin' with Mr. Cooper**, **The Hogan Family**, **Perfect Strangers**, **Step by Step**, and **Valerie** as well as for the independent features **Dinner and a Movie**, **Only in L.A.**, **Singapore Sling**, **Artifacts and Fiction**, **The Islanders**, **A Prayer to a Lesser God Goes Unanswered**, and **Running from the Shadows**.