

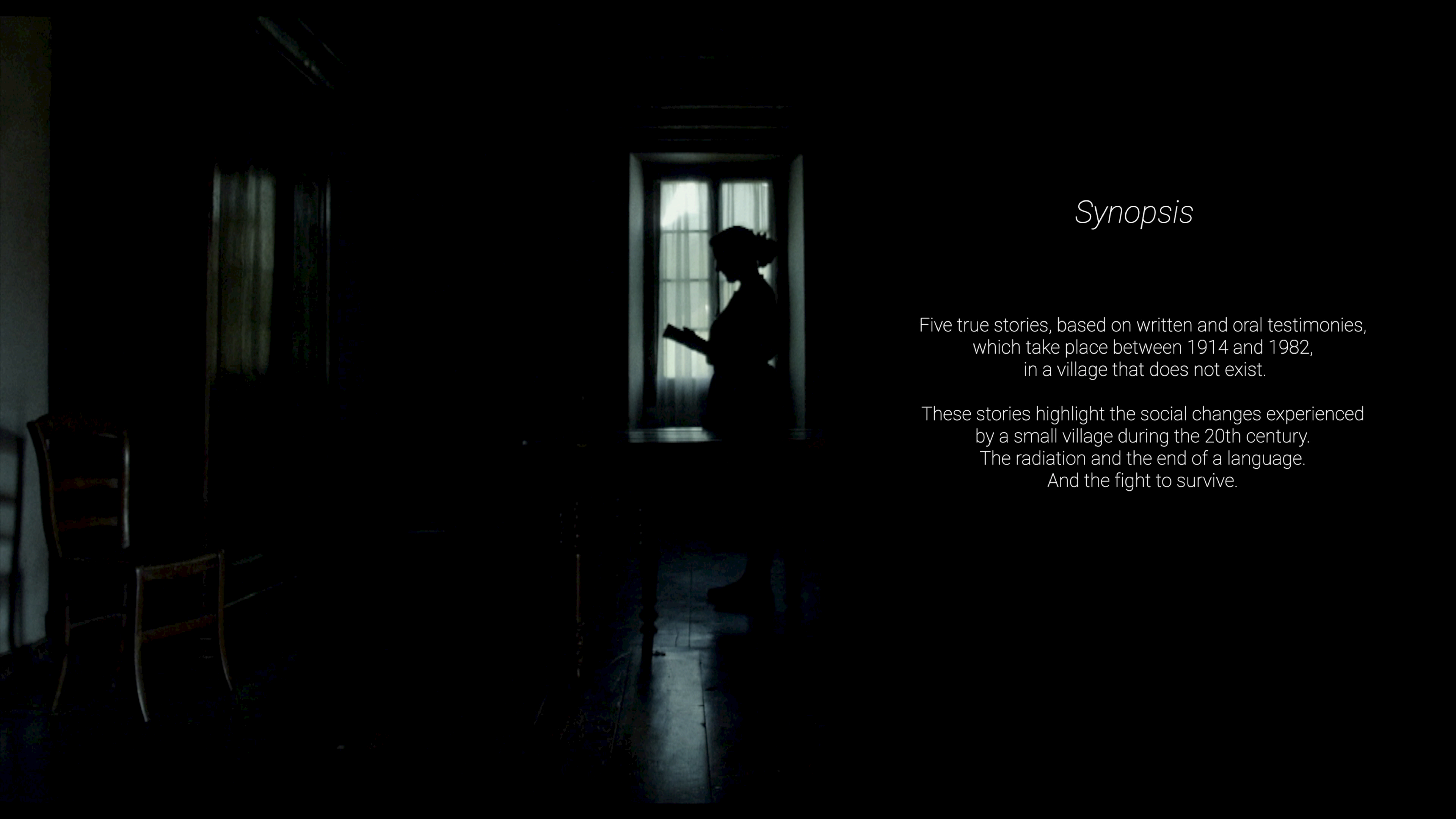
BIZKARSORO





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Synopsis

Five true stories, based on written and oral testimonies,
which take place between 1914 and 1982,
in a village that does not exist.

These stories highlight the social changes experienced
by a small village during the 20th century.
The radiation and the end of a language.
And the fight to survive.

Technical sheet

Written and directed by	Josu Martinez
Cinematography	Hibai Castro Egia
Produced by	Josu Martinez Katti Pochelu Mikel Arredondo Ane Antoñanzas
Edited by	Maialen Sarasua Oleden Laurence Larre Alex Argoitia Castro
Music	Joserra Senperena
Sound	Xanti Salvador
Production designer	Izaskun Urkijo Alijo





Cast

Bea Kurutxarri

Bixente Indart

Mila Arrangoits

Lea Campistron

Martxela Aneva-Fuchs

Arantxa Hirigoien

Hèléne Hervé

Titika Rekalt

Ximun Fuchs

Eneida Alfaro Camus

Kristiane Etxaluz

Laura Kurutxarri Itzaina

Ander Lipus

Amaia Etxandi

Manex Fuchs

Xantiana Bordarai

Featuring over 200 citizens of the Baigorri Valley



Director's notes

Originally from Bilbo, I have been living for a few years in Baigorri, in the northern Basque Country. I don't speak French very well and the other villagers don't speak Spanish either. We always communicate in our common language: Basque.

However, as soon as I arrived, I immediately noticed that some villagers did not feel very comfortable speaking this language. I would even say that I perceived a certain complex when they spoke.

Throughout this period, I met many people from different generations and we had long conversations about their lives and memories of the village. I clearly saw that in Baigorri, as in many other villages in the Basque Country, a great social metamorphosis/transformation happened throughout the 20th century: that of the disappearance of a language and a culture.

At the beginning of the century, the majority of villagers only spoke Basque. By the end of the century, French had taken over, in the street as well as at home, and people who continued to speak Basque were glanced at suspiciously.

How does a language die?

With this film, I wanted to tell the story of the disappearance of the Basque language, but also its fight for survival. In fact, the survival more than of the language, that of its speakers.
The survival of the Basque-speaking community.

The testimonies collected from the villagers are at the origin of the film, and the villagers are the protagonists. They play the role of their grandparents or their parents. They speak for themselves, like in a memory retrieval exercise.

However, this film is not about Baigorri, because this same story happened in many other Basque villages.
The process of language extinction was a wide one and it did not take place only in the Basque Country. Worldwide, 6,000 languages have disappeared throughout history. 6,000 ways to see the world. 6,000 worlds. That's why I decided to set this film in a village that doesn't appear on the maps, in Bizkarsoro.

Like a symphony in five movements, the same characters and the same places intersect in the film, crossing the ages.

1914: A woman lives in the hope of receiving a letter
1921: At school, children learn about the existence of a stick called "Anti"
1940: During the German occupation, some Basques from the southern Basque Country disappear, fleeing Franco's dictatorship.
1966: Four young people discover words buried in the mountains.
1982: A group of parents decide to set up a Basque school for their children.

Together these stories form a puzzle. The symphony of a village that does not exist. The 20th century history of the Basque-speaking community, collected and told through the voices and eyes of the villagers.





Director

JOSU MARTINEZ is an important figure in Basque cinema these recent years, especially in documentaries. He realised 9 feature-length documentary projects, 8 of which were presented previewed at the San Sebastian International Film Festival.

Doctor in film history and graduate in cultural anthropology, he is a professor of cinema at the University of the Basque Country (EHU). He is also the author of four books on cinema and memory.

BIZKARSORO is his first fiction feature film.

Filmography

Itsasoaren alaba (2009)

Jainkoak ez dit barkatzen (2018)

Sagarren denbora (2010)

Caminho Longe (2020)

Debekatuta dago oroitzea (2010)

Paperezko hegoak (2021)

Barrura begiratzeko leihoak (2012)

Mirande (2023)

Gure Sor Lekuaren bila (2015)



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