

BEST SCREENPLAY
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

TIM ROTH
CHRONIC

A FILM BY
MICHEL FRANCO

2015 | 92 min | Mexico-France | English | Drama

CHRONIC-THEMOVIE.COM

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LOGLINE

Haunted by the burden of his past, a dedicated home care nurse isolates himself within the intensely personal relationships he forms with his terminally ill patients.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

David is an in-home nurse who works with terminally ill patients. Efficient and dedicated to his profession, David develops strong, even intimate, relationships with each person he cares for. But outside of his work, David is ineffectual, awkward, and reserved – effects of his chronic depression – and he needs each patient as much as they need him. Having long carried a burden of guilt and remorse, David must face his past in order to heal.

TECH SPECS

Run Time:	92 min
Aspect Ratio:	1.85:1
Shooting Format:	RED
Sound:	5.1 Dolby Digital
Country:	Mexico-France
Language:	English

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Three years ago, my grandmother had a stroke that permanently paralyzed half of her body. Sentenced to spend the rest of her time in bed, she became dependent on support for any activity or basic need. Even talking became impossible.

Relatives were with her every day to prevent her from feeling alone. However, the person who really took care of her was her nurse, a stranger who immediately became intimate with her physical and emotional world, helping her with the most essential and daily activities. These two women built a relationship through signs, gestures, and words that no one in the family understood. Some of us started feeling frustrated, powerless, and even jealous of the intimate relationship that existed between the two of them. Soon, the nurse became an emotional support for my grandmother, as well as a bridge for her to communicate with us.

She was the last person to see my grandmother alive, being present during those final moments of agony when she died at three in the morning. She was also the one who fixed her up for the funeral, since none of her daughters had the strength or knowledge to move a dead body.

After six months of working with my grandmother, this nurse would soon have a new patient. Although the work with my family was finished, she would visit us during the mourning period as a sign of solidarity and affection. In her eyes, we could see a great sadness. She was mourning just like us. Her visit touched me, and I became interested in her story. She showed me things I didn't know about my grandmother.

She told me that she has been working with patients with terminal illness for twenty years. Loss and death were part of her life, and her job forced her to engage with difficult emotions that would eventually lead her into chronic depression. Despite her depression, however, she would not do any other kind of work. This was her life and career. She would immediately look for another terminally ill patient to replace her mourning condition and help her connect with life again.

- Michel Franco



CRITICAL PRAISE

"A towering achievement... Chronic is visceral, shocking and poignant; heralding Franco as a daring filmmaker and major new talent."

CINEVUE

"A sombre, intelligent, finely composed study of one man's emotional endgame."

THE GUARDIAN

"Intelligent and as deranged as Roth's performance...transcendent."

COLLIDER

"[Roth] is as marvellous as he's ever been."

TIME OUT LONDON

"Brooding, serious...compelling."

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"A subtle, compassionate and unsettling performance from Roth."

THE TIMES (UK)

"A poignant character-study into the inner workings of grief and guilt."

THE UPCOMING

"[A] strongly stoic yet heartfelt performance."

SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

"The most elegant of jigsaw puzzles."

THE IRISH TIMES

"Franco is unblinking in his portrayal of difficult subject matter."

VARIETY

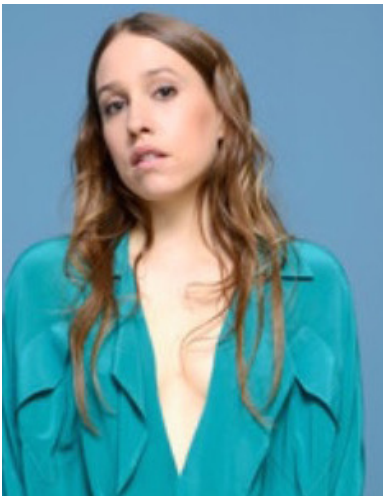


CAST



TIM ROTH - David

Tim is a versatile, award-winning British actor best known internationally for his unforgettable performances in the Quentin Tarantino films *Reservoir Dogs*, *Pulp Fiction*, and *The Hateful Eight*. In 1996, he was nominated for both a Golden Globe® and the Academy Award® for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his unforgettable performance as the villain in *Rob Roy*. His diverse acting credits include *Meantime* (dir. Mike Leigh), *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (dir. Tom Stoppard), *Little Odessa* (dir. James Gray), *Planet of the Apes* (dir. Tim Burton), *Funny Games* (dir. Michael Haneke), *The Incredible Hulk* (dir. Ang Lee), and *Selma* (dir. Ava DuVernay), a 2015 Oscar nominee for Best Picture. For three seasons, Tim starred in the FOX television series *Lie to Me*. He recently appeared to great acclaim in Gabriel Ripstein's *600 Miles*, which won Best First Feature at the 2015 Berlin International Film Festival.



SARAH SUTHERLAND - Nadia

Sarah Sutherland began her acting training in a conservatory program while still in high school. She went on to attend the Experimental Theatre Wing at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. There she studied a myriad of techniques and participated in a number of productions, including a play that she wrote and directed called *The Skin Of A Grape*. She received an honors award for outstanding achievement in the Drama Department and graduated with academic distinction. Soon after, Sarah was cast as 'Catherine', the daughter of Julia Louis Dreyfus, in the HBO series *Veep*. She has also starred in independent films *Innocence*, *Pretty Perfect*, *Shut Up And Drive*, and *Beneath The Harvest Sky*.

ROBIN BARTLETT - Martha

Robin recently appeared in Joel and Ethan Coen's *Inside Llewyn Davis*. Other big screen credits include Martin Scorsese's *Shutter Island*. She was nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award for her outstanding performance in the series *Mad About You*. Her numerous television credits also include *American Horror Story*, *CSI*, *Nip/Tuck*, and *The Closer*.



MICHAEL CRISTOFER - John

Actor, director, and writer Michael Cristofer received a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for his play, *The Shadow Box*. His directing credits include the Emmy and WGA nominated *Gia* and *Original Sin*, both of which starred Angelina Jolie. His feature film screenplays include *The Witches of Eastwick* and *Falling in Love*. As an actor, he has appeared in *Die Hard: With a Vengeance* and as a series regular in *Ray Donovan*, *American Horror Story*, and *Mr. Robot*.

NAILEA NORVIND - Laura

Ariel Award Nominated for Best Supporting Actress for *La otra familia* in 2011, Nailea is a well-respected actress of film, TV, and theatre in Mexico. Among her credits include starring roles in HBO series *Sr. Avila*, *Capadocia*, *The Italian Bride*, and *Para volver a amar*. *Chronic* marks her English speaking film debut.





MICHEL FRANCO // WRITER & DIRECTOR

Michel is a Mexican film director, writer, and producer. He made his feature film debut in 2009 with *Daniel and Ana*, which was selected to the Directors' Fortnight program at the Cannes Film Festival. Michel returned to the festival in 2012 with his second feature, *After Lucia*, which took home the top prize in the Un Certain Regard section, along with the Silver Hugo Special Jury Prize at the Chicago International Film Festival, and was selected as Mexico's entry for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. Over the course of its commercial run, *After Lucia* was seen by nearly one million people. *Chronic*, Michel's fourth film as a writer/director, won Best Screenplay as part of the Official Selection at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival.

In 2004, Michel founded Pop Films, a production company that, in 2011, became Lucía Films. The most recent production from

Lucía Films is *600 Miles*, written and directed by Gabriel Ripstein. The film opened the Panorama Special section at the 2015 Berlinale, where it went on to win the Best First Feature Award. The film also won the Mezcal Award for Best Mexican Film at the 2015 Guadalajara International Film Festival. In addition to *Chronic*, Lucía Films' recent productions include *The Heirs*, by Jorge Hernandez, and *Desde Allá*, by Lorenzo Vigas. The company is also developing several feature films and television projects.



CREDITS

CAST

David	Tim Roth
Nadia	Sarah Sutherland
Martha	Robin Bartlett
Sarah	Rachel Pickup
John	Michael Cristofer
Bernard	David Dastmalchian
Lidia	Bitsie Tulloch
Laura	Nailea Norvind

CREW

Written and Directed by	Michel Franco
Director of Photography	Yves Cape, AFC, SBC
Production Designer	Matthew Luem
Costume Designer	Diaz
Sound Design and Supervision	Frank Gaeta
Edited by	Michel Franco Julio C. Perez IV
Produced by	Gabriel Ripstein Michel Franco Moisés Zonana Gina Kwon
Executive Producers	Emilio Azcárraga Jean Bernardo Gomez Tim Roth Fernando Pérez Gavilán
Co-Producers	Grégoire Lassalle Juliette Sol Chris Stinson Amy Greene Antonio Campos David Zonana
Production Companies	Lucía Films Videocine Vamonos Films Stromboli Films