SALÓN DE BELLEZA

Directed by Nathalia Acevedo

Produced by Kintsugi Cine and Farol

MEXICO, FRANCE - SPANISH - 110’ - 1:85 - Color

Based on the Novel “Salón de Belleza” by Mario Bellatin



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Synopsis

In an unnamed city, a beauty salon becomes a space of passage where those cast out gather, suspended between life and death. At its center is the Individuo, a solitary presence who tends to this place without promise or explanation.
The film unfolds as time and place dissolve into one another. What is lived, remembered, and imagined coexist in a continuous movement, where meaning emerges through ritual, drift, and return.
Within this space, beauty and death are intertwined. The salon becomes a threshold where presence and memory fade and reappear, and where the boundaries between reality and vision begin to loosen.
The outside world remains in fracture, its tensions quietly permeating the space. As everything shifts, what emerges is a passage: a meditation on the fragility of existence.

Director's Statement

I have always been drawn to the profound and unsettling connection between beauty and death, and to the way that, through the passage of time, beauty can transform death and give meaning to what remains.

Adapting *Salón de Belleza* by Mario Bellatin was never about illustrating a story, but about creating a sensorial space, one that uses aquatic life as a recurring metaphor of immense beauty and permanent misfortunes. The novel invites the reader to create their own narrative. In the same way, I hope the film invites the viewer to form their own interpretations and reflections on death, as well as on those moments that are filled with life.

There are two themes in the novel that resonate deeply with me. The first is the fleeting nature of existence: why we are here and why we must die. What is the soul, and why do I exist in this particular body, in this specific place and time? The second is the division of a society and humanity in crisis, where ideological confrontations create constant inequalities and conflicts. Fear, rejection, and judgment toward others limit and divide us.

Salón de Belleza does not seek to impose meaning, but rather to create a space where presence and memory fade and return, where life and death coexist, and where, perhaps, we are invited to linger, for a moment, within that passage.

DIRECTOR

Director's Biography

Nathalia Acevedo is a Mexican actress and filmmaker. Her screen credits include *Post Tenebras Lux* (2012), directed by Carlos Reygadas, which won the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival; *Ruined Heart*, directed by Filipino filmmaker Khavn de la Cruz, alongside Tadanobu Asano and photographed by Christopher Doyle; and *The Trouble with Nature*, directed by Danish filmmaker Illum Jacobi, opposite Antony Langdon. Her films have screened at numerous international film festivals around the world.

She has long been interested in social, political, and theological questions, which shape her perspective as a filmmaker. Her first feature, *Salón de Belleza*, adapted from Mario Bellatin's acclaimed novel, will premiere in 2026.

Director's Filmography

Director

- *Salón de Belleza* (2026), Feature Film

Actor

- *A Black Hole near Kent County* (Hannah Schierbeek 2024), Short Film
- *Extinción de la Especie* (Matt Porterfield & Nicolasa Ruiz Mendoza, 2023), Short Film
- *The Trouble with Nature* (Illum Jacobi, 2020), Feature Film
- *Princesita* (Marialy Rivas, 2017), Feature Film
- *Ruined Heart* (Khavn de la Cruz, 2015), Feature Film
- *Avenida Progreso* (Mauricio Guillen, 2012), Short Film
- *Post Tenebras Lux* (Carlos Reygadas, 2012), Feature Film

CAST

Sam Louwyck's Biography

Sam Louwyck is a Belgian actor, dancer and choreographer. He has built an extensive career in European and international cinema, working with filmmakers including Michaël R. Roskam, Alice Rohrwacher, Felix Van Groeningen, Bertrand Mandico, Ivan Kavanagh, Jessica Woodworth and Jérémy Clapin.

His film credits include Michaël R. Roskam's *Bullhead*, nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film; Alice Rohrwacher's *The Wonders*, winner of the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival; Felix Van Groeningen's *Belgica*; Martin Koolhoven's *Brimstone*; Bertrand Mandico's *The Wild Boys*; Gilles Coulier's *Cargo*; Ivan Kavanagh's *Never Grow Old*; and Zoé Wittock's *Jumbo*, for which he received a Magritte Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

His recent work includes *The Grand Marin* by Dinara Drukarova, *Luka* by Jessica Woodworth, *Meanwhile on Earth* by Jérémy Clapin, *Mr. K* by Tallulah H. Schwab and *Night Call* by Michiel Blanchart.

In 2026, Louwyck stars as The Individual in Nathalia Acevedo's *Salón de Belleza*.

Credits

Cast

Sam Louwyck *(El Individuo)*
Erwan Kepoa *(Juan)*

Crew

Nathalia Acevedo — Director, Writer
Diego Sepúlveda Martin — Writer
Based on the Novel Salón de Belleza by Mario Bellatin
Production Companies: Kintsugi Cine, Farol
Associate Production Companies: Madrefoca, The Pool
Co-Production Companies: CTT EXP & RENTALS, Digital District
Paulina Valencia — Producer
Christian Évora — Producer
Marco Tulio Pires — Producer
Matt Porterfield — Producer
Larry Davin — Associate Producer
Alessio Boni — Associate Producer
Balthazar Lab, AFC — Director of Photography
Nathan Parker — Production De ki signer
Olivia Neergaard-Holm — Editor
Lucy Railton — Original Music
Séverin Favriau — Sound Design
Nicolas Becker — Sound Design
Stéphane Thiébaut — Sound Re-recording & Mix
Federico González — Production Sound
Simone Bucio — Costume Design
Sara Sachs — Costume Design
Paula Arriola — Costume Design
Itzel Peña García — Makeup & Hair Design