

# The Chambermaid

(La Camarista)

A film by  
Lila Avilés



102 min / Mexico 2018 / Spanish with English subtitles / Certificate TBC  
Toronto International Film Festival World Premiere 2018  
San Sebastián International Film Festival European Premiere 2018

Marrakech International Film Festival – Prix du Jury Award / Palm Springs  
International Film Festival – Cine Latino Award / Portland International Film Festival  
– Audience Award / San Francisco International Film Festival – Golden Gate Award

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## SYNOPSIS:

Eve (Gabriela Cartol) is a young, quiet but conscientious maid employed at one of Mexico City's most luxurious hotels. An exhausting schedule keeps 24-year-old Eve from looking after her child while she helps the guests with their own children and dreams of a better life as she is confronted by the tedium of her own.

The meticulous attention to detail with which she fulfills her daily duties, including the immaculate presentation of rooms and studying afterhours in the hotel's adult education programme, stand Eve in line for promotion to the hotel's exclusive penthouse floor. She is also well liked, assists her colleagues with their work and enjoys some flirtation with the hotel's window-cleaner. But when Eve is faced with disappointment, she is forced to transform her lonely explorations and newfound courage into the necessary strength to face a life outside the glassy high-rise Hotel Presidente.

Further information and downloads [here](#)

Photo set can be downloaded [here](#)



## CAST

Eve  
Minitoy  
Romina  
Spider  
Tita  
Head Housekeeper

Gabriela Cartol  
Teresa Sánchez  
Agustina Quinzi  
Ramón Eduardo Sanabria Villalejo  
Marisa Villaruel  
Elizabeth Sotelo

## CREW

Director  
Producers

Lila Avilés  
Limerncia (Lila Avilés & Tatiana Graullera)  
FROPOCINE México  
Bad Boy Billy Production (Axel Shalson)  
LA Panda Productions (Jana Diaz-Juhl & Pau Brunet)  
Bambú Audiovisual

Script  
Director of Photography  
Editor  
Sound Design  
Production Design

Lila Avilés & Juan Carlos Marquéz  
Carlos Rossini  
Omar Guzmán  
Guido Berenblum  
Vika Fleita

Mexico 2018  
104 mins  
1:2.35 Dolby 5.1



## LILA AVILÉS

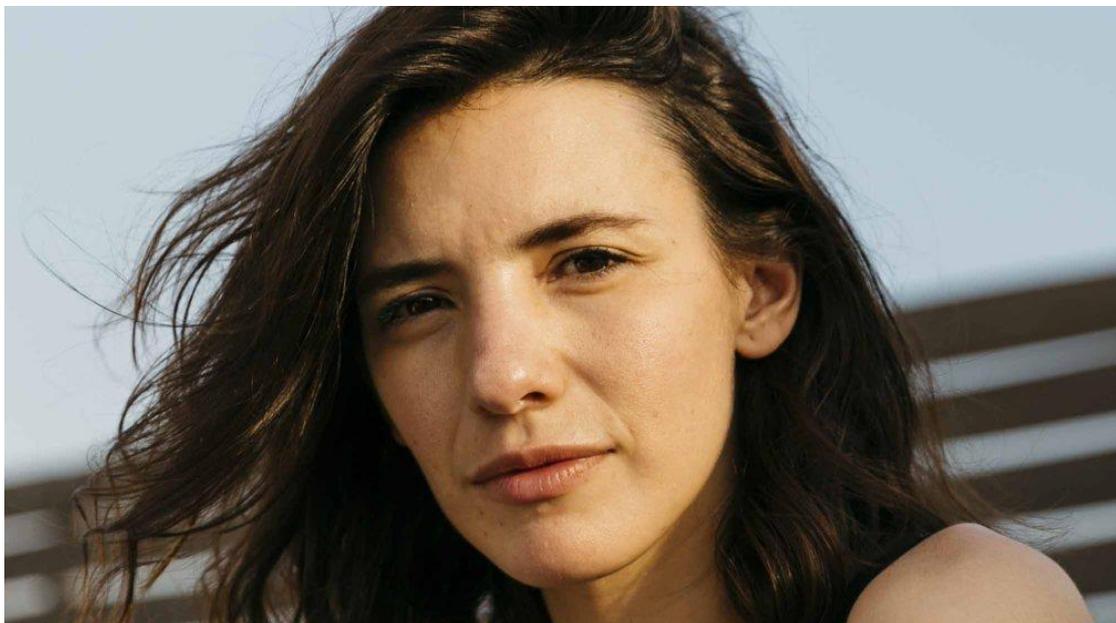
Lila Avilés studied Direction and Performing Arts with some of the leading theatrical figures in Mexico such as Martin Acosta, Sandra Felix and Juliana Faesler. She also studied film-writing with Beatriz Novaro and Paula Marcovich. After her beginnings as a theatre actress she moved into directing. Her work as a director includes *Gardenia Club*, *Microdermoabrasión* (National Theater Award), *Antígona* and *The Chambermaid*, which provided the inspiration for her first feature film. She has also directed the operas *Così fan tutte* and *Alcina* by Mozart and Handel respectively. Lila's latest play as a producer and actress, *Nothing and Everything* by Janne Teller, opened in January 2018 at the UNAM theater in Mexico City.

## FILMOGRAPHY

2016 DEJAVU (short)

2017 NENA (documentary)

2018 THE CHAMBERMAID (La Camarista)



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Chambermaid was born a long time ago and began as a theatre work. The first seed that triggered this project was the book *Hotel* by visual artist and photographer, Sophie Calle, who started working as a chambermaid in a hotel in Venice. She was like a spy and took photos of objects guests left behind in their hotel rooms, including trash and clothing, in order to understand their behaviour and personality through their belongings. I liked that feeling of voyeurism, imagining the lives of others by their remains and absence.

I didn't know much about Mexican chambermaids, so when I started rehearsing in Hotel Presidente, I realised the real soul of their work. I began speaking to them and followed their day-to-day activities for a long time. By understanding their humanity, I was able to discover my own point of view as an artist and from that moment on I knew I needed to make this movie no matter what. It took more than two years for me to develop the script with my co-writer, Juan Marquez. Being close to chambermaids and to the hotel gave me a real picture of the high standards of quality required for their work. The process was intimate and lovely, to the extent that I decided to include some of the women in the film under the same role and with their real names. So, finally, fiction and reality converged.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

It was very important for me to always have the creative freedom to film with real people and let things happen. The hotel is the other main character. It is one of the tallest and most luxurious in Mexico City. However, it has many contrasts. On the one hand, all the luxuries and comforts for the clients – some of them extremely capricious – and on the other are the chambermaids who do not even have access to gas or water in their homes. They travel for almost two hours from where they live

to the hotel, work for long hours and then they travel back to their houses. It is a kind of high-class prison in which Eve, the protagonist, wanders from day-to-day.

Eve is a hard worker and a reserved woman. She is one of those people who speaks very little but has a vast inner world, which keeps her going during her hours of solitude. She struggles day-by-day to achieve a promotion and to have a better life in compliance with the norms and standards of the hotel. However, it is known that you don't always need to be the hardest worker to have the best position. During the movie, Eve breaks rules in search of her own identity, re-discovering the world through curiosity and resilience.

While I was filming, I couldn't stop thinking about the working class, all that great labour force. Mexico is not only about violence and drug trafficking, there are also a lot of people who work non-stop to have a better way of life for themselves and their families.

