



Recycle Bin



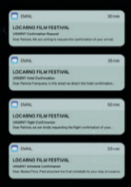
GADEA FILMS



9834783...



Pati Franquesa



WhatsApp
Image 4309...



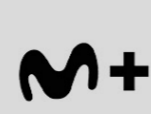
DIGITAL VAGINA



My Sextortion Diary

A film by **PATRICIA FRANQUESA**

A GADEA FILMS, RINGO MEDIA, 3CAT PRODUCTION WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PATRICIA FRANQUESA
POSTPRODUCTION COORDINATOR GEMMA CABELLO DIRECTION ASSISTANT ALICIA MIQUEL SOUND DESIGNER LAIA CASANOVAS MUSIC LAURA CASAPONSA ART DIRECTOR LALI DELGADO
ANIMATION & POSTPRODUCTION MORDISCO STUDIO EDITING SUPERVISOR ANA ZUGIC EDITOR PATRICIA FRANQUESA PRODUCERS PATRICIA FRANQUESA, MIREIA GRAELL VIVANCOS
WITH FUNDING FROM THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WITH THE SUPPORT OF ICEC, 3CAT WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF MOVISTAR+
WITH THE SUPPORT OF FUNDACIÓ VÍCTOR GRÍFOLS I LUCAS, VG TV, ANTAVIANA VFX & POSTPRODUCTION, TASKOVSKI FILMS LTD.
FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION - NEXT GENERATION EU



Hello

My Sextortion Diary |



CONFIDENTIAL

A film by **PATRICIA FRANQUESA**

Original Title
Diario de Mi Sextorsión

Director
Patricia Franquesa

Country
Spain

Running time
64 minutes

Genre
Thriller documentary

Production houses
**Gadea Films
Ringo Media**

Producers
**Patricia Franquesa
Mireia Graell Vivancos**

Co-producers
3Cat

Editor
Patricia Franquesa

Supervising editor
Ana Zugic

Art direction
Lali Delgado

Music
Laura Casaponsa

Sound design
Laia Casanovas

Supported by
**ICAA, ICEC, 3Cat, Movistar +,
Fundació Víctor Grífols, VGTV**

North American Distributor
Women Make Movies

World premiere
SXSW March 2024



Logline

Trapped in a digital blackmail labyrinth after her computer is stolen, director Pati documents the real-time persecution as a way of survival.

Synopsis

Pati's world turns upside down when her stolen computer becomes the target of a blackmail threat. An invisible Hacker sets a cat-and-mouse hunt pushing Pati to the limit as she seeks help from legal authorities, only to realize she is the only one who can find the way out. Through her search, Pati discovers that her story is just one of the countless cases uncovering the vulnerability we all face in protecting our privacy in the online world.

Plot

Pati, a young producer, is fighting to carve out a professional career in the film industry. It is May 2019 when her laptop is stolen during a business trip in Madrid. After diligently filing a police report, Pati's life goes on as usual until August 1st, when she receives a voice message from a friend. He notifies her that he has received a strange email with very personal pictures that it seems to be Pati. It is then when Pati realizes she is being the victim of what is called sextortion.

An anonymous Hacker accesses all the stored data in the stolen laptop and finds three very private photos of Pati. He threatens that if he doesn't receive \$2,400 he will mass-mail the pictures to all her work contacts in order to ruin her professional reputation.

Shame, anger and distress caused by months of brutal extortion are transformed into the need to share the process. Faced with the ineffectiveness of the legal forces, Pati feels frightened and vulnerable. When it seems there is no hope in the case, Pati receives a letter from the Madrid Court stating that the two guys who stole her computer have been caught.

With this first clue, Pati sets out on her own investigation to stop the Hacker and regain control and power over her privacy.

\$2,4000

Sextortion, a global concern

Sextortion, or webcam blackmail continues to be the **most reported issue**, followed by intimate images being shared.

FBI's security researchers have detected a **178% increase in sextortion cases** between 2022 and 2023, marking the category out as a top email threat.

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has found that in the first 6 months of 2023 reports of confirmed **child sexual abuse involving 'sextortion' surged by 257% compared with the whole of 2022.**

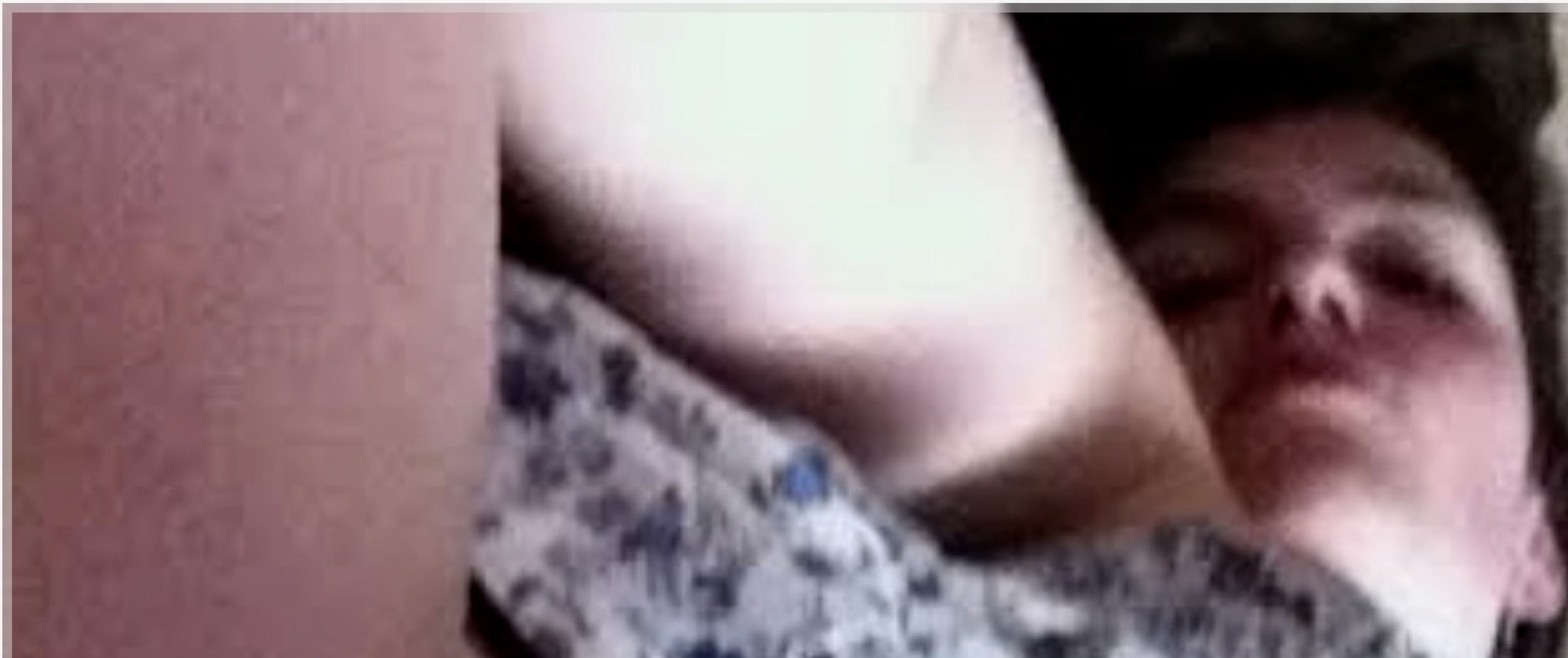
Older teenagers (14-17 years old) are the most at risk, with **boys targeted by abusers most often.**

In 80% of cases, **the perpetrator was a criminal gang**, with 11% involving a current or former partner.

Jake Moore, global cyber security advisor at ESET, said: "Hackers will use intimate images to extort, and will often go to extreme lengths. But unfortunately, **paying a ransom immediately to the attackers often just announces that you are willing to pay any amount necessary** to prevent the images being shared online. This simply picks those out who are willing to react, and they will be repeatedly targeted until the money dries up.

3 Attachments

- Scann





Director's note

MY SEXTORTION DIARY became my liberation from the harassment I was suffering from. For as long as I can remember, I've used dissociation to flee from painful realities, sheltering into my inner world. There, I could draw, paint, and craft the reality I wished for. The day following the blackmail, I turned to my sanctuary—my computer and the internet—searching for answers. I was lost, scouring news, articles, statistics, and realizing I was one of countless global cases. These discoveries made me understand the urgency and global scale of this matter. It was clear: this had to become a documentary.

A friend remarked during the sextortion “You’re facing this because you can handle it.” As a documentary filmmaker, I saw an opportunity to use this nightmare to raise awareness and break the silence that shame and embarrassment drowns you to. Nobody wants to be the one who has screwed up, making it tempting to submit to the abuse rather than confront it.

Neither the police nor the legal system offered protection. It was me versus him. Facing the Hacker alone was terrifying, turning my fear into paranoia. I became anxious even walking home at night, realizing those around me couldn't understand the agony of online abuse by someone controlling your digital life. Once your information is shared, it's no longer yours. Even now, as I write, I wonder if the Hacker might return.



PATI
I don't know, the human
brain is a mystery

Director's Q&A

What was the most challenging aspect of translating your personal experiences with sextortion into a documentary format? How did you navigate the balance between personal narrative and the broader issue of online privacy and harassment?

Representing myself was a beautiful journey. Portraying someone else, like Sara in Afghanistan for my first documentary, came with a complex set of moral considerations—deciding how much of their vulnerability to reveal was challenging. However, in this documentary, having complete control over how I was depicted felt liberating and inspiring. I encountered no limits except those set by my subconscious. Throughout the scriptwriting process, Mireia from Ringo Media challenged me to confront my pain more deeply, which was surprising given how much I felt I was already revealing. This introduced a new boundary: my self-awareness. I questioned whether I was sharing too much or if the film was becoming too centered on my experience. It turned into a delicate balance of exercising control and embracing my own vulnerabilities.

Can you talk about any specific directorial choices you made to effectively convey the emotional depth of your story? How did you decide which moments to include or exclude to maintain the documentary's pacing and focus?

My emotional memory served as my guide, vividly recalling feelings from specific moments despite my poor recall for names, numbers, or historical facts. This film is crafted from

my digital archive—photos, videos, browser history, WhatsApp messages—materials the Hacker could have accessed. These elements, windows to my experiences, steered the narrative's construction. Once you know why you are telling a story, you know how the end will be. So it has been a very chronological way to build this documentary. I employed the eight-sequence narrative structure to ensure constant tension and audience engagement, weaving together significant and painful memories, archival footage organized by dates, and traditional dramaturgy.

How did you approach the research process for the documentary, especially when it came to representing the scale of sextortion crimes worldwide? How did you ensure that the stories of others were represented respectfully and accurately?

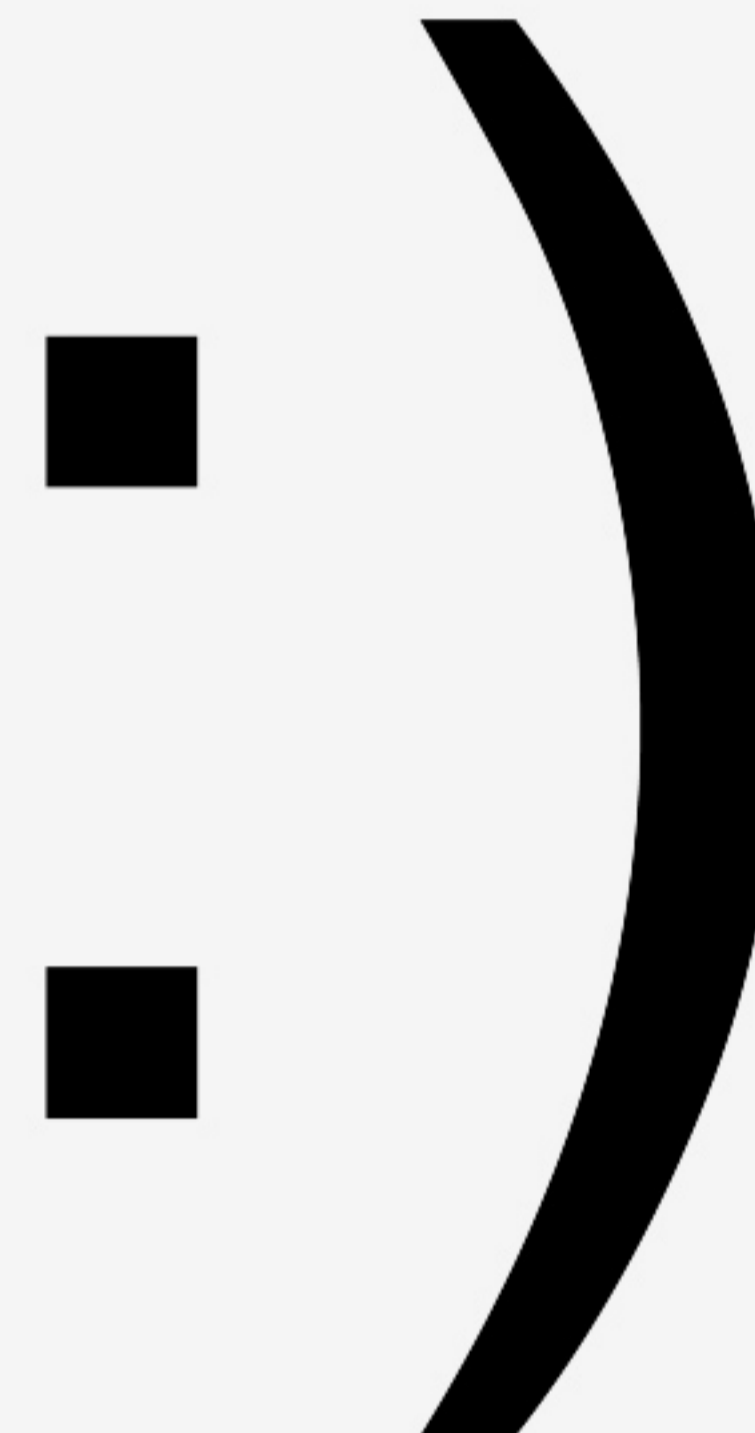
The essence of this film has always been to share my personal journey, my diary. I believed that presenting my raw experience would be the most authentic contribution I could make. Initially, during the scriptwriting phase, I considered including conversations with other sextortion victims, but I realized that might lean more towards information than emotion. Therefore, the inclusion of similar stories is captured through my internet searches, offering a perspective of a distant observer or voyeur, much like how the Hacker might have watched me.

What do you hope viewers take away from MY SEXTORTION DIARY? Are there specific actions or changes in perspective you aim to inspire in your audience regarding online privacy and sextortion?

Facebook's founder Mark Zuckerberg famously declared that "privacy is no longer a social norm." This statement underlines the notion that privacy has become an illusion in our era, a reality we must confront. My story sheds light on a widespread contemporary issue: our digital lives are entirely exposed and susceptible to intrusion. Throughout my sextortion case, I found myself completely vulnerable to an invisible Hacker with the purpose to extort me while possessing the means to infiltrate and manipulate my thoughts. Traditional legal protections, once responsible to guard our rights, proved inadequate in this digital battleground. Through this film, I aim to open a portal to discussions about our current digital landscape and the societal challenges it presents.

During the filmmaking process, did you encounter any legal or ethical challenges, particularly in depicting the hacker or the legal system? How did you address these concerns?

It's ironic that while our data and personal information are freely accessible online, securing rights to use that same information in a documentary proves challenging. This reflects the paradox of our current society. Many sites offer details on sextortion but were reluctant to participate in the documentary. Similarly, when I chose to reclaim my privacy by sharing my photos, social media restrictions meant I couldn't do so openly to avoid being banned, even as the Hacker



distributed my uncensored images without restraint, posting them on websites without any need for an account. Creating this documentary has highlighted our vulnerability online and the limited power we possess to defend ourselves.

The documentary touches on the lack of support from legal authorities. Did you find any effective support systems or resources during or after your ordeal? Are these highlighted in the film?

As I was editing the film, a thought struck me: what differentiates medicine from poison? After much reflection, I realized it's all about our relationship with it. Ironically, the internet, the very source of my hacking, also became my lifeline. This documentary isn't an indictment of the internet, screens, or digital existence. Quite the contrary, it acknowledges that our lives now unfold in binary code across the web of fiber-optic cables. The key lies in learning to navigate this space safely and advocating for protection in this new domain we inhabit. Despite its inherent vulnerabilities and challenges, navigating these complexities is what growth and adaptation are all about.



Patricia Franquesa
Director & Producer



Holding a degree in Audiovisual Communication from Ramón Llull University and a Master's in Creative Documentary from Pompeu Fabra University, Patricia Franquesa launched her career in Tel Aviv. There, she collaborated with Heymann Brothers Films and Hilla Medalia, contributing to projects like *CENSORED VOICES* (2015, Sundance) and *THE OSLO DIARIES* (2019, HBO) alongside Daniel Sivan & Mor Loushy.

After sharpening her skills, Patricia returned to her native Barcelona to co-found Gadea Films. Under this banner, she produced *LA MAMI* (2019, IDFA Feature Length Competition), a documentary by Laura Herrero Garvín in co-production with Mexico.

Patricia made her directorial debut with *OH DEAR SARA* (2021), a documentary that portrays Sara Bahai, Afghanistan's pioneering female taxi driver. This project, a co-production between Spain, Norway, and Serbia, premiered at festivals like DocLisboa, Beldocs, and Docs Barcelona. It garnered awards at the Iran International Film Festival and the Evolution Mallorca Film Fest, enjoying commercial distribution across over 60 Spanish cinemas.

Mireia Graell Vivancos
Producer



Mireia Graell Vivancos has a bachelor in Advertising and PR as well as an MA Filmmaking from The London Film School. She's a Goya and Gaudi Nominee Production Manager and has been selected at Rotterdam Lab, Berlinale Talents, La Incubadora-The Screen, EAVE Puentes and by Variety magazine as Catalan Producers to watch.

In 2017 she opened her own production company, Ringo Media. Among its recent titles, the debut film *MATRIA* by Álvaro Gago stands out, presented in the Panorama section of the Berlinale 2023, with two nominations in the 38th Goya Awards, is based on the award-winning short film at Sundance in 2018. Additionally, the thriller documentary *MY SEXTORTION DIARY* by Patricia Franquesa, premiered at the South by Southwest Festival this year, and the short film *PONTO FINAL* by Miguel López Beraza, honored with the Grand Jury Prize at the 2022 Warsaw Film Festival.

Ringo Media's essence lies in its commitment to genuine and honest narratives, with particular attention to those that amplify women's voices and experiences. In the continuous pursuit of fresh perspectives, is now developing several films.



gadea

Gadea Films
 Patricia Franquesa
www.gadeafilms.com
patricia@gadeafilms.com

**RINGO
 MEDIA**

Ringo Media
 Mireia Graell
www.ringomediabcn.com
mireia@ringomediabcn.com