

# SYMPOSIUM: ÄSTHETIK VERSUS AUTHENTIZITÄT?


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WORKING WITH DOWN SÍNDROME ACTORS (OPTION ONE)

# Alvaro Pastor

**Alvaro Pastor**, 1972 in Madrid geboren, Autor, Regisseur und Produzent von Kurzfilmen. Er ist Professor für Drehbuch IED in Madrid und unterrichtet an diversen anderen Schulen. 2005 realisierte er zusammen mit Anthony Nahas den Kurzfilm «Unverwundbar» und 2009 den Kinofilm «Yo, tambien» mit dem Darsteller Pablo Pineda. Mit beiden Filmen waren sie an zahlreichen Festivals eingeladen und gewannen mehrere internationale Preise, u.a. in San Sebastián, Sundance und Rotterdam.

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# WORKING WITH DOWN SYNDROME ACTORS (OPTION ONE)

At the beginning it was Pablo Pineda. After the story came to us.

For us there wasn't choice. You are down syndrome or not. You cannot choose an actor without Down syndrome and to pretend to be Down.

So the first thing for us was to accept that our film and the whole process was gonna be completely different. But we had a previous experience several years ago. We made a short film with actors with Down syndrome.

So we weren't scared. But you must know that your shooting is gonna be different because there are people with some disabilities inside your crew.

First of all: I am a disabled person. So, now let's talk about the subject. Disabled for what? Everybody is disabled in some way or other. Every actor, down or not had his own handicaps. And every handicap is different.

Antonio and me knew that we must make adaptations in our way to tell the story according to the abilities of every one.

The main handicap was that for a lot of people in the crew, *Me too* was their first film. Not only for Pablo Pineda but of course, he was the main character.

So, after we decided to write the story we made the big proposal to Pablo. Do you want to play your alter ego on the screen?. He said. Are you crazy? He didn't believe he was able to play as a professional so we made a first test to discover if he was talented for acting.

EJ: First Casting for Pablo Pineda. Without Subtitles.

We look for into our actors basically sense of truth, relax in the set, and to be able to understand the situation of every sequence and trust in us. Pablo join all this characteristics and also he had a real talent for acting. And also a big memory and a language dominion better than anyone in the crew.

A common characteristic in actors with Down Syndrome is their emotional opening and sense of truth. I have never met a person with down syndrome pretending to be different from who is.

With the dancers was a little bit different but not because their intellectual level. It was because they weren't actors but they were so good expressing feelings with their bodies. We had to find actors inside the company and finally decided to teach an actress, Lourdes Naharro to dance.