

AFTER THIS DEATH

Production Notes



Written & Directed By | Lucio Castro

Cast | Mia Maestro, Lee Pace, Philip Ettinger, with Rupert Friend and Gwendoline Christie

Producers | David Hinojosa, Anita Gou, p.g.a, Patrick Donovan, p.g.a, Luca Intili, p.g.a, Caroline Clark, p.g.a

Language | English

Run Time | 96 Minutes

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LOGLINE

A woman's affair with an enigmatic underground musician spirals into chaos when he vanishes, forcing her to fend off his obsessive fans, confront her fractured marriage, and fight to reclaim her identity and future.

SYNOPSIS

Hiking alone in the mountains, Isabel meets the enigmatic musician Elliott in a secluded cave, sparking an unexpected connection. When they reunite at one of his concerts, a passionate affair ignites, though Elliott soon becomes distant and disappears without warning. Forced to fall back into her routine married life while reconciling her feelings of love and loss, Isabel is suddenly rocked by mysterious and increasingly unsettling threats from Elliott's obsessive fans. As she works to uncover the truth behind Elliott's disappearance, Isabel must now confront her fractured marriage and fight to reclaim her identity, her voice and her future.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT - LUCIO CASTRO

I began writing *After This Death* over a decade ago. At that time, I split my year between Woodstock, New York, and a small town in mainland China, where I worked as a menswear designer for a large local brand. These seemingly disconnected environments—a cozy upstate home with a fireplace and a corporate hotel room in an ever-growing industrial city—served as my backdrops as I imagined the story of a woman in the woods experiencing love, loss, and her struggle to make sense of the unreachable mystery of life.

The Fujianese mountains, along with my time exploring them—writing down the wonderfully strange Google-translations of caves, waterfalls and gorge names, and viewing the landscape from the perspective of a foreigner—are imprinted in this story and the construction of this world.

Early on, when we began conceptualizing the visuals that would convey this complex narrative with our Director of Photography Barton Cortright, we realized we wanted a bold approach to stillness and movement, aiming to evoke both intention and emotion through precise shots that are expressive both on their own and in conjunction with one another.

The rich ochres, greens, and deep burgundies of upstate New York in the fall were reflected in the palette of the costumes designed by Yegang Yoo, a friend I have known for a quarter of a century. Represented in the textured knitwear and handkerchiefs, these dashes of color firmly anchored our characters in this specific time and place. We also collaborated with Production Designer Jason Singleton

to create a world that is both natural and artificial, facilitating the film's transition from relationship drama to eerie thriller.

Music plays a central role in the film. Collaborating with Robert Lombardo, who composed all the songs for the fictional band, we aimed to create music that exerts a hypnotic power over its fans—music that feels authentic, approachable and truly exceptional. It was my first experience writing lyrics, and it was an added treat to weave poetic hints of the story into them. The score was also meticulously crafted, featuring innovative sounds produced by Yegang Yoo, who also served as the costume designer, using her synthesizer and various ready-made instruments. Together, Robert and Yegang physically manipulated their grand piano to create unique tones and textures, resulting in a layered score that fluidly adapts to moments of tension, curiosity and pain, while concealing thrilling and ominous echoes beneath its pleasing melodies.

This film is a portrayal of the complicated effects of love and loss, the most powerful and mysterious forces in the world. When Isabel falls for Elliott, she is also choosing a poetic life, moving away from the material world she has inhabited with her husband for so long.

Film has the exciting potential to reflect reality with certain distortions that allow us to understand the subjective, the arbitrary, and the constructed aspects of the world around us. Even as pure fiction, it serves as a tool to question our perception of what is truly real.

This film is dedicated to my mother, who passed away in 1997, after possibly having an affair with her 18th-century Spanish poetry teacher.

At its core, *After This Death* is a cinematic riddle. As in life, some questions will remain unanswered.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Mía Maestro (as Isabel)

Argentine-born Mía Maestro most recently starred in the feature film *After This Death*, opposite Lee Pace and Gwendoline Christie, directed by Lucio Castro, set to premiere at the 2025 Berlin Film Festival. Prior to this, Mía starred in *Grassland*, directed by William Bermudez and Sam Friedman, and in *Castro's Daughter*, written by Oscar-nominee José Rivera and directed by Miguel Bardem. She can also be seen in "Extrapolations", an Apple TV+ climate change anthology from Scott Z. Burns, where she stars alongside Edward Norton.

Mía's film career began with her debut in Carlos Saura's *Tango*, which earned Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations for Best Foreign Film. She has since appeared in numerous notable films, including Walter Salles' *The Motorcycle Diaries*, alongside Gael García Bernal, Julie Taymor's *Frida*, Oliver Stone's *Savages*, opposite Benicio del Toro, W. Petersen's *Poseidon*, *Secuestro Express*, Lucrecia Martel's *The Holy Girl*, and *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Parts 1 & 2*.

In addition to her extensive film career, Mía starred in the Italian feature *The Binding* for Netflix, directed by Domenico De Feudis, and in *The Cow That Sang a Song Into the Future*, directed by Francisca Alegría, which premiered at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival.

Mía's television credits include starring in Guillermo del Toro's "The Strain" for FX, opposite Corey Stoll, a key role in J.J. Abrams' "Alias" for ABC, and recurring roles in "Mayans M.C." and "Scandal".

Lee Pace (as Elliott)

Lee Pace is currently filming the reimagining of Paramount's *The Running Man*, directed by Edgar Wright, opposite Glen Powell and Josh Brolin.

He can also be seen in the Apple TV+ series "Foundation", a thrilling adaptation of Isaac Asimov's award-winning novels. In this epic saga, Pace plays the tyrannical 'Brother Day', a genetic clone, and the ruling Emperor of the Galactic Empire.

In Halina Reijn's *Bodies Bodies Bodies*, Lee Pace shines alongside Rachel Sennott, Pete Davidson, Maria Bakalova, and Myha'la Herrold. The film follows a group of affluent 20-somethings whose party takes a dark turn, exploring themes of betrayal and deception in a humorous yet suspenseful narrative.

Pace portrays 'John DeLorean' opposite Jason Sudeikis in Nick Hamm's *Driven*. Set in 1977 California, the film delves into the tumultuous relationship between DeLorean and Jim Hoffman, a pilot turned FBI informant.

As 'Ronan the Accuser' in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Pace starred in the box-office smash hits *Guardians Of The Galaxy* and *Captain Marvel*.

Pace stars opposite Mackenzie Davis and Scoot McNairy in the Critics Choice-winning AMC series "Halt And Catch Fire", a gripping drama that explores the thin line between genius and delusion as the trio takes daring risks in a quest to revolutionize the world of technology.

In the Broadway revival of Tony Kushner's "Angels In America", Pace delivers a powerful performance as Joe Pitt, a troubled Mormon grappling with personal and moral dilemmas. Sharing the stage with Andrew Garfield, Pace captivates audiences with his portrayal of a character torn between conflicting emotions and beliefs. Pace's work in *Angels In America* received glowing reviews.

He shares the screen alongside Daniel Day Lewis in Steven Spielberg's historical epic, *Lincoln*, and in Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit* trilogy, Pace embodies the regal 'Thranduil'.

Pace's early breakthroughs came with his magnetic performances in the Showtime feature, *A Soldier's Girl*, as well as in the Tarsem Singh and Dan Gilroy feature, *The Fall*.

He also received the nominations for 'Outstanding Lead Actor' at the Emmy and Golden Globe Awards for his role in the much-loved TV series, "Pushing Daises".

Rupert Friend (as Ted)

Rupert's New Line film *Companion* premiered January 31 globally. He recently wrapped starring as one of the leads in Gareth Edwards's new installment of the *Jurassic World* franchise opposite Scarlett Johansson, in addition to Wes Anderson's new film, *The Phoenician Scheme*. He also has recently worked with Wes on *The Swan* and *Ratcatcher*, part of the Roald Dahl Short Film series on Netflix, as well as features *Asteroid City* and *The French Dispatch*.

He can also next be seen opposite Jessica Chastain in Michel Franco's *Dreams* which will premiere at the Berlin Film Festival, as well as Lucio Castro's *After This Death* which will also premiere at Berlin.

Rupert received rave reviews as the lead of David E. Kelley and SJ Clarkson's Netflix limited series "Anatomy Of A Scandal". He can recently be seen in Ben Stiller and Apple TV+'s "High Desert" opposite Matt Dillon and Patricia Arquette, directed by Jay Roach, along with the Disney+ and LucasFilm's series, "Obi-Wan Kenobi", opposite Ewan McGregor as 'The Grand Inquisitor'.

Rupert is best known for his role as 'Peter Quinn' in Showtime's "Homeland". He played the role for five seasons and was nominated for an Emmy. Additionally, Rupert can be seen in Paul Feig's *A Simple Favor* starring opposite Anna Kendrick and Blake Lively, Julian Schnabel's *At Eternity's Gate* opposite Willem Dafoe, as well as *The Death Of Stalin* directed by Armando Iannucci, opposite Steve Buscemi, Simon Russell Beale, and Michael Palin. His lengthy film credits include *The Young Victoria*, *The Boy In The Striped Pajamas*, *Cheri*, *Starred Up*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Hitman: Agent 47*, among many others. Friend can recently be seen leading the Paramount+ series "Strange Angel".

Gwendoline Christie (as Alice)

London-based Gwendoline Christie is one of the most exciting and unique British actresses working today, having caught the industry's attention with her Emmy and Critics' Choice nominated role in the global hit HBO series "Game of Thrones." During her time on the show, she was also nominated alongside the rest of the cast for a Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Ensemble in a Drama Series in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2020. Christie joined "Game of Thrones" in 2012 during the show's second season and was nominated in 2019 for an Emmy and Critics' Choice Award for Supporting Actress, Drama Series for her iconic role as the warrior 'Brienne of Tarth'.

Currently, Christie can be seen in the highly anticipated second season of Apple TV's critically acclaimed series "Severance" alongside Adam Scott and Patricia Arquette. Most recently, Christie appeared as principal of Nevermore Academy 'Larissa Weems' in Tim Burton's Netflix series "Wednesday" alongside Jenna Ortega as Wednesday, Catherine Zeta-Jones as Morticia Adams and Luis Guzmán as Gomez Addams. The show debuted at #1 on Netflix in 83 countries around the world and set the record for most hours viewed in a week for an English-language series on the streaming platform.

In June of 2022, Christie starred in Peter Strickland's *Flux Gourmet* which was nominated for seven British Independent Film Awards including Best Ensemble. In the summer of 2019, Christie played Titania in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Bridge Theatre in London. She appeared in Gabriela Cowperthwaite's *The Friend*, alongside Jason Segel and Dakota Johnson, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2019. In January 2020, she appeared in the film adaptation of Charles Dickens' *The Personal History Of David Copperfield*, alongside Dev Patel and Tilda Swinton.

In 2018, Christie appeared in the Robert Zemeckis film *The Women Of Marwen* alongside Steve Carell and Diane Kruger. She also starred in Peter Strickland's film *In Fabric*, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2018.

In 2017, Christie starred alongside Nicole Kidman and Elizabeth Moss in the second season of director Jane Campion's Sundance show "Top of the Lake: China Girl." The show received rave reviews and a 2018 Golden Globe nomination for Best Television Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television. That same year, Christie was seen in the highly anticipated film *Star Wars: Episode VIII – The Last Jedi*. The film was directed by Rian Johnson and Christie returned as the franchise's first female villain, 'Captain Phasma', alongside Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Oscar Isaac. Christie first appeared in the beloved sci-fi franchise by starring in *Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens* (2015) alongside John Boyega, Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Andy Serkis, Lupita Nyong'o and Domhnall Gleeson, who joined the original stars of the saga, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew and Kenny Baker.

Christie's notable theatre credits include: "Doctor Faustus" in 2010 playing the role of 'Lucifer' as well as the Theatre Royal Haymarket's "Breakfast at Tiffany's" as 'Mag Wildwood' in 2009 and the Queen in Shakespeare's romance "Cymbeline" in 2007. Her feature film debut came in 2009 with a supporting role in *The Imaginarium Of Doctor Parnassus*, directed by Terry Gilliam who she worked with again in *Zero Theorem*. Additional film credits include FOX's *The Darkest Minds* and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2*.

Christie graduated from Drama Centre London in 2005 and has also modeled for several fashion houses over the years, most recently closing the iconic Maison Margiela Artisanal show for John Galliano in Paris 2024.

Philip Ettinger (as Ronnie)

Philip Ettinger can currently be seen in Ethan Hawke's *Wildcat* alongside Maya Hawke and Laura Linney. He just recently wrapped the movie *Josephine* alongside Channing Tatum and is recurring on the upcoming Paramount + series "Happy Face" produced by Michael Showalter and starring Dennis Quaid. He will next be seen in *My First Film* written and directed by Zia Anger alongside Odessa Young, and was in the feature film *Manodrome* opposite Jesse Eisenberg, Adrien Brody, and Riley Keough. He is known for his two brilliant performances in Paul Schrader's critically acclaimed thriller *First Reformed*, opposite Ethan Hawke which won the Green Drop Award at the Venice Film Festival and was included in the National Board of Review's 'Top Ten Films of 2018' and the HBO miniseries "I Know This Much Is True", based on the famous Wally Lamb novel, where he portrays the younger version of Mark Ruffalo in the roles of 'Thomas/Dominik.' On the TV side, Phil also appeared in multiple episodes of the Peacock series

“Bupkis” opposite Pete Davidson, Edie Falco, and Joe Pesci and Nick Antosca's true crime limited series “A Friend Of The Family” on Peacock, and recurred on the Peacock Limited Series “Angelyne”. Other credits include a lead role in the feature film *Little Brother*, alongside Dan Diemer and JK Simmons, the lead opposite Lili Taylor and Cosmo Jarvis in *The Evening Hour*, which premiered at Sundance, *One Percent More Humid* opposite Julia Garner and Juno Temple, *The Pirates Of Somalia* opposite Al Pacino, *Indignation* opposite Logan Lerman and Tracy Letts, *Tyrel* opposite Michael Cera and Christopher Abbott, and Craig Zobel's critically lauded film *Compliance*, landing on the National Board of Review's list of Top Ten Independent Films of 2012. On stage, Ettinger was nominated for the 2014 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor for “Bad Jews” at the Roundabout Theatre Company's Laura Pels Theatre. He also appeared on stage in “Edgewise”, directed by Trip Cullman at The Play Company. Ettinger graduated with a BFA from the Mason Gross School of The Arts at Rutgers University.

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Lucio Castro (Writer & Director) was born in Argentina and studied film at the University of Buenos Aires before moving to New York to study at Parsons School of Design, after which he launched his career as a menswear designer before circling back to his love of film. Lucio's debut film, *End of the Century* (Fin de siglo), premiered at New Directors / New Films at MoMA NY before screening at Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Cinema where it won the Best Film Award in the Argentine competition.

David Hinojosa (Producer) is the Academy® Award-nominated producer of *Past Lives* which garnered numerous accolades, including ‘Best Feature’ at both the Gotham Awards and Independent Spirit Awards. Hinojosa received a BAFTA Award, Golden Globe Award, and PGA Award nomination on behalf of his work on the film. He most recently produced Halina Reijn's *Babygirl*, starring Nicole Kidman, and Brady Corbet's *The Brutalist*, both of which have been accepted to Venice Film Festival, as well as reuniting with Celine Song on her sophomore film, *Materialists*.

David Hinojosa is a Founding Partner and the Head of Production at 2AM, a production and management company invested in auteur-driven filmmakers launched in strategic partnership with A24. While at 2AM, he has produced Halina Reijn's *Bodies Bodies Bodies*. Prior to this role, David spent over a decade at the iconic award-winning production company Killer Films. While at Killer Films, he worked across titles such as the Academy Award-winning *Still Alice* and Todd Haynes' *Carol* which premiered in competition at the Cannes Film Festival and received six Academy Award nominations.

Hinojosa's other producing credits include Janicza Bravo's *Zola*, Todd Solondz's *Wiener Dog*, Josephine Decker's *Shirley*, Brady Corbet's *Vox Lux*, Miguel Arteta's *Beatriz At Dinner* and Paul Schrader's *First Reformed*. His work has premiered and screened at major film festivals, including Berlin, Cannes, Toronto, Venice, and Sundance, where he has received numerous honors including the Sundance Grand Jury Prize.

He is the Co-Vice Chair of the Producers Guild of America East, Chair of the Independent Producer's Task Force, a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and lectures at New York University's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts Graduate Film Program.

Anita Gou (Producer) is the founder of Kindred Spirit, a film and TV production company with roots in LA and Taiwan. Her upcoming films include Lucio Castro's film, *After This Death*, premiering in this year's Berlinale Special Gala section, as well as Andrew Ahn's modern remake of Ang Lee's classic film, *The Wedding Banquet*, starring Lily Gladstone, Bowen Yang, Kelly Marie Tran, Joan Chen, and Youn Yuh-Jung, which premiered at Sundance 2025 to rave reviews and will be released theatrically by Bleecker Street starting April 18th. She previously produced one of the highest grossing independent films of 2019, *The Farewell* (starring Awkwafina), which was released by A24 and went on to receive a Golden Globe nomination for Best Foreign-Language Film, a Golden Globe award for Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy Motion Picture, as well as an Independent Spirit Award for Best Feature. Anita Gou was included in The Hollywood Reporter's "35 Rising Executives 35 and Under" list in 2023, and was named one of the "10 Producers to Watch" by Variety. Past works also include: *Locust* (Cannes Critics Week 2024), *Close To You* (TIFF 2023, Greenwich Entertainment), *The Silent Twins* (Cannes 2022, Focus Features), *The Last Year of Darkness* (CPH:DOX 2023, Mubi), *Found* (Netflix); *Together Together* (Sundance 2021, Bleecker Street); *Honey Boy* (Sundance 2019, Amazon); *Assassination Nation* (Sundance 2018, NEON), *Terminal 3* (Microsoft Hologram project, Tribeca 2018), *To the Bone* (Sundance 2017, Netflix), and *The Assassin* (Cannes 2015, Well Go USA).

Patrick Donovan (Producer) is a New York-based producer dedicated to creating films that resonate with both cinephiles and everyday moviegoers alike. Before transitioning to film production, Patrick spent a decade in the advertising and commercial industry, collaborating with renowned directors such as Baz Luhrmann, Martin Campbell, Dave Meyers, and Mark Romanek. His early career in Hollywood saw him working under notable producers and managers at Benderspink and Echo Lake Entertainment.

Patrick produced Erin Vassilopoulos' *Superior* which had its World Premiere at Sundance 2021, Bernardo Britto's *Omni Loop* starring Mary-Louise Parker and Ayo Edebiri which premiered at SXSW 2024, and Lucio Castro's *After This Death* featuring Mia Maestro, Lee Pace, Gwendoline Christie, and Rupert Friend, premiering in this year's Berlinale Special Gala section.

Luca Intili (Producer) produced Jane Schoenbrun's sophomore feature *I Saw The TV Glow*, which was released by A24 to critical acclaim. They received an Independent Spirit Awards nomination on behalf of their work on the film. They have also produced Ben Mullinkosson's documentary *The Last Year of Darkness* for Mubi, China and John Early's upcoming directorial debut *Maddie's Secret*. They executive produced Andrew Ahn's *The Wedding Banquet* starring Lily Gladstone and Bowen Yang, Dominic Savage's *Close To You* starring Elliot Page, KEFF's debut *Locust* which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, and Andrew Cumming's horror film *Out of Darkness*. Their work has premiered at major film festivals including Sundance, Cannes, Berlinale, TIFF, Venice, SXSW, IDFA, and CPH:DOX.

Luca began their career at FilmNation Entertainment, coordinating the international sales effort on auteur-driven films such as Pedro Almodóvar's *Pain & Glory*, Sebastián Lelio's *Disobedience* and Severin Fiala & Veronika Franz's *The Lodge*. More recently, Luca was the head of financing and distribution strategy at Animal Kingdom and the head of creative at Kindred Spirit.

Caroline Clark (Producer) produced Lucio Castro's film, *After This Death*, starring Mia Maestro, Lee Pace, Rupert Friend, Gwendoline Christie, and Philip Ettinger, premiering in this year's Berlinale Special Gala section, as well as Andrew Ahn's modern remake of Ang Lee's classic film, *The Wedding Banquet*, starring Lily Gladstone, Bowen Yang, Kelly Marie Tran, Joan Chen, and Youn Yuh-Jung, which premiered at Sundance 2025 to rave reviews and will be released theatrically by Bleecker Street starting April 18th. She has been with Kindred Spirit since its inception, contributing to the development, production, and distribution of films such as *The Farewell*, *Honey Boy*, *We Are Little Zombies*, *Together Together*, and *The Silent Twins*. Caroline also produced the critically acclaimed documentary *Behind the Curve* about flat earthers, associate produced and post-supervised the Netflix Original Documentary *Found*, and co-produced *The Last Year of Darkness* for Mubi. For her next documentary venture, she is tagging along with the world's leading astronomers as a part of her upcoming film, *Planet Nine*, which received a production grant from the Sundance Institute and Science Sandbox.

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Kindred Spirit

Kindred Spirit is an entertainment development, production, and financing company based in Los Angeles. Founded by producer Anita Gou, the mission is to curate purpose-driven and boundary-pushing storytelling in film, television, and new media, with a focus on emerging voices and visionary auteurs.

<https://beakindredspirit.com/>

2AM

2AM is an LA & NY based production and management company that specializes in supporting work from auteur driven filmmakers and talent. The company was founded in 2020 by Christine D'souza Gelb, David Hinojosa, and Kevin Rowe, and was launched in strategic partnership with A24, the Oscar-winning studio behind films such as *Everything Everywhere All At Once* and *Moonlight*, as well as the hit TV series "Euphoria".

<https://www.2am.com/>

CREDITS

Cast:
MIA MAESTRO
LEE PACE
PHILIP ETTINGER
with
RUPERT FRIEND
and
GWENDOLINE CHRISTIE

A Kindred Spirit production in collaboration with 2AM

Written & Directed by Lucio Castro
Producers: David Hinojosa, Anita Gou, p.g.a, Patrick Donovan, p.g.a, Luca Intili, p.g.a, Caroline Clark, p.g.a
Cinematography: Barton Cortright
Production Designer: Jason Singleton
Editor: Kali Kahn
Music: Robert Lombardo and Yegang Yoo
Supervising Sound Editor and Re-Recording Mixer: Robert Lombardo
Casting: Charlotte Arnoux, CSA, Kate Antognini
Costume Designer: Yegang Yoo
Line Producer: Emma Hannaway
Unit Production Manager: Daniel April
First Assistant Director: Alex Backus
Second Assistant Director: Achille Vanderhaeghen
Production Office Coordinator: Nicole Townsend
Production PA: Chris May

Full credits [here](#)

