

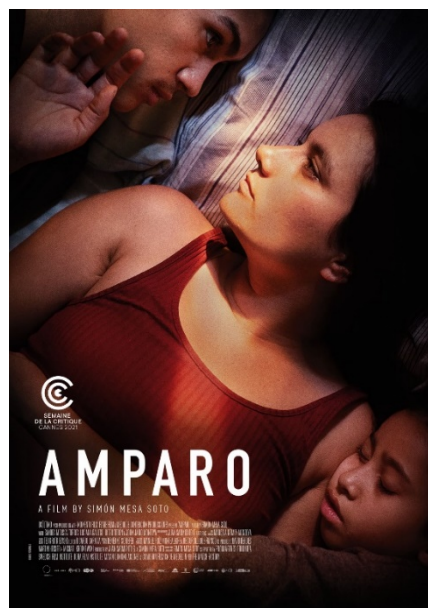
**Sandra Melissa Torres wins
the Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award
of the 60th Edition of La Semaine de la Critique in Cannes**



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Wednesday July 14, the jury of La Semaine de la Critique presented the Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award to Sandra Melissa Torres for her outstanding performance in the film *Amparo* directed by Simón Mesa Soto.

The story takes place in Colombia in 1998. Amparo, a single mother, struggles to free her teenage son after he is drafted by the army and assigned to a war zone. She is thrown into a race against time in a society ruled by men, corruption and violence. (Watch the trailer [here](#))



Sandra Melissa Torres was born in Colombia in 1990. At a young age she moved near Medellín with her family, fleeing from the violence of her hometown. She is a devoted mother of two little children. Sandra has worked all sorts of jobs until finding some stability as a saleswoman.

One day, while attending a parents' meeting at school, she was approached by a young filmmaker looking for a woman in her thirties to play the role of Amparo. She was quite surprised as the idea might have crossed her mind when watching TV as a teenager, even if she had never seriously thought about it considering her social background.

As a premonition, she saw herself being the protagonist of that project and campaigned for the role, ending up convincing the filmmakers that she could indeed be an actress. That was the moment she became Amparo.

After completing the work on the film, Sandra went back to her job. She now wants to study acting.

The jury of the 60th edition of La Semaine de la Critique was presided by the director Cristian Mungiu, joined by the producer Didar Domehri, the actress, writer, music composer and performer Camélia Jordana, the consultant and producer Michel Merkt, and the artistic director of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Karel Och.

The Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award

The aim of this award is to highlight a performer for one of his or her first film appearances or for a particularly outstanding role in their career.

In 2018, the award was given to Félix Maritaud for his performance in the film *Sauvage*, and in 2019 to Ingvar E. Sigurðsson in the film *Hvítur, Hvítur Dagur (A White, White Day)*.

The Louis Roederer Foundation, ever keen to support emerging talents, continues its commitment to the Semaine de la Critique and is pleased to offer a €5,000 award to the laureate.

About the Louis Roederer Foundation

The Louis Roederer Foundation was founded in 2011 with the purpose of perpetuating Louis Roederer's sponsorship activity which followed on from its discovery of the photography collection of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) in 2003.

Since being awarded the title of "Major Patron of Culture and Arts", the Foundation has continued to demonstrate its commitment to art through its proactive partnership with the Grand Palais, as well as its support of photography and cinema through the BnF Photographic Research Grant, the Discovery Award at the Rencontres d'Arles, the Louis Roederer Foundation Rising Star Award at La Semaine de la Critique in Cannes and the Louis Roederer Foundation Revelation Prize at the Deauville American Film Festival.

In 2021, for its 10-year anniversary, the Foundation has chosen to become a patron of the French Academy in Rome - Villa Medici.

In all the creative and artistic endeavours that it sponsors in these iconic places of culture and intelligence, the Louis Roederer Foundation plays its favourite role in supporting and nurturing the great artists of tomorrow.

www.louis-roederer.com/en/foundation

About Louis Roederer

Founded in 1776 in Reims, Louis Roederer is an independent family-run champagne house headed by Frédéric Rouzaud. In addition to producing Louis Roederer and Cristal champagnes, Louis Roederer also owns Deutz champagne, Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande (Grand cru classé de Pauillac), Château de Pez (Saint-Estèphe) and Maison Descaves in Bordeaux; Domaines Ott* in Provence, Delas Frères in the Rhône valley, Porto Ramos Pinto in Portugal and, in California, Roederer Estate, Scharffenberger Cellars, Domaine Anderson, Merry Edwards Winery and Diamond Creek Vineyards.

Committed to sustainable growing practices for over 20 years, the Louis Roederer Champagne House achieved a new milestone with the award, in March 2021, of the French “AB” organic agriculture certification for 115 hectares of its historic vineyards.

www.louis-roederer.com/en, Instagram [@LouisRoederer](https://www.instagram.com/LouisRoederer)

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