

# KINO LORBER



## VIOLETA WENT TO HEAVEN

A film by Andrés Wood

2011, Chile/Argentina/Brazil, 110 minutes  
DCP, 1.85:1, in Spanish and French with English subtitles

Sundance World Cinema Dramatic Jury Prize, 2012

**A Kino Lorber Release**

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## SYNOPSIS

An unconventional biography of a deeply influential figure in world music and complex cultural icon of Chile's history, *Violeta Went to Heaven* stars Francisca Gavilán as Violeta Parra, multi-faceted singer, songwriter, and founding artist of the socially and politically committed *nueva canción* folk music movement.

A rangy and lyrically subjective adaptation of Ángel Parra's memoirs of his mother, *Violeta* follows the sinuous currents in the life of a complex character and underappreciated musical genius—a childhood in rural poverty that is graced by music, the groundbreaking quest to revive Chile's traditional music, wild artistic success abroad and decline at home, the beginning and the end of love. The intimate glimpses of a life intensely lived are anchored by a fictionalized televised interview with an eloquent, canny, charming Parra, a showcase for Gavilán's intricately textured and fully inhabited performance.

## CAST AND CREW

Violeta Parra	Francisca Gavilán
Nicanor Parra (Father)	Cristián Quevedo
Gilbert Favre	Thomas Durand
Interviewer	Luis Machín
Hilda Parra	Gabriela Aguilera
Luis Arce	Roberto Farías
Ángel Parra as a boy	Patricio Ossa
Carmen Luisa	Stephania Barbagelata
Mayor	Marcial Tagle
Young Ángel Parra	Jorge López
Clarisa	Roxana Naranjo
Violeta as a child	Francisca Durán
Young Violeta	Guiselle Morales
Mr. Guillermo	Juan Quezada
Mario	Sergio Piña
Mrs. Lastenia	Sonia Vidal
Rosa Lorca	Ana Fuentes
Radio Director	Pablo Costabal
Guitar Player	Juan Alfaro
Mr. Gabriel	Pedro Salinas
Mr. Meyer	Daniel Antivilo

Host	Eduardo Burlé
Model	Vanesa González
Director	Andrés Wood
Screenplay	Eliseo Altunaga, Rodrigo Bazaes, Guillermo Calderón and Andrés Wood
Executive Production	Patricio Pereira, Pablo Rovito, Fernando Sokolowicz, Denise Gomez y Paula Cosenza
Commercial Production	Alejandra García
Cinematography	Miguel Ioan Littin (aec)
Production Design	Rodrigo Bazaes
Edition	Andrea Chignoli
Sound Design	Miguel Hormazábal
Music	Violeta Parra
Creative Adviser	Ángel Parra
Musical Production	José Miguel Miranda, José Miguel Tobar
Musical Adviser	Chango Spasiuk
Production Management	Ruth Orellana
Assistant Director	Julio Jorquera
Art Production	Macarena Silva
Scenic Artist	Cristián Reyes
Costume	Pamela Chamorro
Makeup Artist	Guadalupe Correa
Set Decorator	María Eugenia Hederra
Artistic Work Supervision	Ingrid Hernández
Sound Recordist	Andrés Carrasco

## **ABOUT VIOLETA PARRA**

A legendary, multifaceted artist, Violeta Parra was treasurer and guardian of Chile's deepest musical traditions and a woman of intense contradictions and unique genius.

A singer, songwriter, author, poet, painter, and ethnomusicologist, Parra rescued a forgotten traditional culture, traveling throughout Chile to research Chilean traditional music, collecting songs and lyrics for an unprecedented project of recovery and revival that sparked a Latin American folk music movement, the *nueva canción*.

Parra was born in 1917 to a large family in southern Chile, the daughter of a small town music teacher father and seamstress mother. Her father, Nicanor, inculcated the love of music and poetry early, holding bedtime singing contests for the children. When the family was immiserated by the death of the father, the children, led by Violeta, began to perform songs in the local market. The Parras would slowly migrate to Santiago in pursuit of education, led and encouraged by eldest son Nicanor, Chile's "anti-poet."

In 1964 Parra's tapestries were exhibited at the Louvre, a first for a Latin American artist.

Fresh from her success in Europe, she returned to Chile and established an ambitious folk music center at La Reina, her "university of folklore"—a rustic tent that would hold workshops during the day and become a live music *peña* at night.

Misunderstood and underappreciated by the Chilean public and estranged from her long-time partner, Parra committed suicide at La Reina in 1967 at the age of 49.

#### SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

*El Folklore de Chile, Vol. I* (1957)

*El Folklore de Chile, Vol. II* (1958)

*La cueca presentada por Violeta Parra.* (1958)

*La tonada presentada por Violeta Parra* (1959)

*Toda Violeta Parra* (1961)

*El folklore de Chile según Violeta Parra* (1962)

*Recordando a Chile* (1965)

*Las últimas composiciones de Violeta Parra* (1967)

*Canciones reencontradas en París* (1971)

*Composiciones para guitarra* (1999)

Source: <http://www.cancioneros.com/cc/4/0/discografia-de-violeta-parra>

International artists such as Joan Baez, U2, Faith No More, Pete Seeger, Wynton Marsalis, Shakira, Michael Bubl , Juanes, Alejandro Sanz, Laura Pausini, Fher (from Mana), Chavela Vargas, Caf  Tacuba, Joan Manuel Serrat, Mercedes Sosa, Charly Garc a, Silvio Rodr guez, Buena Vista Social Club and Miguel Bos , among others, have performed her songs and contributed to popularizing her musical legacy throughout the world.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Andrés Wood was born in 1965 in Santiago, Chile. He studied economics at the Universidad Católica de Chile, then moved to New York to study filmmaking at NYU. After returning to Chile, he directed his first feature, *Historias de fútbol* (1997), followed by *El desquite* (1999, TV series) and *Loco Fever* (2001).

His 2004 film *Machuca* (Directors' Fortnight)—the story of an unusual friendship between two boys at an elite Santiago Catholic school on the cusp of the 1973 military coup—is an acclaimed milestone of post-dictatorship Chilean cinema.

His next feature, *The Good Life* (2008), received the Best Spanish Language Foreign Film Goya Award in 2009.

*Violeta Went to Heaven* (2011) was Chile's submission for Best Foreign Language Film for the 84th Academy Awards.

## FILMOGRAPHY

- 2011 *Violeta se fue a los cielos* (*Violeta Went to Heaven*)
- 2008 *La Buena vida* (*The Good Life*)
- 2004 *Machuca*
- 2001 *La fiebre del loco* (*Loco Fever*)
- 1999 *El desquite* (*Revenge*), TV series
- 1997 *Historias de fútbol* (*Soccer Stories*)
- 1994 *Reunión de familia* (*Family Reunion*), short
- 1992 *Idilio* (*Idyll*), short

## ABOUT THE LEAD ACTRESS

Born in 1973 in Santiago, Francisca Gavilán studied acting at the Escuela de Teatro Fernando González. She works in theatre, television, and film, and was most recently seen in *Mina Antipersonal* (play) and *Separados* (TV). Film credits include *Monos con Navaja* (2000), *Ulises* (2010), and *Las Niñas Quispe* (forthcoming).

For *Violeta Went to Heaven*, Gavilán worked closely with Violeta Parra's son, Ángel Parra, and recorded such legendary songs as "Volver a los 17," "El gavilán," and "Run Run se fue pa'l Norte."

The film's soundtrack and Gavilán's widely acclaimed interpretations are available at <https://soundcloud.com/violetalapeli/>.