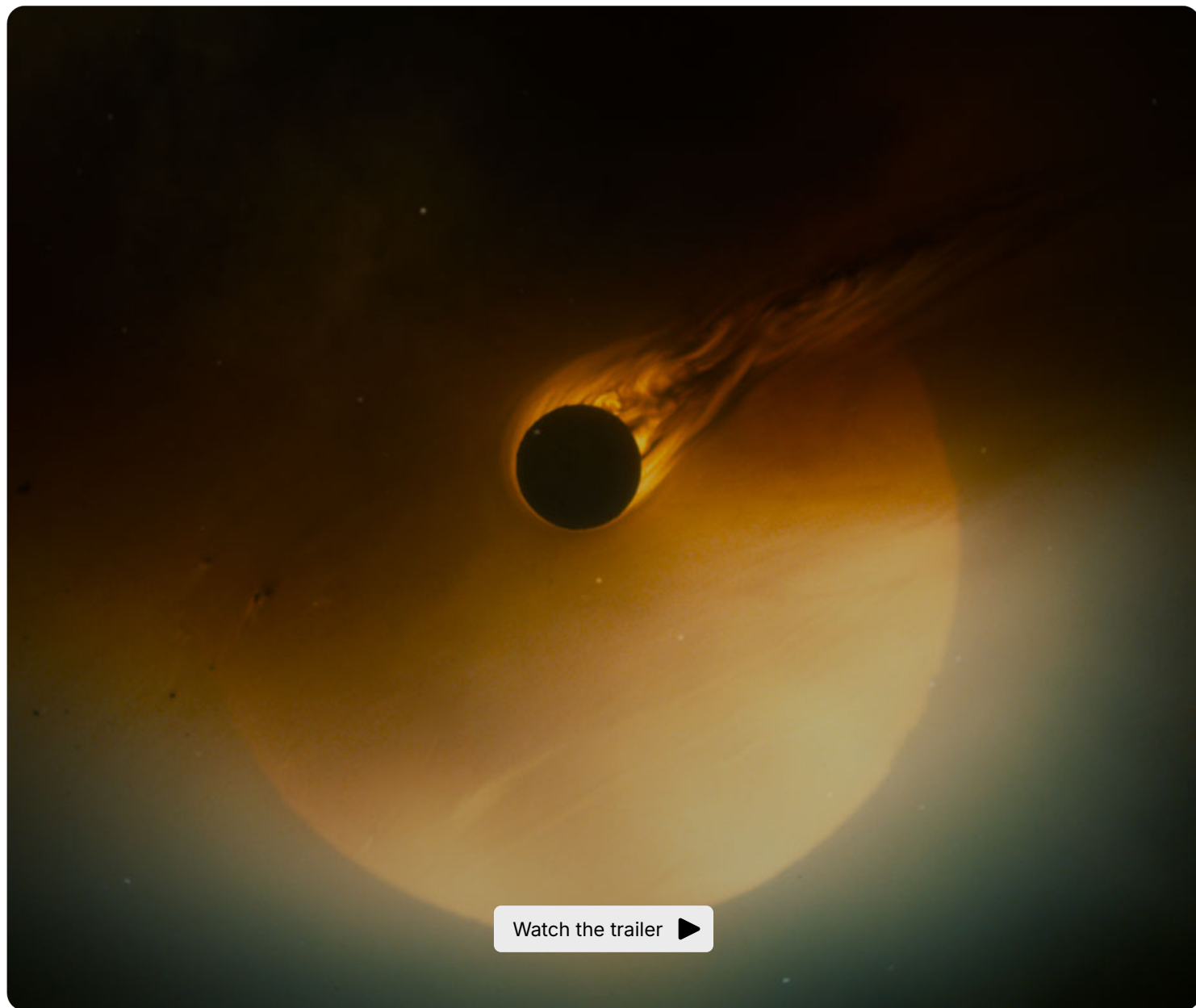


C I E L O

A FILM BY ALISON MCALPINE



Watch the trailer ▶

Feature Documentary **78 minutes**
Colour / 2k / 5.1

Languages spoken **Canada/Chile**
Spanish, French,
English 2018

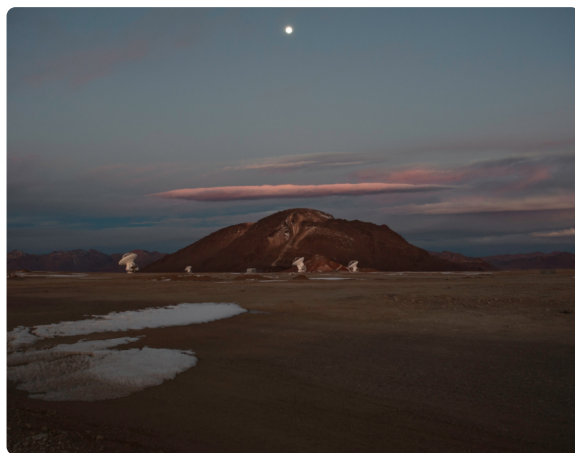
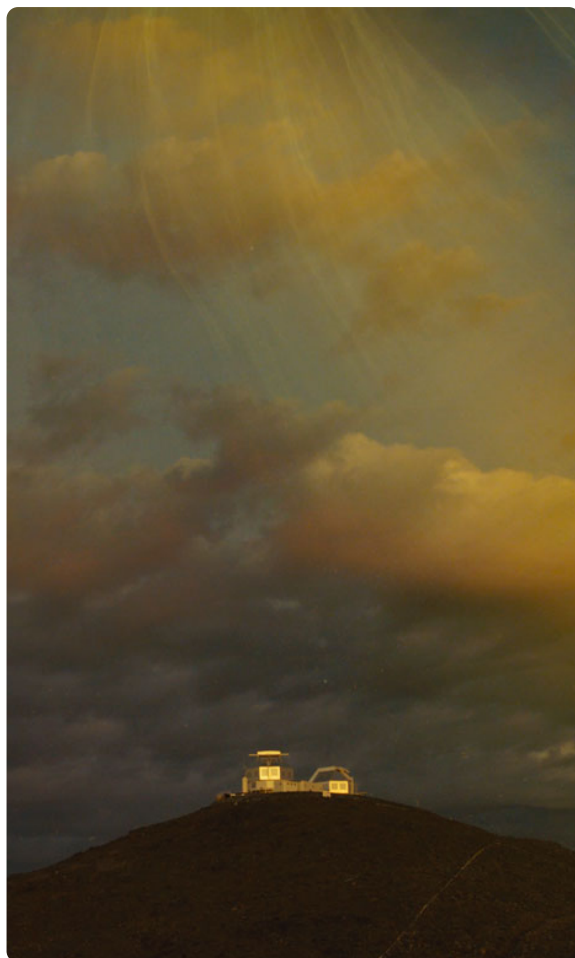
Websites cielo-thefilm.com
 alisonmcalpine.com
Contact films@alisonmcalpine.com

Produced by **Second Sight Pictures** in association with
Documentary Channel and **Argus Films** in co-production with
Errante Producciones

S Y N O P S I S

CIELO is a cinematic reverie on the crazy beauty of the night sky, as experienced in the Atacama Desert, Chile, one of the best places on our planet to explore and contemplate its splendour. Director Alison McAlpine's sublime nonfiction film drifts between science and spirituality, the arid land, desert shores and lush galaxies, expanding the limits of our earthling imaginations. Planet Hunters in the Atacama's astronomical observatories and the desert dwellers who work the land and sea share their evocative visions of the stars and planets, their mythic stories and existential queries with remarkable openness and a contagious sense of wonder. A love poem for the night sky, CIELO transports us to a space, quiet and calm, within which we can ponder the infinite and unknown.

CIELO premiered at the New York Film Festival in October 2017, was released in its final version in 2018 and has been presented at over 400 international film festivals and cinemas as well as winning several awards. Named as "One of the best documentaries of 2018" by Esquire and "The best films of 2018...that you didn't see" by The Guardian, CIELO has also been critically acclaimed by publications such as Variety, The Village Voice, The Globe and Mail, Le Devoir, Roger Ebert.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"A rapturous act of cinematic contemplation... Conveys the sky's profound relationship to memory, family, spirituality, history and heritage. This majestic movie... looks up in order to look within."

—**Nick Schager**, [Variety](#)

"This contemplative and richly visualized astronomy doc combines incredible landscapes with celestial perspectives that encourage the audience to ponder its place amid the grand shrine of the cosmos...The masterful use of time-lapse photography, a painterly application of natural light and an extraordinary sense of composition produce memorable imagery that is truly mesmerizing and well deserving of this year's cinematography prize."

[American Cinematographer](#)

"Cielo: A beautiful film!! Photography, sound, structure, subject matter - enough to lift the spirits out of any earthly trough. A moving film in all senses of that word."

—**Walter Murch**

"One of the Best Documentaries of 2018... A cinematic rumination on the majesty of everything that surrounds us."

[Esquire](#)

"**** Cielo will leave you starstruck with its gorgeous imagery"

—**Chris Knight**, [The National Post](#)

"Eye-popping. Exquisite. The images in the film are unmatched by any Hollywood blockbuster"

—**Jordan Hoffman**, [Village Voice](#)

"The sky above Chile comes alive in experimental documentary 'Cielo'. Balancing science, folklore and spirituality, the film blends kaleidoscopic night shots, time-lapses and "organic effects" with observational portraits of desert residents... McAlpine's visuals transport the viewer to a state of reflection while reminding us of the sublime beauty of the space above."

—**Kevin Crust**, [Los Angeles Times](#)

"Cielo" is the sort of meditative tone poem guaranteed to evoke moments in life that altered your perception of existence... one of the year's great achievements in cinematography..."

—**Matt Fagerholm**, [Roger Ebert](#)

"The best films of 2018 ... Guardian writers pick their favourite underappreciated films..."

[The Guardian](#)

"Cielo, a serene, existential experience from the Canadian filmmaker Alison McAlpine, who takes to Chile's Atacama Desert to look both skyward and inward."

— **Brad Wheeler**, [The Globe and Mail](#)

PEOPLE / LOCATIONS

- **Mercedes Lopez and Néstor Espinoza**
Planet hunters — Las Campanas Observatory
- **Casiano Ardiles and Lilian Rojas**
Algae collectors — Los Pozos, Huasco
- **Jorge Rojas**
Algae collector, young man cooking — Los Pozos, Huasco
- **Mario Salas Schered**
Photographer of UFOS — Requeña, Huasco
- **Cipriano Castillo and Gabriel Castillo**
Cowboys — Andean mountains Elqui Valley
- **Raúl Adriazola**
Miner — Inca de Oro
- **Roberto Garcia**
Storyteller, man who flies — Catarpe
- **Francisco Pepe, Stéphane Udry and team Planet hunters**
La Silla and Paranal Observatory



C R E D I T S

Writer, Director, Producer

Alison McAlpine (Second Sight Pictures)

Executive Producer

Carmen Garcia (Argus Films)

Co-Producer

Paola Castillo (Errante Producciones)

Producer, Marketing and Distribution

Sean Farnel (SeaFar North)

Editor

Andrea Chignoli

Director of Photography

Benjamin Echazarreta

Music Composer

Philippe Lauzier

Sound

Miguel Hormazábal, Mauricio López, Ivo Morago

TimelapsesAlison McAlpine, Benjamin Echazarreta
Cristian Valenzuela, Diego Delanoe**Sound Recording**Andres Carrasco, Rodrigo Salvatierra
Carlo Sanchez Farías, Claudio Vargas**Organic Visual Effects**Phantom® cameras by frederic.ca
Philippe Toupin — Supervision VFX
Mathieu Laverdière — Director of Photography
Alexander Storm — Assistant**Re-recording Mixer**

Mauricio López

→ See [PDF](#) for Full Credits