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## Interview: Enrique Buchichio

Submitted by Pip on Wed, 05/19/2010 - 07:11

Enrique Buchichio makes his third outing as director with this week's DVD release of **Leo's Room**. Centering around a sexually confused young man named Leo the film is a sensitive exploration of coming to terms with your sexuality and understanding who you really are.



We caught up with Enrique to talk about the movie, discuss its main star Martin Rodriguez and got his views on the state of gay cinema.

### How are you today?

Very well, thanks.

### Tell us about your movie 'Leo's Room'.

It's the story of Leo (short for 'Leonardo'), a 20-something trying to come to terms with his own sexuality after breaking up with his girlfriend of six months. In the middle of that, he reencounters by chance an old school friend he was in love with when they were kids, who's going through a very deep personal crisis of her own. It's my first feature film after two short films and thousands of film reviews, since I'm also a film critic.

### Where did the idea for the movie come from?

I wanted to tell how a process of self-acceptance like Leo's is lived through, from a very subjective and intimate perspective. I thought that a crisis like this (which is very personal, very internal, and at the same time so universal) was a good dramatic material to explore in a movie, in a way that I never saw before. I wanted to make a movie absolutely away from stereotypes, and to make it as open as possible for everyone – especially for people who never went to a process like this – to get a glimpse of how it is. To let them in.

### Why did you decide to cast Martin Rodriguez in the title role?

Because he was the first and only actor I met who not only understood and captured the character's essence but also was a much more interesting and appealing Leo that I could imagine. Just the idea of him starring as Leo moved me very deeply so I took that as the confirmation that he was the right actor for the role.

### What's your favourite part of the movie and why?

I'm proud of the whole movie, that's for sure, but there are some moments that came up really well and that I'm really happy for. For example, the first scene between Leo and Caro in his room, when they drink coffee and listen a song. That is the moment when they re-connect, in a way, with the kids they once were, and at the same time they're discovering each other as adults now. A long scene in one shot, with no dialogues, is pretty hard to maintain if you don't have actors that are able to fill the moment, to make it real and true. And I think that's what happened there. I'm also really proud of the first scene between Leo and Seba, again in Leo's room. It's exactly how I imagined it, or even better. They're just perfect. And is one of the scenes people enjoy the most in every screening. Which is really important to me because is a turning point in Leo's story.

### You write and direct. Do you prefer one over the other?

I love both. I really enjoy the writing process and I also love directing, all through the whole process of making a movie (which for me starts precisely with the writing), from the casting, discussions, planning, rehearsals, shooting, editing, everything. They are very different stages but I cannot conceive one without the other, at least for now.

### Have you ever tried acting?

Yes, but only as a game when I was in film school, making exercises with my colleagues, or in acting classes. I really enjoyed acting, but I never think of it as a professional choice, not at all.

