**The Treehouse**

A Film by

Pilar Trachsel-Ospina

/file 0001

To get married, to be a mom,

the dream of most women

/file 0002

was never part of my plan.

/file 0003

My dream was to be...

/file 0004

a filmmaker.

/file 0005

I am Pilar Ospina.

/file 0006

Or Pilar Trachsel.

/file 0007

Colombian or Swiss.

/file 0008

Anyway, this is my story.

/file 0009

This is our cozy house, in a small town near Zürich.

/file 0010

The figure reflected in the background

is my husband.

/file 0011

He is Adrian, my son.

/file 0012

He’s adorable, but knows well

how to make me lose my patience

/file 0013

and also how to make me say “yes.“

/file 0014

It doesn’t take much....

/file 0015

even to convince me to bring

a new member into the family.

/file 0016

The Treehouse

/file 0017

When the maternal instinct

came to me in all its splendor

/file 0018

I got carried away with the adventure

of being a mother.

/file 0019

The one on the right is my sister Andrea,

two years older than me.

/file 0020

The one on the left is me.

/file 0021

The one in the middle is my mother.

A very intolerant and strict woman.

/file 0022

Art wasn’t really her thing.

/file 0023

She wanted me to study a decent career.

/file 0024

My liberation began the moment

I fled the dictatorship of my mother,

/file 0025

and our constant conflicts.

/file 0026

To go to the furthest corner of the earth seemed ideal.

/file 0027

so I decided to go to Switzerland.

/file 0028

My freedom cost me two major sacrifices,

/file 0029

the first: to change my Colombian name from...

/file 0030

Maria del Pilar Ospina Vizcaino,

/file 0031

to the Swiss:

/file 0032

Pilar Trachsel.

/file 0033

Today, I am Mrs. Trachsel.

/file 0034

That guaranteed me to find easier

a job in Switzerland.

/file 0035

The second sacrifice:

/file 0036

to work in what I had to study

and hated most,

/file 0037

to make teeth.

/file 0038

Anyway, nine years later

/file 0039

when Adrian was older,

/file 0040

I made the decision to do

what I had always dreamt of

/file 0041

and now I am in a film school.

/file 0042

It’s 10:20 p.m.

/file 0043

My husband

rarely gets home before ten.

/file 0044

His profession is not very flexible

for a family

/file 0045

and a wife in school.

/file 0046

He is an architect.

/file 0047

Call it destiny.

/file 0048

Three important dates

coincide almost at the same time.

/file 0049

My graduation,

/file 0050

Adrian’s state assessment test,

and also, his national music competition.

/file 0051

The house, school, family, dog ...

/file 0052

it was too much for me.

/file 0053

So I decided to make a phone call

I thought I’d never make.

/file 0054

Hello mother . . . welcome.

/file 0055

My mom agreed to come and help me,

/file 0056

without suspecting she would become

a character in my movie.

/file 0057

Finally, what a long trip!

/file 0058

- Do you like it?

- Yes, thank you.

/file 0059

It's my pleasure.

/file 0060

- What is this?

- Oh, those are pictures from a long while ago.

/file 0061

Remember this one?

/file 0063

Oh... so old!

/file 0064

- Yes, it was my birthday.

/file 0065

This was the first picture you sent me

after you left home.

/file 0066

Yes, it was in Germany.

/file 0067

I cried because I saw you were sad,

/file 0068

and too many thoughts came to me,

so I cried.

/file 0069

Really?

/file 0070

My mother always took all the decisions for me.

/file 0071

To have her again in my life after seventeen years

/file 0072

makes me go back in time.

/file 0073

Honey, sit down.

/file 0074

When Adrian was younger he told me

he wanted to play the violin.

/file 0075

Of course, this made me very happy.

/file 0076

I was very clear.

/file 0077

My son should develop

his artistic dreams.

/file 0078

I wanted to be the perfect mother.

/file 0079

And to do it better than mine ever did.

/file 0080

A minor.

/file 0081

Crescendo.

/file 0082

Pianissimo.

/file 0083

This is how Adrian found his dog’s name

inspired by his music.

/file 0084

E-Dur (E major) no, no!

/file 0085

Maybe because of my personal experiences,

/file 0086

I always asked Adrian

what he would like to be as an adult.

/file 0087

What would you like to be as an adult?

/file 0088

I don’t know, I still have two years to decide.

/file 0089

Most likely something that I like...

/file 0090

...and makes me happy.

/file 0091

That’s all.

/file 0092

He is studying for the state assessment test.

/file 0093

I’m not too sure if he really wants to go or not.

/file 0094

I believe that I insisted so many times

that he finally agreed to go.

/file 0095

Mom,

/file 0096

in German nouns are written in majuscule,

in English in miniscule!

/file 0097

But how is it with English nouns in a German text?

/file 0098

You were too obsessive with us,

especially with me.

/file 0099

I couldn’t even breathe.

/file 0100

But don’t you see . . .

/file 0101

you were such a rebel

with such terrible moods.

/file 0102

That is why I was on full alert at all times.

/file 0103

Andrea, on the other hand, was more obedient.

She did everything I told her to do.

/file 0104

But you, my dear, you gave me too much trouble.

/file 0105

You were such a rebel,

/file 0106

that I always thought you might leave

at any moment and never come back.

/file 0107

For me it wasn’t easy to live under those circumstances.

/file 0108

Go ahead! I’m listening.

/file 0109

The competition is in two weeks

and I have not heard you practice.

/file 0110

You see?

/file 0111

I was about to begin and you come up with that . . .

/file 0112

So?

/file 0113

Stay focused Adrian . . .

/file 0114

What have I done wrong now?

/file 0115

I’ve heard you play that part much better,

with more passion.

/file 0116

What’s the matter now?

/file 0117

Papa went shopping now and then...

/file 0118

Are you coming as well?

/file 0119

Where?

/file 0120

To Technorama... please...

/file 0121

There is a new, very interesting audio exhibition.

/file 0122

Not being able to see an ending for my film

makes me nervous.

/file 0123

So I decided to leave Adrian with his tasks,

/file 0124

and focus on mine.

/file 0125

Adrian and my mother

had just begun to get to know each other.

/file 0126

And the clash of cultures

started to make things a little complicated.

/file 0127

Those cartoons make you the way you are.

/file 0128

- How?

/file 0129

With such horrible manners.

/file 0130

Why don’t we watch a Christian channel instead?

/file 0131

- Because I can’t understand.

/file 0132

- It’s like...

/file 0133

Like what?

/file 0134

- It’s not interesting!

/file 0135

You say you’re not coming to Dübendorf

because today you’re going to play with your dad.

/file 0136

Today is Saturday!

/file 0137

And during the weekdays when he’s not home

you don’t want to hang out with me either.

/file 0138

Why are you being like that with me?

/file 0139

Well...Syncope! You know what it is?

/file 0140

Do you want to or not?

/file 0141

Yes!

/file 0142

Such a loving father and mother.

/file 0143

She only cares about her film,

and when I practice, she doesn’t even listen.

/file 0144

When I ask her how well I was playing, she says,

“Sorry, I wasn’t listening.”

/file 0145

- Mom, can I ask you a question?

/file 0146

Oh no, no!

/file 0147

Leave me alone!

/file 0148

*Parents, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up*

*in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4*

/file 0149

- What is?

/file 0150

There are verses that move me.

/file 0151

Ever since my mom found herself in God

she lives a rhythm of life unfamiliar to me.

/file 0152

I realized that this time with my family

wasn’t easy for her either.

/file 0153

And the treehouse became her place of escape.

/file 0154

While I kept working on my film,

/file 0155

Adrian was getting ready

for his exam and the competition.

/file 0156

And everything was turning into pure

...CHAOS!

/file 0157

Adrian you were very disrespectful to your mother.

/file 0158

Say, “Yes ma’am” every time she calls your name.

/file 0159

- That’s in Colombia not in Switzerland.

/file 0160

It doesn’t matter. It’s respectful towards your parents.

/file 0161

- Grandma, talk to mom.

/file 0162

- She doesn’t want me to...

If resp... yes...

/file 0163

- No!

/file 0164

/tc 01:16:25:23 01:16:27:00

Respect...

/file 0165

- Ask her!

/file 0166

Respect towards your parents...

/file 0167

- I once said “yes Ma’am” and she complained.

/file 0168

When?

/file 0169

- You can watch it in the film.

/file 0170

Oh, so it was during the making?

- Ask her!

/file 0171

But right now we’re not filming

/file 0172

- I’m going to bring her over

Leave her alone! Leave her alone!

/file 0173

I wanted to interview Adrian,

but he didn’t want to.

/file 0174

Well, at least he agreed to speak alone

on camera.

/file 0175

Sometimes I have this dumb pressure

/file 0176

like for example with music.

/file 0177

I like to play the violin.

Many people say I do it very well.

/file 0178

But then mom comes and...

I hate her!

/file 0179

She says…

/file 0180

You have a lot of potential,

I know you can do it much better.

/file 0181

I play the violin,

/file 0182

because I like it.

I love the violin more than anything,

/file 0183

but sometimes it’s a difficult situation.

/file 0184

I realized that I was entering into the same roll

as my own mother.

/file 0185

Adrian got sick.

/file 0186

And my mom locked herself even more into her world.

/file 0187

*The sacred place is that place where...*

/file 0188

*believers become one with God.*

/file 0189

*It doesn’t need to be a room,*

*it could be a rooftop, a balcony...*

/file 0190

*or a garage, the living room...*

/file 0191

*the kitchen, the restroom...*

/file 0192

*it could be under a bed, if nobody else*

*goes there with you.*

/file 0193

*But it is the place where you look for God.*

/file 0194

Telling this story I became aware of another one

/file 0195

that I’m not sure if my mother wanted to tell me

/file 0196

or I had never bothered to listen.

/file 0197

My gratest frustration was at the age of thirteen.

/file 0198

I wanted to learn to play an instrument.

/file 0199

I loved music, I wanted to play the piano.

/file 0200

I went with my eldest sister

to the Luis A. Calvo School of Music

/file 0201

to take lessons in guitar, or bandola, or piano.

/file 0202

It was wonderful, we went without anyone knowing.

/file 0203

But when dad found out

he punished us very hard.

/file 0204

And becoming a painter was a dream of yours?

/file 0205

To me painting was a dream, but

I saw it as impossible.

/file 0206

I assumed that since I didn’t pick it up at an early age,

it was too late.

/file 0207

I never imagined...

/file 0208

that in my sixties...

/file 0209

but, oh well, it's never too late.

/file 0210

Ok! You have enough material.

/file 0211

You know what I really wanted to be as a child?

/file 0212

I’ve already told you

/file 0213

Oh Adrian, I’ve always wanted the best for you.

/file 0214

Really!

/file 0215

I know. You’ve always wanted the best for me.

/file 0216

But I’m used to, you being by my side

/file 0217

because you‘ve always been there for me.

And precisely in these hard times

/file 0218

when I’ve needed you the most,

you haven’t been with me.

/file 0219

I know that you want the best for me

but to me the most Important thing for me...

/file 0220

...the most Important thing is you.

/file 0221

And so:

/file 0222

Grandma has God who she asks to protect her,

/file 0223

or so she says.

/file 0224

I don’t have those believes.

/file 0225

But every person needs a guardian angel

and you are that angel for me.

/file 0226

Good Luck!

/file 0227

Thank you.

/file 0228

Adrian.

/file 0229

Yes ma’am?

/file 0230

What are you doing?

/file 0231

I’m singing in front of the mirror.

/file 0232

How did you call me?!