

Sirāt [15]

2025 Spain/France

115 mins

UK released **20 February 2026**

Director **Óliver Laxe**

Screenplay **Santiago Fillol; Óliver Laxe**

Cinematography **Mauro Herce**

Music **Kangding Ray**

Cast **Sergi López** (Luis); **Bruno Núñez Arjona** (Esteban);
Richard Bellamy (Bigui); **Stefania Gadda** (Stef);
Joshua Liam Henderson (Josh); **Tonin Janvier**
(Tonin); **Jade Oukid** (Jade)

None of this makes sense. We never should have come. How do we get out of here? Where are we?" In the Quran, the concept that gives its title to *Sirāt*, the extraordinary film by Óliver Laxe which just sent the competition of the 78th Cannes Film Festival into another dimension, is a bridge suspended over Hell, "thinner than a hair and sharper than a sword". It's on its allegorical crossing, in the middle of the Moroccan desert, on a background of the approaching end of the world and to the beat of immersive techno music, that the Spanish filmmaker follows a group of Europeans. These five deserters of society, perpetually searching for rave parties, are joined by a father and his young son who are looking for a missing girl.

"Dad, let's go, let's follow them. -They are following us. Are you? It's not a good idea, you'll break the car, the roads are very dangerous. -We don't have a choice." At the end of an intense rave interrupted by local military declaring a state of emergency, Jade (Jade Oukid), Stef (Stefania Gadda), Josh (Joshua L. Henderson), Tonin (Tonin Janvier) and Bigui (Richard Bellamy) take to their heels with their two small trucks in order to join another party, in the South, near Mauritania. Following their traces closely with his car is Luis (Sergi Lopez), together with Esteban (Bruno Núñez), his son around 10 years old. The man is desperately trying to find his eldest daughter Mar, who has been missing for over five months. Thus

begins a crazy journey into completely uninhabited desert and mountain areas...

“The door must be aligned”. Under its epic and dramatic aspects, which are very concrete and drowned in the modern twirling dervish music of Kangding Ray, *Sirāt* offers a vertiginous mystical and metaphysical trip under natural psychotropics. Through the eyes of Luis and his son, once the first obstacles are overcome, another world of more invisible clues reveals itself, full of peril as extreme emotions rise explosively towards darkness (under a merciless sun). Recycling many genres (a touch of *Mad Max*, a zest of *Zabriskie Point*, and the Tawaf ritual at Mecca) and following the subtle thread woven in his previous works (including *Mimosas* and *Fire Will Come*), Óliver Laxe fully carries the spectator away and masterfully succeeds in creating an unforgettable (yet absolutely not experimental) experiential film about man and the world, the collective and the individual, being and nothingness, radicality and universality, the intimate and the cosmic, that is better traversed without thinking in order to enjoy it to the fullest.

Fabien Lemerrier, *Cineuropa*; 16 May 2025

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