

WE DREAM OF ROBOTS

An independently produced
feature length documentary

[Click here to watch the trailer](#)



Uruguay has been known along the last hundred years as a forward looking country, eager to carry out progressive social reforms and bold new policies. Some of the most significant of those changes were implemented here long before they were considered possible in many Latin American and even most European countries. Women voted in Uruguay years before they did in France, England or even Norway, and have won the right to divorce unconditionally just by stating so as early as 1915. Workers conquered the right to assembly, unionize and organize strikes the exact same year, when the demands for the same liberties were met elsewhere with either disdain or frontal repression. Uruguay approved egalitarian marriage before than the USA, Germany or the United Kingdom.

But also there have been some key policies especially regarding technology implemented here, initiatives that have moved the social progress needle quite significantly. For

instance, Uruguay has developed a ubiquitous energy grid that relies almost exclusively in renewable sources, and has established universal internet access as a national priority.

But chief among those technological governmental efforts has been the successful implementation of the One Laptop Per Child policy, an initiative that to a certain degree has failed everywhere else. The reason why it actually worked here is because it entailed not only the material assignment of a piece of hardware to every student in the country, but also the implementation of a wide variety of colateral developments that secured that computers would have real educational value, mostly by enriching the program with assistive programs of project-based learning.

One of the most successful and inspiring stories coming out of those initiatives is the rise of a very robust national robotics scene, implemented by educational national institutions as a learning tool, but also as a source of pride and team spirit.



There are currently 5340 robotic kits in use in schools all across the country. But for reasons that are both intriguing and inspiring, some of the most successful robotics teams actually come from relatively isolated rural areas, where groups of incredibly committed teenagers manage to win international competitions against all odds.

Along the process through which they design and master their robots, these often charismatic characters develop astonishingly contemporary worldviews, even in the context of relatively poor and deprived communities in the countryside. As they have to follow intricate paths to become international champions, they often also become precociously wise. Our film shows that some of the most notable characters in the robotics scene in Uruguay can rightfully be considered intuitive philosophers. They often have to confront the characteristic traditions of their local communities in search for more contemporary and compassionate ways to care for the environment, produce food, innovate and design a sustainable future.

We Dream Of Robots is a film that follows some of those incredibly idiosyncratic, tender, sensible and inspiring teenagers in their path towards success and self betterment, but also shows them in the context of a Latin American country that is changing fast and seeking a more influential role in the design of a new way of doing things.

What is the future of automation, how to build truly intelligent cities, how can we produce food with respect for nature and with technologically improved methods, what is the place of biology in our understanding of our role in the planet... Those are some of the subjects addressed in the film, that is also an adventure of both collaboration and self reliance. The themes themselves would be interesting enough, but what makes the experience truly miraculous is the incredibly fortunate selection of characters shown in the film. It is impossible to watch them speak and interact without thinking: 'In what kind of country are these kids even possible? What can I do to help them along their very challenging paths?'

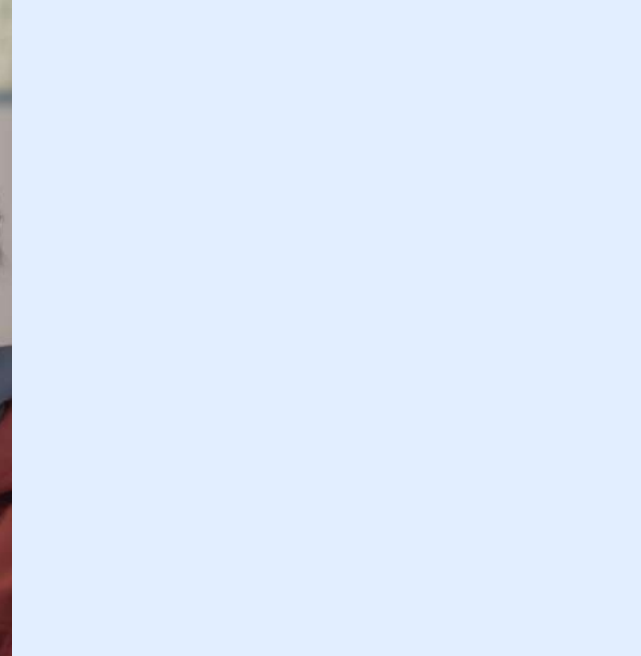


GEN Center for Arts and Sciences is a Uruguayan institution designed to produce interdisciplinary projects in order to build bridges between Art, Science and Technology. The institution is a social connector, a cross pollinating platform where scientists, technologists and artists can devise new ways of influencing positive social change. Although it is an independent organization, it works in close collaboration with many governmental agencies, cultural institutions and companies. It produces films, TV series, documentaries, performing arts and multimedia projects.



One of the main aims of **GEN** is to stimulate, through widely shared artistic endeavors and large scale media projects, a new social consideration of the possibilities of education, a proactive discussion on how to change and scale traditional ways of producing goods, and an innovative exploration of how technology can be used in combination of biological research to protect our natural environment.





A note on the director of the project.

Pablo Casacuberta, 1969, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Filmmaker, writer and visual artist. Master of Arts in Experimental Media, UK. His visual work has been exhibited in New York, Buenos Aires, Barcelona and Venice. Casacuberta has received a Clio and was nominated for a Latin Grammy in the Best Video category. He was also a finalist for the international Sundance NHK prize. In October 2001, Boards Magazine selected him as one of the 15 most promising new directors for advertising in the world. He has worked for MTV, Citibank, Nike, Volkswagen, Suzuki, Honda, McDonalds, Coca-Cola, Mastercard, Warner Channel, Cadbury and Sky. His audiovisual work has been broadcasted in more than ninety countries.

In 1998 he directed an experimental feature film, "Another George", shot in the UK with the collaboration of the Japanese director Yukihiro Goto. In 2018 he directed a feature-length documentary, "Clemente, the learning path of a teacher". In 2006 he directed second unit scenes for "Children of men", a feature film directed by Alfonso Cuarón,

featuring Clive Owen and Julianne Moore. In 2010 worked as a second unit director for the celebrated Nike "Write the Future" spot, which was directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu, in which Casacuberta directed scenes in London, Manchester, Madrid, Turin and Nairobi. He has also produced second unit material for Terrence Malick.

He has published eight fiction books in Uruguay, Colombia, Mexico, Spain, France and Croatia, and was awarded the Uruguayan National Prize of Literature twice. In 2010 he directed two global campaigns for MTV, one for MTVHD and one for the Europe Music Awards 2010. He has directed six campaigns in China. Last year he shot a 10-piece campaign for developmental social projects in Pakistan.

His commercial reel can be seen online in this page:
<http://www.pablocasacuberta-works.com/>

A more comprehensive sample of his artistic work can be found at: www.pablocasacuberta.com



Centro de Artes y Ciencias

gen.org.uy

pablocasacuberta@gen.org.uy