Currently playing at the IFC Center in New York City and debuting on-demand today from IFC Films, THE SILENT HOUSE (LA CASA MUDA) presents, as the ads put it, “real fear in real time”—i.e., its awful events are presented in one unbroken take. It was a daring approach for Uruguyan first-time writer/director Gustavo Hernández, who discussed its details with Fango.

Based on a real-life case from several decades ago, THE SILENT HOUSE attracted enough attention even before its commercial U.S. debut to get the English-language remake treatment (the American version, directed by the OPEN WATER team of Chris Kentis and Laura Lau and starring Elizabeth Olsen, world-premiered at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year and was picked up for Stateside distribution by Liddell Entertainment). Hernández’s movie follows a young woman named Laura (Florencia Colucci) and her father Nestor (Abel Tripaldi) into the titular abode, which they plan to clean up in preparation for its impending sale—but someone or something inside wants to make sure they don’t exit alive…

FANGORIA: What was the true case that inspired the film?

GUSTAVO HERNÁNDEZ: In the 1940s, in a small town outside of the city, two mutilated bodies and a number of disturbing photographs were found. We reconstructed the last 80 minutes before those murders.

[redacted]