



BULLET MAN



Genre:

Dramedy/dark comedy

Tagline

"A bullet knows no borders."

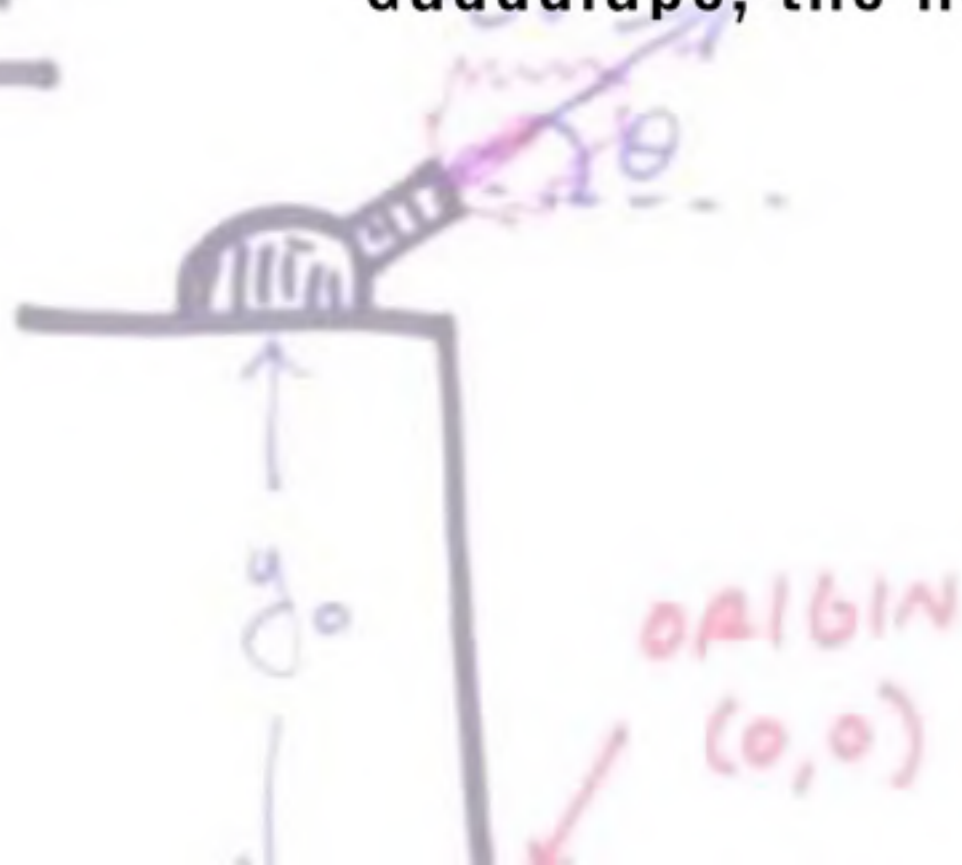


LOGLINE

A Mexican physics teacher's extensive knowledge in aerodynamics coupled with his awkward social skills is challenged when he schemes the most unusual manner to cross the border, in order to reunite with his family in San Diego.

STORY

Pepe Hernández is a Physics professor in Sonora, Mexico, who receives three pieces of news that will change his life. He lost his job, his wife is finally pregnant, and his father-in-law, who lives in San Diego, is terminal with Cancer. With no other option, Pepe and his wife decide to illegally cross the border; however Pepe's fear of being caught prevents him from succeeding. This, in turn, causes the US paramilitaries aka "private militia" to catch the Coyote hired by them. Now, as a refugee in the Circus, Pepe trains to cross the border using the cannon of the Bullet Man at the circus so that he can reunite with his wife and son. It all sounds ideal unless he is caught by Guadalupe, the head of the coyotes, who seeks revenge for the capture of his best man.



SYNOPSIS

Pepe Hernández has a perfect life— a job as a physics teacher at the best school in Sonora, Mexico, a loving wife and a dream house. However, as much as they have tried, they have not been able to conceive a child. Fortunately, a miracle happens and his wife, Ximena, is now with child. She is over the moon and tells the good news to her father, who, sadly, has not-so-good news for her. He has cancer and his life expectancy is no longer than a year. Adding to the situation, her father is in the US—on the other side of the border and his illegal status does not allow him to return to Mexico.

Unfortunately, Ximena and Pedro attempt to get visas to visit the US, and they are denied. To make matters worse, Rodrigo, Pepe's business partner, committed fraud with their company and now the police are looking for the both of them. With no other option, Pepe and Ximena decide to follow the advice of Bertha, their maid. She recommends that they meet with Quique "El Bala", the most famous coyote in the area. After they agree on a price, Pepe and Ximena have to make a decision. Either they risk for Pepe to be caught by the pólice in Mexico, or they invest their life's savings in paying Quique "El Bala" to get them across the border so they can reunite with her father, Señor Valenzuela.

Armed with courage and gathering all their money, Pepe and Ximena decide to pay Quique to sneak them across the border; however, on the day they decide to cross, Pepe panics-- A mixture of claustrophobia and fear, force him to flee and leave his wife alone, abandoning his pregnant wife. The good news is that Ximena managed to make it across to the US. The bad news is Guadalupe, Quique's boss, has now put a price on Pepe's head. The way she sees it, Pepe caused the capturing and arrest of Quique by the American paramilitaries. And now Guadalupe's operations is hanging by a thread.





Cornered, Pepe ends up spending the night hidden within a circus tent. Audelino, the head of the clowns, decides to help him by giving him work with his friends. Made up and turned into a buffoon, he finds the perfect way to hide from his captors. But how is he going to reconnect with his wife?

Surrounded by his new friends, Pepe begins to hatch plans to reconnect with his wife. Some of Pepe's unsuccessful attempts to reconnect with her and their unborn child include an underground tunnel and a homemade submarine. And just when he was about to give up, the solution arrives. Cecilio—aka: the Bullet Man—returns to the circus after a well-deserved vacation. His presence activates Pepe's imagination and he immediately realizes exactly what he needs to do. By locating the correct receipt-point, one can catapult to the other side of the border, achieving an effective crossing and without border patrol noticing him. Logically, it would have to be done at night to avoid detection.

Thus, Pepe decides to learn all he can from the master, Cecilio, so that once he is physically and mentally prepared, he can fly across the sky to reunite with his family. What Pepe doesn't know is that as he prepares to put his plan into action, Guadalupe is desperately looking for him, as he offered the Americans to trade Pepe for Quique. Now, a war is about to break out between both sides, and the most wanted man in that conflict will soon be crossing the sky fleeing from both.

SEASON 1

Pepe Hernández, a prominent physics professor, and business owner, never thought that the US would deny him a visa. He'd invested so much money in a new company with a former client and friend. Hence his surprise, because the visa he applied for was that of a businessman. But neither his entrepreneurial or scientific delusions, contain the fury of Ximena, his wife. At 7 months pregnant, he had promised her that in a few days she and Pepe would both be in the US with her father, Señor Valenzuela. The plan was to meet his soon-to-be-born grandson. The problem is that Sr. Valenzuela has an advanced stage of cancer and with a very short life expectancy.

Pepe, who is used to doing everything in a very straightforward and legal fashion, insists that he will be able to handle the situation, but to everyone's surprise, Pepe's business partner, Rodrigo, dismantled the company and embezzles all their money, making it one of the biggest scams in the history of the city. Sadly, Pepe becomes a suspect and has no choice but to hide in the house of their cleaning lady, Bertha. There, they come into contact with Quique and agree to pay him to get them across the border, but Rivera, the police officer who is handling the embezzlement case, will not rest until he finds both Pepe and his ex-partner, Rodrigo. Ximena's father gets worse and so Ximena rushes Quique to cross the border sooner. Big mistake. The Arizona paramilitaries, led by Donny Osbourne, intercept them. Pepe falls unconscious from the fear but Ximena manages to escape, but Quique is captured.



Pepe wakes up in the middle of a circus where Audelino, the head of the clowns, helps him, but Pepe is desperate to hear from Ximena. She is on the US side of the border believing that her husband has died. But none of them lose hope and seek to find a solution. The problem is that on the Mexican side, Agent Rivera is on Pepe's trail, as is Guadalupe, the boss of Quique who wants revenge for having allowed his best man to be caught. Meanwhile, in the US, Ximena finds comfort when she is finally reunited with her father, but deep inside she is desperate to find Pepe. With no other options to survive, Pepe accepts the job as a clown in the Audelino Circus that doubles as a safe place for him to hide.

With the support of his colorful friends, Pepe begins to hatch all kinds of scientific plans to reach the US, hopefully in time to witness the birth of his son. Good news comes in the way of Cecilio, the Bullet Man when he comes back to the circus. His return gives Pepe a bright idea on how to cross the border—catapult himself out of the cannon to the other side of the border. Pepe becomes Cecilio's protégé and learns everything about his trade. At the same time, Officer Rivera and Guadalupe discover Pepe's hiding place and will do everything necessary to catch him. Meanwhile, Donny and his men negotiate Quique's life. A war breaks out amongst the gangs, coyotes, clowns, and paramilitaries, around an ordinary man who will soar across the sky at any moment.





SEASON 2

A year after achieving the feat of escaping Guadalupe and crossing the border as a human projectile, Pepe, Ximena and their little one are living peacefully in the US, in what was once their father-in-law's house. Margaret, Sr. Valenzuela's widow, is handling the paperwork to legalize their immigration status while Pepe does some small gardening to support his family. Ximena is dedicated to taking care of their one-year-old boy who brings immense happiness to everyone.

While Pepe charges a pittance for taking care of his neighbors' flowers, he is a living legend revered by everyone back in Sonora. There, the streets are overrun with artistic graffiti—praising the legendary Bullet Man. Everything is normal in Pepe's hometown until Guadalupe and his “influences” get out of jail and find Quique, who since was deported back to Mexico, now owns a small taco shop. The former coyote seems to be enjoying the simple and retired life from criminality until his former boss contacts him with orders.

After his incarceration, Guadalupe's business went belly up and his former clients were left in the hands of his rival, Emmanuel. Unfortunately, Guadalupe doesn't know how to do anything else to earn a living; however, he's determined to make up for lost time, but he needs Quique's help. Before he was locked up, he knew about Pepe's feat and realized that he had the solution to all his problems before him. If he could manage to get all of his “customers” through the air, there would be no way to get caught and, even more, he will destroy any competition. Guadalupe has already found his first clients, Alberto and Jonás Sarmiento, the most dangerous criminals in all of Mexico who are currently doing time in prison. Both these criminals need to enter the US as soon as possible for negotiation and the fastest and safest way is to catapult them to the other side of the border.

Guadalupe needs someone he can trust to receive the airborne-illegals from the other side. Although his life of crime is over, Quique's former boss—Guadalupe—is not going to take "no" for an answer, and the plan is put in place.

Pepe, back in Mexico, must adapt to criminal life to protect his wife and son. They threaten Pepe, that if he wants to stay alive to see Ximena again, he will have to organize the operation with Ximena. Ximena will have to receive the "clients" being "flown in" from Mexico. Quique ends up forming a close bond with Pepe and Ximena and tried to protect them. Quique wants to put an end to his criminal career. That said, it seems he has no other option. He will have to cross to the border to start the operation in a very dangerous terrain, guarded by Donny.

The enemies are waiting on both sides of the border. Out of work but with a thirst for revenge, Agent Rivera is still on Pepe's trail, and will not rest until he catches him red-handed to regain his job and honor. In the US, Donny and his men have not rested a day in trying to locate Pepe. He is now "The Most Wanted" illegal in the Black Market; however, Donny has not yet decided whether he wants Pepe "dead or alive".

Ximena, in the USA, guarded by Quique, put into practice the entire plan to receive the "clients" aka the illegals. What no one suspects is that Pepe is sending the two of the most dangerous Mexican criminals directly to Donny's lair. While Pepe deals with the constant threat of being chased by Guadalupe and the rest of the Sarmiento family. Ximena, in the USA, must find a way to enter Mexico without being detected to try and rescue her husband. Fortunately, she already knows all about the craft of being a Bullet Wo-man...so now it will be her turn to fly.



SEASON 3

We pick up where Pepe ends up falling into the hands of the American paramilitaries, and now they have him and Quique. Guadalupe has no way to get his “best man”, Quique, back. The criminal leader threatens, Cicilio, and all the circus staff so that in the same way that Pepe catapulted himself, he catapults his men back. That said, the authorities are aware of this new way of crossing the border, which will now be heavily guarded by land, air, and sea. Audelino and all of Pepe’s circus’ friends, along with Ximena, plan a way to get them both back. Fortunately, the circus owner has powerful friends on the other side, and they find the most powerful cannon in San Diego. Now, everything lays in the hands of Mr. Valenzuela who, with a few friends, will recover Pepe and Quique from the hands of the paramilitaries and catapult them back to Mexico. What nobody suspects are that the leader of the Mexican paramilitaries is Aurelio, Pepe’s missing father.



CHARACTERS

Jose “Pepe” Hernández

Pepe is a very cautious and methodical person, he is always calculating mathematically what is happening around him. This talent led him to be a respected university professor of quantum physics at the University of Sonora, but after 10 years of teaching, he decided to retire entirely from teaching and has been working as a consultant for companies. This has given him a much higher social status.

Pepe still has nightmares about the day he saw Aurelio, his father, being arrested for trying to cross the border illegally. Since then, he has been a model citizen in every sense of the word. He has never run a traffic light, committed any infraction; however, he is cautious to a fault. In addition, he suffers from claustrophobia; therefore, he stays away from closed spaces. He spends his free time assembling models of warplanes, spaceships, or any other device that flies. His passion for aeronautics, NASA, SpaceX, and anything related, always brings a smile to his face.

After many years of trying, Pepe and his wife, Ximena, are finally expecting their first child. Fortunately, they have the financial stability to start a family since Pepe has decided to partner with Rodrigo, a friend with whom he has gradually established a business partnership. From now on, Pepe will be his own boss and lead a brand new company in which he invested all his savings. With this new phase in his life, Pepe seeks financial independence and can finally obtain a visa. This will be great news for Ximena, as they will finally be able to visit her ailing father in the US.





Ximena Valenzuela

Ximena always wanted to be an actress, but she never had enough courage to change from the stability of a salaried job for something as ephemeral as an artist's income. For more than 10 years, she has been a dedicated, highly-respected real estate agent in Hermosillo and this is why Pepe came to her—when he decided to buy a house. They immediately fell in love, and soon after, they were married. Ximena was very sorry that Oscar, her father, was not at her wedding. After her mother died, her father wanted to settle in the United States so he could have a home for his daughter and himself. Meanwhile, Ximena lived with her aunt. She thought it would only be for a few months, but ended up living her whole life with her tia because her dad never managed to have a proper home for them both. However, over time, she forgave him and they began to talk often. They have not seen each other for ages and the pending birth of her first child triggered the need to see her father again.

Oscar Valenzuela

Oscar is Ximena's father and has not seen Ximena in person for 20 years. After the unexpected death of Mariana, his wife, Oscar suffered through this crisis in which he found himself in Hermosillo, at 50, a widower, and without a clear future ahead. So he decided to hire a coyote to cross him into the United States. Since then, he has lived in Tucson, Arizona, where he has been in a loving relationship with Margaret Wilson, the lawyer he hired shortly after arriving in the United States to regularize his illegal status. Although she was never able to do anything about his illegal status, she fell madly in love with him, and they are planning to get married.



Margaret Jones

Margaret is an American lawyer with many years of experience in the immigration area. In her long career, there are very few cases that she has not been able to legalize. Among those is Oscar's. All the time she invested in him and his immigration process has made both of them very close. Although she had just separated and he had just become a widow, they found solace in each other. What started as a working relationship developed into an intense love for each other. Margaret's ex never wanted to give her a divorce until just recently when he relented and granted it. Finally, this lady-lawyer will be able to marry the love of her life and Oscar will be able to be an American citizen.



Enrique Rivera

Enrique Rivera was a highly respected agent in Mexico City and his adroit skills were about to grant him the position of detective, but a particular setback truncated his path: He decided to release a criminal because he was part of his wife's family, and unfortunately, a camera recorded the incident. For a long time, his superiors wondered what to do with him, until they decided to transfer him to Hermosillo as punishment for a few months. It was determined that if in that time period he does not prove himself worthy of the police force, he will be suspended indefinitely. In this new stage of his career, Enrique feels deeply bitter and the new environment does not help him. He will have to do his part to regain his career and return to his city, with his family.



Guadalupe Yanez

Guadalupe was born in Hermosillo, Mexico, as were several generations of his family. His father, Evaristo Yáñez, was a humble farmer who discovered the business involved in smuggling people into the United States. The first tunnels, double compartments in cars, and "human furniture" were his invention. From a very young age, Guadalupe learned all the details of the family business and when his father died, he inherited the throne. Currently, he is the richest and most powerful man in the región and is practically untouchable. Everyone respects him because everyone has a relative who has "crossed over" thanks to Guadalupe and his services. But times are changing and the paramilitaries on the US border are complicating his business. As long as he has Quique in his ranks, everything will be fine.



Quique Mateos

Quique works for the most feared criminal leader in Sonora, Guadalupe Yáñez, who is like his father figure since he picked him up from the street at age 8. Since then, he has taught him everything he needs to survive on the streets and gave him a job within his organization. In the beginning, Quique helped the coyotes by finding them clients, and later on, he accompanied them to a certain point. Today, Quique has become the best coyote, not only in Guadalupe but in the entire region. His impeccable track record of crossing people to the other side has caused immense displeasure in the competition, who fail to emerge because of Quique. He has never failed a client, and the creative ways he has of camouflaging and introducing those who hire him have earned him the fame of the best. More than once they have tried to shoot him to death and have never succeeded. The last time he was shot was the only bullet to hit him, and now it hangs as an amulet on a chain around his neck. Donny and his friends are desperate to catch him, a task that keeps getting harder every day.



Audelino López

Audelino belongs to a multi-generational family of clowns. Coincidentally, he was born inside the circus; for him, there is nothing beyond the tent. With his vast experience on the subject, he is the “The Boss” of the clowns; therefore, anyone who is interested in being a jester in the circus must go through his approval and training. Because his entire life is dedicated to working, Audelino never married or had children; however, he is a man with a huge heart, always ready to help those in need. Sadly, he suffers from Tourette Syndrome, a handicap when it comes to entertaining his audience, so his presentations are usually very short.



Cecilio “Bullet Man” González

Cecilio González is a bitter and extremely reserved old man, especially in everything that has to do with his job: being the Bullet Man of the circus. He carries the responsibility of being the "main act" under the tent, but his bad temper and habits make him lose more and more able to continue to shine as he once did. After hitting on a spectator who called him "an old drunk" in the middle of the show, his friend, decided to send him to Europe to perfect his craft. Now refreshed and with a host of tricks up his sleeve, Cecilio returns to the circus better than ever. Unfortunately, he will meet a new-comer who will have an unusual interest in his trade and will make his return less placid than he expected.



Donny Osbourne

Donny is the leader of the paramilitaries that guard the North American border. Originally from Arizona, Donny decided to leave his city life after his wife left him for an illegal Mexican. Since then, he has vowed to stop all those foreigners who want to enter his country illegally. Accompanied by several friends with the same thought, Donny invested his savings in weapons and since then he has guarded the border with a thirst for revenge. However, like all mercenaries, he has a price. Because of his vested interests, the Mexican border has become a business. Each illegal alien he catches can be sold on the black market. He has a personal vendetta to eliminate Guadalupe and all his allies since he is the main cause that the USA is filling with those dirty Mexicans.



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