

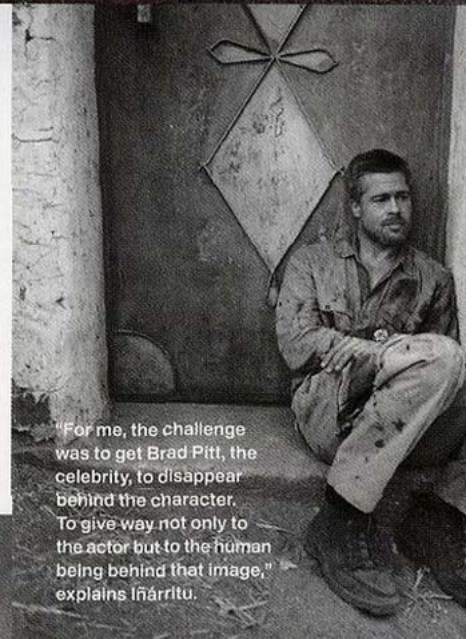
# the making of *Babel*

A unique and evocative glimpse behind the scenes of this acclaimed film



**BABEL IS THE FINAL FILM IN MEXICAN** director Alejandro González Iñárritu's trilogy, which began in 2000 with *Amores Perros*, followed by *21 Grams* in 2003. It stars Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett as a couple on holiday in Morocco whose tour bus is hit by gunfire, leaving Blanchett's character fighting for her life. A series of interlocking, poignant and mostly painful tales unfolds involving six different families. While filming the epic, which is set in Morocco, Mexico, Japan and the US,

Iñárritu asked photographers Mary Ellen Mark, Patrick Bard, Graciela Iturbide and Miguel Rio Branco to compile a visual memoir of filming, and a record of the real-life characters who helped make the film. This selection of seductive photographs is part of Iñárritu's resulting book, *Babel*. "In a considerable part of the planet, borders and airports have become a carnival of distrust and degradation," says Iñárritu. "In filming *Babel* I confirmed that the real borderlines are within ourselves." — **Juliet Rieden**



"For me, the challenge was to get Brad Pitt, the celebrity, to disappear behind the character. To give way not only to the actor but to the human being behind that image," explains Iñárritu.



**BELOW:** Cate Blanchett as Susan in her tour bus, in Morocco. **LEFT:** Blanchett with Iñárritu, who recounts, "While in Morocco, Cate's one-year-old son [Roman] suffered a second-degree burn. She flew the child to London. Two days later, assured her son would be fine, she gave us a lesson in professionalism such as I had never seen and was back acting the part."

