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PRESENTS

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A FERNANDO SZURMAN SERIES

# THE MASTER KEY

BABEL SCROLLS

# Tech Specs

Título: **The Master Key**

Tagline: Babel Scrolls

Genre: Thriller / Mystery / Adventure

Logline: Five centuries after Philip II dies with pieces of a scroll in his hand, a young retired cryptographer, along with the heiress to the mystery, must decipher the message on twelve of the same scrolls, to unlock the secret of the Universe: the legacy of Babel: the original language.

Length: 8 Ep x 60 min.

Format: 4K - HDR Color

Script: Fernando Szurman, Jordi Cantavella y Roger Menduïña

Based in the original novel from original de Agustín Sánchez Vidal: "The Master Key", 2005

Countries: USA - Spain

Languages: English, Spanish and various.

Audience: +14



# Synopsis

An underground labyrinth guards the most enigmatic secret of the Universe, a coded truth that dates back to the beginning of time.

"The master key," whispers Philip II on his deathbed, clutching a fragment of parchment covered in mysterious inscriptions. This fragment has been discovered by Raimundo Randa, a cunning agent of the king's fearsome spy network. But it is only one of the twelve pieces that make up the complete message. Who possesses the remaining eleven? What meaning do these incomprehensible symbols conceal? Randa will embark on a thrilling odyssey through 16th-century Spain, immersed in the tensions and alliances of Christians, Jews, and Muslims, to unravel the enigma.

Five centuries later, the unsettling parchment is once again at the center of a global conspiracy. Young cryptographer David Calderón, an expert in dead languages and undecipherable codes, now faces the mystery. The challenge surpasses all expectations, as he must grapple with an unprecedented code that defies known logic. Like Randa, David will have to navigate and challenge the powerful interests of those who, in the shadows, oppose the master key finally turning in its lock. What is at stake is the secret guarded by the parchment, the legacy of Babel, the primordial language from which the Universe originates.

"Tradition teaches us that men, before the construction of the Tower of Babel, spoke a single language... It is this language that the ancient philosophers called the language of the birds; it is the language of nature, the only one that allows for the direct understanding of hidden truths."

**El misterio de las catedrales. Fulcanelli.**



# Notes

This essential work of Spanish literature, whose relevance is perceived through the conflict between human beings and their beliefs, their cultures, and their encounters and disagreements, skillfully narrates how generations, cultures, and paths are segmented, from the 12 tribes, to the pieces of parchment held by Philip II on his deathbed. A single God, a single book, but paths as diverse as human languages, have sectioned knowledge, curtailed understanding and respect, and have produced some of the most cruel intellectual, religious, and, therefore, political confrontations, typical of this segmentation of convenience for the exercise of power. It is well known that information is power, when used to favor a certain outcome.

Vidal begins his book with a ceremony of peace, union, and popular and cultural integration, yet it is appropriated by one of the factions and interrupted by the profound sound of a secret that emerges when it is most needed. We all speak the same language, that of Babel. If we can return to a common language, we can value unity and knowledge. The one that flowed non-stop within the walls of Toledo and Córdoba, during the second arrival of the Arabs to the Iberian Peninsula, bringing back with them the Aristotelian Organon, which is translated between Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, to be distributed as necessary knowledge. Language is what connects human beings to make them one. The philosopher's stone of this language is hidden beneath the earth, waiting to resurface when it is necessary to unite us again

# Director



## FERNANDO SZURMAN

Passionate about writing and directing stories. Fernando loves fantasy worlds and mythical tales as well as thrillers and suspense. He became a director and producer to get his vivid imagination on screen and share a world of mystery and magic. He started working in the film industry in 2001. Since then, he has worked for major production companies as an Assistant Director, Producer and VFX Producer. In 2010 he directed "ECOS" (TV Series), in 2019 his short film «Black Water» was selected in Sitges «Coming Soon» and other important international film festivals around the world.

In 2023 Fernando Moved to Spain, where he recently directed his first Feature film: AMI, a Sci Fi thriller featuring Mads Mikkelsen and Diane Kruger now in Post production and to be released in 2027. He's now developing several projects on his path to specialize in the fantastic and mysterious.



# Author

Sánchez Vidal's career is notably distinguished by his contribution to the study of cinema. After studying Philosophy and Literature in Zaragoza, he obtained the newly created chair in History of Cinema and Other Audiovisual Media starting in 1991.

A crucial milestone was his collaboration with Luis Buñuel in Mexico in 1980 to edit his literary work, resulting in *Luis Buñuel, obra literaria* (Luis Buñuel, Literary Work) (1982). This was followed by numerous and fruitful studies on the filmmaker, making him one of his greatest experts, with titles such as *Luis Buñuel, obra cinematográfica* (Luis Buñuel, Cinematographic Work) (1984) and *Vida y opiniones de Luis Buñuel* (Life and Opinions of Luis Buñuel) (1985).

In parallel, he promoted fundamental monographs on Aragonese film directors, including the pioneers Jimeno, Chomón, Florián Rey, Borau, and Saura, embodied in books such as *El cine de Carlos Saura* (The Cinema of Carlos Saura) (1988), *Borau* (1990), and *El cine de Segundo de Chomón* (The Cinema of Segundo de Chomón) (1992). Furthermore, he documented the history of cinema in Zaragoza with *Los Jimeno y los orígenes del cine en Zaragoza* (The Jimenos and the Origins of Cinema in Zaragoza) (1994) and *El Siglo de la Luz* (The Century of Light) (1997), and published a popular manual, *Historia del cine* (History of Cinema) (1997). His award-winning essay, *Buñuel, Lorca, Dalí: el enigma sin fin* (Buñuel, Lorca, Dalí: The Endless Enigma) (1988), and his collaboration on the screenplay for the film *Buñuel y la mesa del rey Salomón* (Buñuel and the King Solomon's Table) (2001) reaffirm his specialization in cinema and its key figures.



**STARTAUFLAGE:  
125.000 EXEMPLARE**

**AGUSTÍN SÁNCHEZ VIDAL**  
**KRYPTUM**

Buchpaket  
(ISBN: 3-423-98491-0)  
Bodensdisplay mit  
50 Exemplaren und  
1 Streifenplakat

Anno Domini 1582. Raimundo Randa wartet auf seinen Inquisitionsprozess. Hinter ihm liegt eine lange Reise voller Gefahren. Mehr als einmal hat er seine Identität und sogar seinen Glauben gewechselt, um dem Geheimnis eines mit kryptischen Zeichen beschrifteten Pergaments auf die Spur zu kommen. Von diesem geht eine mysteriöse Macht aus, die weit in die Vergangenheit zurückreicht... Über 400 Jahre später verschwindet die Wissenschaftlerin Sara Toledano spurlos. Hat sie den Schlüssel zum Geheimnis ihrer Vorfahren gefunden, nach dem sie ein halbes Leben lang gesucht hat? Kurz zuvor hatte sie ihrem Mitarbeiter David vier Fragmente eines Pergaments geschickt. In größter Sorge macht sich der Kryptologe daran, die geheime Botschaft zu entschlüsseln. Doch er ist nicht der Einzige, der den Code aus uralter Zeit knacken will...

Agustín Sánchez Vidal ist Professor für Kunstgeschichte und audiovisuelle Medien an der Universität Zaragoza. Nebenher arbeitet er als Drehbuchautor. *Kryptum*: stürmte in Spanien sofort nach Erscheinen die Bestsellerlisten.





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