

José Ignacio Valenzuela

HASHTAG

La vida sin filtro

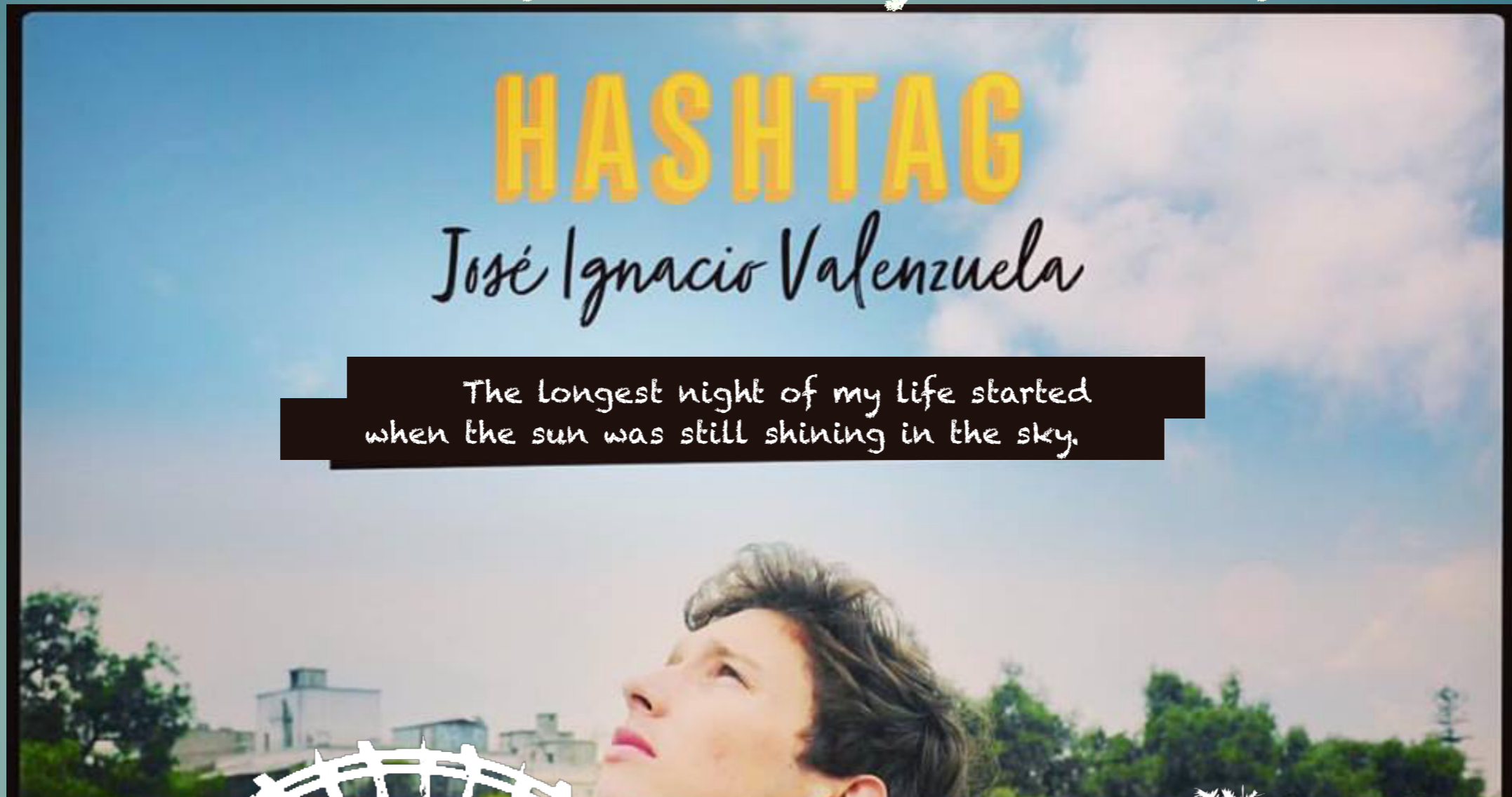


What should one do when a simple hashtag is not enough to show your feelings?

HASHTAG

José Ignacio Valenzuela

The longest night of my life started when the sun was still shining in the sky.



**A TV SERIES OF 10 EPISODES, 40 MINUTES EACH.
BASED ON THE HOMONYMOUS NOVEL.**

A STORY OF THREE BROKEN TEENAGERS WHOSE PATHS UNEXPECTEDLY CROSS. THEY ARE ABLE TO HELP EACH OTHER CURE THEIR BROKEN HEARTS, IN AN INCREASINGLY SOLITARY WORLD LARGELY AFFECTED BY SOCIAL MEDIA, RACISM AND GUILT.

JOSÉ IGNACIO VALENZUELA

“Chascas” Valenzuela (1972, Chile) is a Chilean writer and screenwriter. His work includes more than twenty books published in different languages like the bestsellers “Trilogía del Malamor”, “El filo de tu piel”, “La mujer infinita”, “Malaluna”, “Mi abuela la loca”, “Hashtag”, “Mi tío Pachungay”, and the short story collections “Con la noche encima” y “Salida de emergencia”.

Simultaneously, he has developed a career as a writer for film, theatre and TV in Chile, México, Puerto Rico and the United States. His soap operas, “La casa de al lado” and “Santa Diabla”, both produced by Telemundo-NBC, have gone around the world, reaching record audience shares figures. As a professor, he has given lectures on scriptwriting and creative writing in great part of Latin America and at universities in Mexico, Chile, the United States, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

Throughout his career, he has been given several international recognitions, such as that of the Sundance Institute and one nomination to the Emmy Awards. He won the Prix du Gran Jury in France for his work as a screenwriter. His film “Miente” (Puerto Rico, 2009) was selected as the Puerto Rican entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards in 2011. The New York Times magazine About.com included him in the list of the 10 best Latin American writers.





THEORETICAL FRAME

Nowadays everything is grouped, organized, tagged and linked through hashtags. Even our feelings. Why so? Simply because one hashtag is something collective and anonymous. Furthermore, it is the safest way to hide from the others' critiques.

All of us who were raised without social networks had to face, obstacles, rejections, contempt, mocking... everything face to face. It was not easy to ask somebody out and be instantly rejected. Social networks have wiped out that phase. Nowadays one is rejected with an emoji or a GIF. This is somehow not that humiliating, since mobile phones serve as shields and armours to overcome the denial. Lastly, if you are not happy with the response, you can literally erase the message and that's it.

Social media provides people with the self-confidence to ask something they would never ask face to face. However, it also makes people thinner skinned to receive answers that in person would hurt much more. Social networks create an accommodating territory where cowards and courageous people can manipulate everything as they please and always be victorious.

The problem is that this creates human beings whose only tools are basically virtual. They do not know how to function in the real and tangible world, a world full of tears, blood and sweat. What does one do when life puts you through unbearable pain that no Instagram filter can hide? What does one do when you are in the middle of such an enormous tragedy that there are no hashtags to contain it?

Hashtag, the TV series, tries to give answers to those questions.



SYNOPSIS

Matías is a boy who, in appearance, has everything: two perfect parents who consider him the best son in the world, a luxurious mansion in the most exclusive district – and the best education money can buy. Matías has a classmate as mysterious as attractive, and a popular social media profile he must constantly feed. Matias will discover that showing himself on the Internet as the perfect kid through his strategic posts – to increase the number of followers and keep his virtual alter ego – has a price: a painful and cruel one.

Pedro is a teenager of native descent who has been hospitalized for several months due to a spinal cord injury. His whole world has been reduced to a white hospital bedroom that stinks of disinfectant. Lying in his hospital bed, Pedro misses the world outside, his bucolic hometown, his house in the woods, the deep green colors, and the girl with the dragonfly tattoo.



SYNOPSIS

Jade is searching for her identity and a story of her own. She is very flamboyant, and weekly dyes her hair depending on her mood. Besides that, she loves listening to 80's music. She believes in tarot, astrology, soulmates, and the impact planets might have on us. Unwillingly, she will have to face a big dose of reality when Matías, her best friend, goes through a terrible tragedy.

What do the native boy Pedro, the pink-haired-girl Jade, and the privileged teenage Matías have in common? The three of them have just begun to live their own lives, they have lots to learn and a long way to go. Furthermore, they all decided to hide their real feelings behind their social media profiles in order to survive in this cruel world. It was very unlikely that their paths would ever cross, but they unexpectedly find each other and become inseparable.



SYNOPSIS

It all begins when Matías finds out his parents have had a car accident: his father has passed away and his mother agonizes in the ICU. At the same hospital, Pedro is waiting for a medical miracle that will allow him to walk again — he broke some of his vertebrae in a very unclear event—. Jade finds herself in a conundrum: she does not know whether to remain faithful to Matías' friendship or to give herself to the love she starts feeling for Pedro.

After the tragic event, Matías realizes he does not know how to handle such deep pain. How would he, if all the contact he's ever had with the real world has been through the screen of his phone? Up to that moment, he was used to adjusting his reality through Instagram filters, or simply soften his feelings through the hashtags he shared. Now, none of that's enough. How will he go on with his life?



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SYNOPSIS

Pedro does not know how to proceed either. He cannot accept the fact that he might never walk again. In fact, had it not been for his mother who works as a nurse in the hospital, he would have never been admitted in such an exclusive place, full of people pretending not to look down on him because of his lineage. The only thing he can do is to avoid reality by diving in the kind lie of social networks.

Matías and Pedro will find out they cannot avoid their own fate thanks to Jade. She is responsible for the emerging and incipient friendship between the boys despite their big differences. Through the photos, Pedro asks Matías to take of the outside world, their lives start to take a complete new course: they need each other. Little by little, one will influence the other, and vice versa, provoking slight changes.



SYNOPSIS

Sometimes, in order to transform the whole world, just a little modification is required. Then, what it seemed to be two completely different and opponent worlds, converge into a common territory, where racism is erased, the burden of perfection disappears, and only the aim is to keep on going even though one might not find strong reasons to do so.

To the tune of the 80's music, and armed with a phone with Instagram, Matías, Pedro and Jade will have to face their inner demons with no filters, and no hashtags.

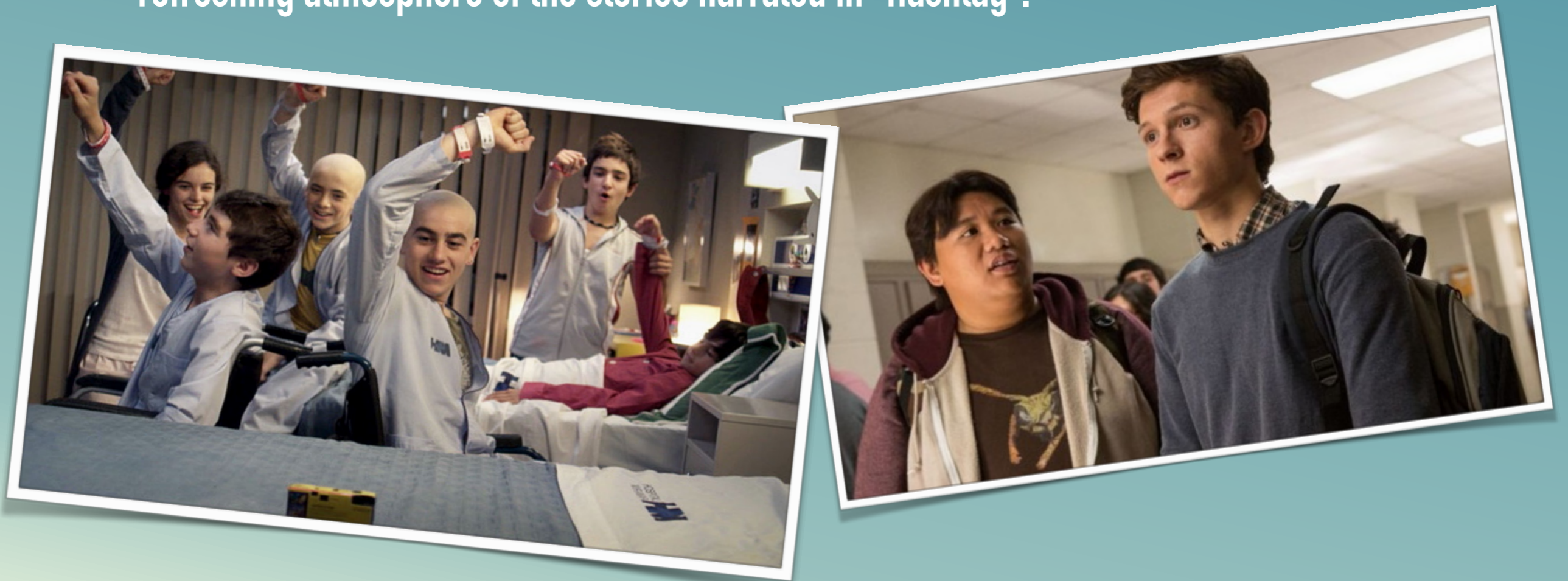
Will Jade manage to forge a friendship between the two boys to keep on as Matías' best friend and become Pedro's girlfriend? Will Pedro be able to reconstruct his past to accept the present? Will Matías reveal to his friends the terrible secret that haunts him, and which provoked his parents' car crash?





RELEVANT INFORMATION

“Hashtag” the novel has sold thousands of copies in Latin America. It was particularly highly acclaimed in Mexico and Argentina. José Ignacio Valenzuela’s unique writing skills have brought him several audiovisual awards. He is considered one of the best Latin American writers and all of his might has been translated into the originality and refreshing atmosphere of the stories narrated in “Hashtag”.



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