

WARNING - THE BEGINNING OF THIS CLIP, FROM A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT PABLO ESCOBAR AND HIS FAMILY, CONTAINS LANGUAGE NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN.

Juan Pablo Escobar, the son of Pablo Escobar, has changed his name. Known today as Sebastian Marroquin, he and his family live in Argentina, not their homeland of Colombia.

An architect, Marroquin has apologized to people whose family members were murdered on the orders of Pablo Escobar. He has also participated in "Sins of My Father," a documentary about his own father, the former drug lord.

In an interview with the *Buenos Aires Herald*, Pablo's son explains why he agreed to make "Pecados de Mi Padre" (as the film is called in Spanish):

I've rejected lots of money-making projects because they glorified the gangster style and image of my father. I never agreed with that idea because it seemed the opposite message to the lifestyle that I've chosen to lead. So I've always said 'no' to those kinds of proposals.

But Nicolas [the director of the film is Nicolas Entel] suggested telling the story from the children's point of view, not just mine, so as to integrate everybody else's point of view. And that's when I thought this story could have an interesting turn.

"The children" are Rodrigo Lara Restrepo and three Galan brothers (Juan Manuel, Carlos and Claudio), all sons of Colombian politicians - Rodrigo Lara Bonilla (1946 - 1984) and Luis Carlos Galan (1943 - 1989) - whose fathers were murdered on Pablo Escobar's orders.

Marroquin continues with his explanation of the documentary:

Nicolas in fact called me a year before and I said 'no'. I've never hidden what has happened to me from anyone, but I realized this would give a vision to other families who have suffered at the hands of violence. But I think everything happens for a reason with specific synchrony.

So I wanted to tell the story but not more of the same in which they simply tell the story and don't leave you with a message. I always wanted to find another way of telling it — not so I was putting my father on a pedestal — but so we become aware of it so it doesn't happen again.

We were still exposed when we changed our identity and residency and when your secret place is no longer secret, and neither is your name, that led me to realize that there is nothing left to hide. The only thing that remained was to advance and share with the next generation what has happened.

Rejecting his father's way of life, Marroquin wants the documentary to warn people about drugs and the drug-selling/using world:

I've learned a lot of lessons from the worlds of violence and drug trafficking. And I chose not to continue down those paths. Not because I'm afraid or fear the law but because I have an intimate and human conviction that to enter those games is not the right thing to do. That's what the violence I've suffered has taught me. I feel I have a social and moral task to return the message that life has taught me.

Turn on the TV and you'll see programmes that allude to the cartels and they show everything through rose-tinted spectacles. Beautiful girls, cars, mansions, money. It's all wonderful. That's the height of being a drug dealer. The suffering and death comes after that if you're successful. So it's important to me to show the opposite to what everybody thinks, the glamour, and all that.

Kids enter the game as if nothing has ever happened before and I can see generation after generation clashing, and we're in the same situation. I want the violence to stop, not just for me but for Colombia.

Beyond warning others about the reality of life in a drug-using and drug-trafficking world, Marroquin seeks forgiveness from those whom his father harmed:

There is also the necessity to ask for forgiveness for my father's actions. They aren't mine but I have to say to you that society has persecuted and punished us as if we were Pablo Escobar. The film allows a minute's silence to hear our voices and to say 'this is our story, this is how we live, please understand that to be someone's son doesn't mean they are also an accomplice.'

The documentary is a way for us to send this message to society that they separate us as individuals and not as cartel members. We are members of the boss' family, but we aren't the cartel.

Esobar's son remembers what it was like to play childhood games with his father. Even before they started a game of *Monopoly*, for example, Pablo would plan how he would win (by cheating), as his son tells us in the documentary:

If we had plans to play Monopoly that night, he would set everything up in advance.

Either he or one of his associates would take money out of the box and hide it under the rug or under the couch in the living room. He then knew exactly where he had to sit in the living room to get the money.

So then, of course, six hours later, we would all sit down and open the box for what we thought was the first time. We would start the game and hand out the money according to the rules of the game, everything was going fine until he would lose and lose and lose, but would never run out of cash.

Winning, at all costs, was important to Pablo Escobar.

HBO first aired "[Sins of My Father](#)" on October 4, 2010.

See, also:

[Pablo Escobar - Narcos](#)

[Pablo Escobar in the Eyes of His Family](#)

Credits:

Trailer for "[Sins of My Father](#)," online courtesy Radio Netherlands Worldwide and YouTube.

Quoted passages from an extended [interview with Sebastian Marroquin](#), by Sorrell Moseley-Williams, published in the *Buenos Aires Herald*, 24 October 2010 (Edition Number 2885).

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Pablo-Escobar-Sebastian-Marroquin-Sins-of-My-Father>

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