

Carles Porta i Gaset

Vila-sana, El Pla d'Urgell, 1963

Lighting the darkness.

Carles Porta is a journalist, writer, screenwriter, director and producer. He has become one of the most prominent exponents of the *true crime genre* in radio, television and literary formats. At the helm of the production company True Crime Factory, he has built a team of screenwriters, documentary filmmakers and filmmakers specialized in the genre of *true crime* and true storytelling.

His way of explaining is characterized by what he calls: "the formula of the three R's": Rigor, Respect and Narrative Rhythm. He always likes to say that "there is nothing more powerful than a good story well explained". What he tries to achieve in all his creations is to establish a bond with the listener, viewer or reader by weaving trust and generating emotions.

As a journalist he took his first steps in the Lleida newspaper *Segre*, his first major school of journalism. He joined TV3 in 1990, first in the Lleida delegation as an image operator, then passed the ENG (reporter) exams and, later, as an editor. In 1992 he began working at the headquarters, in Sant Joan Despí, where he combined a lot of time as a reporter in the news services and as an editor in the *30 Minuts* program, another of his schools. On specific occasions, he was part of the teams of special envoys in conflicts such as those in Bosnia, Rwanda, Kosovo or the Middle East, among others. On 10 June 2000 he directed a 48-hour news special on the rains in Montserrat (perhaps the first news special). In 2004 he created and directed the program *Efecte Mirall*.

In September 2005 he left TV3 to set up his first production company, Antàrtida Produccions. One of his first audiovisual projects was the *Pica lletres* contest, which is still alive today, surely being the longest-running language contest on television. With Antàrtida he also made programmes such as *Bocamoll* or *Manduka*, and the film *Segon Origen* (2015), which was the posthumous project of Bigas Luna, and the historical docu-fiction series *Comtes, l'origen de Catalunya* (2017).

In November 2005 he published his first book, *Tor, tretze cases i tres morts*, with La Campana, edited by Josep Maria Espinàs and Isabel Martí, his great masters of narrative. The book was very well received by critics – they came to call it "our Truman Capote" – and, above all, by readers. *Tor* became a phenomenon that has sold 80,000 copies and has been translated into Spanish (Anagrama 2006), German (Berlin Verlag 2007) and French (Marchialy 2023).

After *Tor*, he has published other titles such as *El club dels perfectes* (La Campana 2010) – winner of the Pere Quart Prize for Humour and Satire – and *Fago. Si et diuen que el teu germà es un assassí* in Catalan and Spanish (La Campana 2012), which received the Huertas Clavería award. Later he wrote works such as *L'amic president* (La Campana 2016), *Li deien pare* (Pòrtico/Península 2016) -Godó Prize for Journalism- and *El dia que vaig marxar* (Fanbooks

2017), his, for the moment, the only work of fiction. In September 2023 she published *L'ocell i el secret*, a children's story with illustrations by Pilarín Bayés in collaboration with the Fundació Concepció Juvanteny to denounce and raise awareness about child abuse.

The current success of the programme *Crims*, (2018-2026) with seven seasons on Catalunya Ràdio and six on TV3, and *El doble crim de Bellvitge* (2025), once again highlights the acceptance and enthusiasm of the audience for Carles Porta's way of telling stories. Likewise, the *Crims* program *has* been broadcast dubbed into Spanish on the Movistar Plus+ platform under the name of *Crímenes*, with six seasons available (the last one premiered in July 2026).

The great following of the program was also transferred to the exhibition format with *Crims. L'exposició*, which opened in October 2022 and ended in April 2023, exceeding 150,000 visits at the Palau Robert in Barcelona.

He was also a pioneer in the podcast sector. In 2016 he adapted the case of the book *Li deien pare* to the sound world and created the podcast *Le llamaban padre* on the Podium Podcast platform. In June 2018, the podcast *Tor, tretze casos i tres morts en Catalunya Ràdio* had more than 288,000 on-demand audio reproductions since its premiere. In this same format he continued with *El segrest* in Catalunya Ràdio (October 2020), where he tells the story of the kidnapping of the Olot pharmacist, Maria Àngels Feliu, with a series of 25 episodes recorded with immersive binaural sound that obtained 500,000 downloads in one month.

In May 2021, he premiered a new podcast show on Amazon Audible titled *¿Por qué matamos?*, which has already accumulated nine seasons and two monographs: *Dieguito el Malo* (2022) and *Operación Tepuy* (2023). It is one of the most listened to podcasts on the platform. Also, in September 2025, he launched a new podcast within the *Crims* orbit called *El jurat* on Catalunya Ràdio, with 11 episodes that explore the intricacies of the judicial system from a new perspective: that of citizens who are part of a popular jury. In October 2025, *¿Por qué matamos?* was awarded Best Narrative Podcast at Podcast Days. Finally, in January 2026, the podcast *AP7: la narcopista* was released, made by the True Crime Factory team, a 10-episode documentary podcast that explores drug trafficking and organized crime along the route that connects Catalonia with the rest of Europe.

In March 2021 he published the book *La farmacéutica* in Catalan and Spanish (La Campana/Reservoir Books), where he narrates the kidnapping of Maria Àngels Feliu through a more mature and rounded story and with more details than those that appear in the podcast. The objective was to explain everything that really happened as it had not been done before, from the perspective of the victim.

In 2020, what would become the CRIMS collection, books related to the program, began to be published. The first was *Tot el que llegireu és real* (La Campana 2020) and in Spanish *Crímenes. Siete historias de oscuridad* (Reservoir Books 2023); below, *Crims. Llum a la foscor* (La Campana 2022) and in Spanish *Crímenes. Diez casos reales* (Reservoir Books 2022); thirdly, *Crims. Pecats capitals* (La Campana 2023) and in Spanish *Crímenes. Pecados capitales* (Reservoir Books 2023). Two years later, it was added to the collection *L'hora de la veritat* (La Campana 2025), in Spanish *La hora de la verdad* (Reservoir Books 2025), and *El lloc del crim* (La Campana 2025). The latest book is *Impacte. Les cares del mal* (La Campana 2026) and *Impacto. Las caras del mal* (Reservoir Books 2026). The six volumes are a compilation of cases explained on television and radio, with some unpublished. These are books in which the team's scriptwriters have participated, and to which must be added the journalistic chronicle *La noia de Portbou* (La Campana 2022) by Anna Punsí and Marta Freixanet.

In October 2021, Catalunya Ràdio's *Crims* programme won the Ondas award for Best Radio Programme. The same year he also won the National Communication Award. In 2022 he was awarded the Zapping Award for Best Entertainment Program and Carles Porta for Best Presenter. In 2023 and for the second year in a row, *Crims* won the Zapping for Best Entertainment Program.

El asesino de la baraja, an original series by RTVE, Goroka and executive produced by Carles Porta, was awarded the Best True Crime award at the World Media Festival in Hamburg (May 2023).

In June 2023, the chapter of *Crims* in Catalunya Ràdio entitled *Atracament a Valls: salvar la vida pels pèls* was awarded the Cristina Requena Giró Journalism Award at the 40th edition of the Valls Awards Night.

In October 2023, the series *Luz en la oscuridad* premiered, a Movistar Plus+ original in collaboration with True Crime Factory and Goroka, of which Carles is director, creator and narrator. The second season premiered in October 2024. Another exclusive product of this platform is the miniseries *La caza del solitario* (April 2025), a 3-episode *true crime* about one of the most mediatic cases of the Spanish crime chronicle, also produced by True Crime Factory and Goroka. In November of that same year, 3 new cases were released under the name *Un true crime de Carles Porta* also on Movistar Plus+ and with the same collaborators, that continued with 3 more new cases in May-July 2026.

In April 2024, he published *Tor. Foc encès* (La Campana) and in Spanish *Tor. El fuego que no se apaga* (Reservoir Books) picking up the story of the town of Tor that launched its career 20 years ago. That same month, the series *Tor, Foc encès*, written and directed by Carles Porta, premiered. A 30-chapter production with the collaboration of Goroka, Ikiru Films and True Crime Factory. At the end of June, the series dubbed in Spanish was also released on Atresplayer and it was the best historical premiere of a documentary on the platform. In addition, *Tor* won the Produ Awards for Best Criminal Chronicle Documentary Series 2024. On June 17, 2025, a year later, the series premiered free-to-air on La Sexta.

In May 2025, the Forbes list selected *Crims* as one of the 50 Best Podcasts in Spain.

In March 2026, the team of screenwriters of Season 5 of *Crims* won the Premio Alma for Best Screenplay of a Documentary Series awarded to Marc Cases, Ignasi Gisbert, Martí Haro, Minaia Llorca, Nil Montilla, Javi Oms, Anna Punsí and Xènia Sanromà.

In 2026, were released the first two series of Luminol Media, a fiction and entertainment production company created by Carles Porta. The documentary *Abandonados* was released in May of that year on Disney+ platform, and the fiction serie *33 días* was released in June on atresplayer platform.

In July 2026, was released a 10-episode documentary called *Rescue Center*, produced by Atresmedia and True Crime Factory, about the work of the Jaguar Rescue Center in Costa Rica, opening a new line of productions far from criminal investigation, but with great stories behind it.

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