### 40 Documentary Films from & about

# Latin America

Including 4 New Releases and 11 Films on DVD for the First Time!

# Death Squadrons: The French School

A Film by Marie-Monique Robin

DEATH SQUADRONS reveals how French veterans of the wars in Indochina and Algeria provided the inspiration, training, and some of the intelligence that allowed Latin America's dictators to torture and kill thousands of their own citizens during the '70s and '80s.

"A valuable contribution to the study of state terror... Highly Recommended for undergraduate and graduate students as well as experts."—The Americas: A Quarterly Journal of Inter-American Cultural History

> 2004 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

2004 Human Rights Watch Film Festival

SQUADRONS
also shows how,
during the
1960's, the
French were
instrumental
in training
U.S. officers
at Fort Bragg
on counterinsurgency
techniques that
were later used
by the U.S. military in Vietnam.
Filmed in France,

DEATH

the U.S., Argentina and Chile, the film traces the development of the theory of counter-revolutionary warfare, first tested in the French wars in Indochina and in Algeria. Some of its foremost practitioners, like French General

tioners, like French General Paul
Aussaresses, freely admit their contributions,
even with a hint of pride. Others are surreptitiously captured on a hidden camera, admitting high-level political and military links
between the dictators and the French government. Many of those interviewed are now
either in custody or under indictment.

60 minutes | color | 2003 | **Order #LA8-01** Sale/DVD: \$390

- Introduction, & Lessons from Indochina
- Algeria: Applying Counterinsurgency Warfare
- 3. Argentina, 1959
- **4.** The U.S.: School of the Americas, & Vietnam
- 5. Brazil & Chile
- 6. Argentina's Dirty War
- 7. France's Political Complicity
- 8. Operation Condor

# Can't Do It in Europe

A Film by Anna Weitz, Anna Klara Åhréns, & Charlotta Copcutt



CAN'T DO IT IN EUROPE portrays the new phenomenon of "reality tourism." whereby bored American or European travelers seek out real-life experiences as exciting tourist "adventures." The film follows a group of such tourists as they visit the mines in Potosi—the poorest city in the poorest nation in Latin America—where Bolivian miners work by hand, just as they did centuries ago, to extract silver from the earth.

Led by their Bolivian tour guide, and walking through constricted, muddy and poorly ventilated tunnels, breathing fetid air laced with arsenic, asbestos and toxic gases, the tourists take in the "sights" with goggle-eyed amazement. Although they give the miners recommended gifts of coca leaves and soft drinks, the cultural encounter is no less awkward, with the miners cracking jokes about the "arin-

aitos" and wondering, "God knows why they come to see us."

Chapters:

- 1. Start
- 2. The Tour Office
- 3. Experience Tourism
- 4. Miners & Tour Guides
- 5. Tourists & Tourism Economics
- 6. Tour Guides Homes & Motives
- 7. Tourists' Reflections

In addition to interviews with the tourists, tour quide, and an elderly retired miner, CAN'T DO IT IN EUROPE features a discussion by the city's Director of Development, who boasts of the city's growing tourist trade and explains why, in order to preserve the authentic "experience" for tourists, they don't want to change or improve working conditions for the miners.

"Will be of interest to anthropologists studying work and the local-global dimensions of inequality."

-Angela Jancius, Anthropology News

"An excellent film for provoking classroom discussion on the role of contemporary tourism in the developing world."-Pegi Vail, **Anthropology Dept., Columbia University** 

2007 MoMA **Documentary Fortnight** 

2006 Cinema du Réel

> 46 minutes | color | 2005 | Order #LA8-02 Sale/DVD: \$348

### El Dia Oue Me Ouieras (The Day You'll Love Me)

A Film by Leandro Katz

After Che Guevara was captured and killed, in October 1967, a wire photograph was transmitted from Bolivia. The photo, which shows Guevara's corpse in a room full of military men, was taken by Freddy Alborta.

Alborta was the only professional photographer among the journalists taken to see Guevara's corpse. His memories of that day, his dramatic photographs, many never seen before, along with rare newsreel footage and international headlines announcing the event, are the central elements of the film.

THE DAY YOU'LL LOVE ME deconstructs this world-famous photo, asks questions about its content, attempting to expose the indeterminate powers of photographic and cinematic representation. But the film also counters the mythologizing of Guevara by placing him back into the Latin American

intellectual life of his day through references to Borges, Gardel, Neruda, Castro and contemporary Andean culture.

"Visually exquisite and deeply moving... at once an elegy to the passing of the age of revolution in Latin America and an investigation into the history and mythos surrounding the infamous photograph of the beatific corpse of its central icon: Che Guevara."

—Jeffrey Skoller, Afterimage

"A powerful video... would be useful and appropriate for photography, journalism, and visual media courses. Recommended."

-Educational Media Reviews Online

2000 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

30 minutes | color | 1998 | Order #LA8-03 Sale/DVD: \$225



# The Comrade: The Life and Times of Luiz Carlos Prestes

Now on

A Film by Toni Venturi



The first documentary film biography of Luiz Carlos Prestes (1898-1990), Brazil's "Knight of Hope," THE COMRADE covers seventy years of Brazil's chaotic contemporary history, a period in which Prestes was a principal protagonist. It examines the epic 15,500-mile march by rebel lieutenants in the 1920's; Prestes' dramatic romance with Comintern agent Olga Benário (during the disastrous communist revolution of 1935); the military coup; the armed struggle; and the fier ce political repression between 1964 and 1974.

A wealth of statements (by jour nalists, historians, family members, former Communist Party activists and others) are interwoven with rare historical footage, to form this groundbreaking biography of Prestes, a man who embodied a cause and became a national legend.

- Best Brazilian Film, "It's All True"
  International Documentary Film Festival,
  Rio de Janeiro-São Paulo, 1997
- Best Documentary, 1997
  Festival de Cinema e Video, Cuiaba

105 minutes | color | 1997 | **Order #LA8-04** Sale/DVD: was \$440 now \$398!

# Justice A Film by Maria Ramos

This cinéma-vérité style documentary offers an intimate look inside the Brazilian justice system, closely observing the everyday work of attorneys, judges, prosecutors and other legal professionals, as well as the defendants passing through the system. The film follows each case through its various stages, showing the defendants' meetings with public defenders, the reading of the charges and questioning of the defendants by a judge, scenes of their detention in grossly overcrowded cells, and supervised meetings with family members. JUSTICE also extends its view beyond the courtrooms and jails to reveal the personal lives of a judge, a public defender, and the families of the accused.

The film's observational approach gradually succeeds in revealing a broader social picture, one involving clear implications of police corruption, an oppressive judicial system that seems designed to punish the poor for petty crimes, and a penal system characterized by horrifically inhumane conditions. In a very compelling way, JUSTICE reveals the legal system as a sort of public theater dramatizing the social relations and power structures of Brazilian society at large.

"Boldly eschewing interviews and narration, director Maria Ramos lets her camera tell the story."—The Village Voice

"Recommended!"

-Educational Media Reviews Online

Grand Prize, 2004
Visions du Réel

Best Film, 2004 Copenhagen

Documentary Festival

Best Film, 2004 Bordeaux Festival of Women in Cinema

 $\frac{102 \text{ minutes} \mid \text{color} \mid 2004 \mid \textbf{Order \#LA8-06}}{\text{Sale/DVD: was } \$440 \text{ now } \$398!}$ 



4 | ICARUS FILMS | Call Toll Free: 800.876.1710 | 5

# Lula's Brazil: The Management of Hope

A Film by Gonzalo Arijón

When Luiz Inácio da Silva, a former metal-worker known as "Lula," won the Brazilian presidency in 2002 on a campaign promising agrarian reform and an end to hunger, popular hopes for social change galvanized the nation. LULA'S BRAZIL, filmed two years into his administration, examines the achievements and failures of his presidency compared to his campaign promises, revealing how his ambitious plans have been frustrated by a clash with national and international economic interests.

The film sketches Lula's personal story—a child of poor, illiterate farmers who in the Seventies became a charismatic union organizer and in the Eighties founded what would become Brazil's largest left-wing political party—and blends this biography with an intimate look at living conditions for Brazil's impoverished majority.

LULA'S BRAZIL also features commentary by government officials, NGO leaders, political advisors, factory workers, the unemployed, wealthy landowners, small farmers, peasant members of the Landless Workers Movement, and includes highlights of Lula's speeches both to the activist-oriented World Social Forum and the international economic elite's World Economic Forum.

These multiple perspectives make clear the nature of Lula's political dilemma—although he won 60% of the popular vote, he lacks a majority in Congress and must contend with the powerful landowners' lobby. He must negotiate between promises of reform to his popular constituency and economic reassurances to the country's powerbrokers. Lula won an election in Brazil, but not a revolution, and as president, re-elected in 2006, he continues to sit on a powder keg.



"Excellent... expresses the mature, critical, and balanced judgment that characterizes the mainstream of the

Brazilian left."

—John D. French, The Americas

62 minutes | color | 2005 | **Order #LA8-07** Sale/DVD: \$390

## Fernando Is Back

A Film by Silvio Caiozzi





During General Augusto Pinochet's reign in Chile following the 1973 coup, thousands of civilians were 'disappeared"—arrested and killed—by the military. FERNANDO IS BACK follows the workings of Chile's Forensic Identification Unit (FIU) in its quest to reclaim the identities of the disappeared.

Founded in 1994, the FIU is composed of doctors and specialists in anthropology and forensics. They compare the victim's skulls, bones and teeth with family photographs, dental records and medical histories, in an attempt to find a match. Their goal is to identify the remains of all disappeared, and to determine the cause of death, thereby reclaiming the disappeared histories and identities, one by one.

Made by one of Chile's leading filmmakers, FERNANDO IS BACK documents the FIU's work to identify Fernando Olivares Mori, a husband, father and son, who disappeared when he was 27 years old. The film shows the powerful impact of the Unit's work for one family, thereby representing what it means for the entire country.

"Powerful and moving... Recommended."

-Educational Media Reviews Online

2001 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

Best Documentary, 1999

Montevideo International Film Festival
(Uruguay)

Best Documentary, 1999
Short Films Festival International (Chile)

31 minutes | color | 1998 | **Order #LA8-08** Sale/DVD: \$225

## The Pinochet Case

A Film by Patricio Guzmán





In September 1998, Augusto Pinochet flew from Chile to London on a pleasure trip. But after experiencing back pain, he underwent an operation in the London Clinic. Upon waking from surgery, he was arrested by the London police.

Featuring interviews with prosecutor Carlos Castressana and Judge Baltasar Garzón, THE PINOCHET CASE explores how a small group of people in Madrid laid the groundwork for this incredible feat—catching a dictator 25 years after his rise to power.

THE PINOCHET CASE also movingly incorporates the stories of many Chileans, most of them women, relatives of the "disappeared," and ex-prisoners who had been tortured, who traveled to Madrid to testify.

"Eloquent, meticulously structured.
A gripping step-by-step account of the case."—The New York Times

make up for lost time.

"Haunting! A magisterial documentary about the force of memory."

time in Chilean courts. Eventually the

Chilean Supreme Court also stripped

him of his immunity, and on January

29, 2001, Judge Juan Guzmán placed

Augusto Pinochet under house arrest.

The people were no longer afraid, and

the Chilean justice system started to

-New York Magazine

"Both a legalistic thriller and a searing documentary."

-Simon Hattenstone, The Guardian

Premiere, Semaine de la Critique, 2001 Cannes Film Festival

Golden Gate Award, 2002 San Francisco
International Film Festival

109 minutes | color | 2001 | **Order #LA8-09**Sale/DVD: \$440

### Salvador Allende

A Film by Patricio Guzmán

In SALVADOR ALLENDE, Chilean filmmaker Patricio Guzmán (*The Battle of Chile* and *Chile*, *Obstinate Memory*) returns to his native country thirty years after the 1973 military coup that overthrew Chile's Popular Unity government to examine the life of its leader, Salvador Allende, both as a politician and a man.



Using rare archival footage, family photos, interviews with Allende's friends, professional colleagues, his daughters and other relatives as well as UP militants, workers, journalists, his personal secretary and Edward Korry, former U.S. Ambassador to Chile, SALVADOR ALLENDE portrays the life, times and political formation of the Valparaiso-born doctor who ran unsuccessfully for President three times before finally being elected in 1970.

The film focuses on the tumultuous three years following Allende's election, and the declaration of his socialist program, "la via chilena," which nationalized large-scale industries and began an agrarian

reform program. SALVADOR ALLENDE also reveals little-known, more intimate aspects of the man.

Through archival footage and eyewitness and participant accounts, the film re-creates the military assault on the Moneda, Allende's last radio broadcast to the people of Chile, and rare photos and footage documenting the final actions of Allende and his staff on that day.

"A haunting exploration of the Allende paradox... deserves to be widely seen."

—Andrew O'Hehir, Salon.com

#### Chapters:

- 1. Start
- 2. Excavating Period Street Art
- 3. Who Was Allende?
- 4. Child & Philosophical Underpinnings
- 5. Early Career/Popular Front
- 6. Campaigns
- 7. Electoral Victory
- 8. Post Election Statement
- 9. Economic & Agrarian Reform
- 10. Chile's Silence on Allende Today
- 11. Fidel Castro

- **12.** U.S. Ambassador Korry on Election
- 13. Rightist Opposition Tactics
- 14. U.N. Speech
- 15. Richard Nixon/ 1973 Elections
- **16.** Strikes, Rightist Actions & Aborted Coup
- 17. The Coup
- 18. Bombing La Moneda
- 19. Allende's Final Words
- 20. "La Tati" & "La Payita"
- 21. Final Moments
- 22. Epilogue
- 23. Credits

"★★★½ Engrossing... Highly recommended."

—Video Librarian

2007 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies

100 minutes | color | 2004 | **Order #LA8-10**Sale/DVD: \$440

# The Sugar Curtain

A Film by Camila Guzmán Urzúa



In this revealing autobiographical portrait, the filmmaker, who was born in Santiago de Chile in 1971 but after the 1973 coup moved with her family to Cuba, returns to Havana to reflect on her childhood and adolescence during the "golden years" of the Cuban Revolution.

Growing up during the Seventies and Eighties, she recalls, Cuba seemed like a paradise, where the state provided everything—education, healthcare, housing, work—and she was part of an idealistic generation of young "Pioneers" enthusiastically dedicated to building a new society. Camila left Cuba in 1990, shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union-which for decades had assured the island nation's economic survival—and the beginning of the "Special Period," which by the mid-Nineties saw the Cuban economy in ruins.

By highlighting the contrasting fortunes of the Cuban Revolution over the last two decades, THE SUGAR CURTAIN offers a provocative historical perspective on one of the most significant turning points in 20th-century world history.

"Highly recommended... it helps the audience contemplate mixed and multiple Cuban realities."-Educational Media Reviews Online

"Even-handed... Those on both sides of the great Cuba divide should find food for thought in these sober, realistic reflections." -Variety

Best Documentary, 200.
Havana International Festival of New Latin American Cinema

2007 San Francisco International Film Festival

FIPRESCI Award, Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Cinema

80 minutes | color | 2006 | Order #LA8-11 Sale/DVD: \$440

#### **Chapters:**

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Pioneers
- 3. Arriving in Cuba
- 4. Habana Abierta
- 5. Special Period
- 6. Socialism or Death
- 7. Revolution without Dreams
- 8. Emigrés

# Between Midnight and the Rooster's Crow

A Film by Nadja Drost



In the aggressive search for the "black gold" that drives Western economies, multinational corporations are working to extract billions of dollars of oil reserves from beneath Ecuador's rainforest. BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND THE ROOSTER'S CROW investigates the operations of the EnCana Corporation, a firm that, despite proud public declarations of its social responsibility, is shown to be answerable for widespread environmental contamination and human rights violations.

The film focuses on EnCana's development of a heavy crude oil pipeline from the Amazon across the earthquake-prone Andes to the Pacific coast for export. Filmmaker Nadja Drost follows the cross-country route of the pipeline, along the way interviewing farmers, indigenous community representatives, environmental activists and others, who recount forced relocation, imprisonment, and intimidation, including shootings and beatings by the Ecuadorian police and army who protect the pipeline.

Avoiding government and corporate security agents, Drost documents unsafe construction, toxic waste, and contamination of rivers, as well as the affects on Ecuadorians (skin cancer, miscarriages and birth defects) and the destruction of wildlife and natural preserves.

"Remarkable! This brave film ventures deep into the Ecuadorian Amazon to uncover evidence of pollution, coercion, and corruption."-indieWIRE

"An important and timely film."

-International **Journal & Review** 

**Emotionally moving** and politically

**Third World Studies** 

"Clear and concise...

#### **Chapters:**

- 1. Introduction
- 2. EnCana Corporation
- 3. Cuyabueno National Park
- 4. Private Security
- 5. The OCP: Heavy Crude Pipeline
- 6. Farmers
- 7. Corporate Responsibility

rousing!"—Now Magazine



Best Documentary, 🏴 2005 Bogota Film Festival

66 minutes | color | 2005 | Order #LA8-12 Sale/DVD: \$348

10 | ICARUS FILMS

# Trinkets and Beads

A Film by Christopher Walker

TRINKETS & BEADS tells the story of how the U.S. company MAXUS set out to convince the Huaorani-known as the fiercest tribe in the Amazon—to allow drilling on their land, promising to protect the rainforest and respect the indigenous people. Filmed over two years, TRINKETS & BEADS reveals the funny, heartbreaking and thrilling story of the battle waged by indigenous people to preserve their way of life.

The story of how the Huaorani are attempting to survive the Petroleum Age on their own terms exposes hidden consequences of our relentless drive to "develop" the world.

"An important film that should be seen by anyone concerned about the environment, first-third world relations, globalization, ethnology, and the role of missionaries."

-Bridges, An Interdisciplinary Journal

1998 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

Gold Apple, 1997 National Educational Media Network

52 minutes | color | 1996 | Order #LA8-13 Sale/DVD: \$390

# El Salvador: Another Vietnam

A Film by Glenn Silber & Tete Vasconcellos

This documentary examines the civil war in El Salvador in light of the Reagan administration's decision to send military advisors to "draw the line" against "communist interference" in Central America. Archival material offers the history of U.S. military and economic policy in Central America, while contemporaneous footage provides extensive background on the political and military situation during the early 80s, involving the role of the CIA and the U.S. military in the conflict.

"The most informative documentary on the subject."—The VillageVoice

1981 Academy Award I Nominee, **Best Feature Documentary** 

Blue Ribbon Winner, 1982 American Film Festival

53 minutes | color | 1981 | Order #LA8-14 Sale/DVD: \$390



# **Americas in Transition**

A Film by Obie Benz

AMERICAS IN TRANSITION provides a concise and fast-paced history of the volatile forces that rocked Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua in the 1970s and 1980s.



Drawing on interviews with the Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes, former CIA director Lyman Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Murat Williams, and Maryknoll missioner Peggy Healy, the film examines the roots of dictatorship, attempts at democracy, communist influences, and the U.S. role in Latin American politics.

"Should be required viewing for every American."—The Los Angeles Times

Best of Festival, 1982 National Educational Film Festival

🐧 1981 Academy Award 🕻 Nominee, **Best Short Documentary** 

29 minutes | color | 1982 | Order #LA8-39 Sale/DVD: \$280

#### 4. Cuba

- 5. Dominican Republic
- 6. Chile 7. El Salvador

3. Guatemala

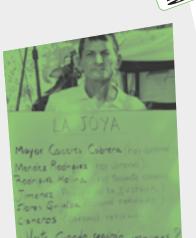


A Film by Daniele Lacourse & Yvan Patry

Until December 11, 1981, El Mozote was just a tiny hamlet, nestled deep in the mountains of El Salvador. Eleven days later, its one thousand people, mostly children, were dead. Surrounding villages were razed. When the elite army battalion that executed the massacre returned to base, its soldiers were sworn to silence. For the next decade, the Salvadoran and U.S. governments put up a wall of denial. Beyond the overgrown ruins of El Mozote, the official "truth" prevailed.

Today, with the end of the war, the true story of what happened in the village, and the question of responsibility, have taken center stage in El Salvador's ongoing quest for conciliation.

57 minutes | color | 1993 | Order #LA8-15 Sale/DVD: \$390



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## **Justice and the Generals**

A Film by Gail Pellett

In late 1980, the bodies of four American women were exhumed from a crude grave in El Salvador. The women—Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, nuns of the Maryknoll Congregation in New York; Dorothy Kazel, a nun in the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland; and Jean Donovan, a lay missionary from the Cleveland Mission—had been abducted, raped, and murdered. An investigation led to the trial and conviction of five Salvadoran National Guardsmen.

But who was behind the murders? It was clear to Bill Ford, brother of Ita, that the Guardsmen were only triggermen. Ford, with help from the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, set out to discover who had ordered, paid for, directed, and covered up the murders.

By the mid-1990's, with the war over and amnesty declared for all human rights abusers, declassified U.S. government records revealed that the State Department had withheld information pointing to involvement at high levels of the Salvadoran military. The new information allowed Ford and other relatives to bring suit against two senior Salvadoran generals, José Guillermo García and Eugenio Vides
Casanova, and the two generals finally faced the families of the victims in a West Palm



elegantly conveyed through the lives of people closely connected to the facts of the case... The film invites

—Professor Peter Rosenblum, Harvard Law School Human Rights Program

discussion at a dozen levels."

"There are frightful revelations in this powerful documentary, some of them shocking reflections on alleged U.S. complicity in covering up the murders."

—M.S. Mason, The Christian Science Monitor

2003 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

2002 Amnesty International

86 minutes | color | 2002 | **Order #LA8-16** Sale/DVD: \$398

# Scars of Memory

and take control over several towns.

A Film by Jeffrey Gould & Carlos Henriquez Consalvi

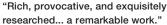
January 22, 1932. An unprecedented peasant uprising erupts in western El Salvador, as a group of Ladino and indigenous peasants cut army supply lines, attack a military garrison,

Retribution is swift. After three days, the army and militias move in and, in some villages, slaughter all males over age 12. Elsewhere, they summarily execute anyone suspected of having a link to the Communists. Over the next few weeks, 10,000 people are massacred.

In SCARS OF MEMORY survivors share their memories, many for the first time.

The filmmakers recovered and analyzed hundreds of survivor testimonies. They also located rare photographs and film footage housed in archives in El Salvador, the U.S., and England, including images of Communist leader Farabundo Martí, local indigenous leader Feliciano Ama of Izalco, and military dictator General Hernández Martínez.

The brutal way in which the uprising was crushed left many too scared to ever participate in politics again. The trauma resonated through six decades of military rule, until the 1992 peace accords ended a brutal, 12-year civil war.



-American Historical Review

"An excellent resource for students of race and nationalism in Central America."

—The Journal of Latin American Anthropology

"Scrupulously well-documented... Highly Recommended."

-Catholic Library World

2003 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

2003 Festival de Film y Video de El Salvador

53 minutes | color/b&w | 2002 | **Order #LA8-17** Sale/DVD: \$390

- 1. Background to the Rebellion
- 2. Role of Women / Farabundo Marti
- 3. Insurrection Begins
- 4. Brutal Repression
- 5. Executions & Massacres
- 6. Political Legacy & Civil War



### Devils Don't Dream!

A Film by Andreas Hoessli

Through the story of Jacobo Arbenz, the President of Guatemala from 1951-1954. DEVILS DON'T DREAM examines the CIA-sponsored coup that overthrew him in 1954 and sent him into exile.

Arbenz had led the successful1944 revolt against the military dictatorship, a regime that had oppressed Guatemala since colonialism. Arbenz, the son of Swiss immigrants, was celebrated as a national hero. Elected President in 1950 as an independent candidate, Arbenz was not a member of any party—he didn't issue any manifestos. But he began to fulfill his promises—farmers got their own land

In the early 1950s, with the Cold War intensifying, then Vice President Richard Nixon said, "Arbenz is not a Guatemalan President." Nixon called him "a foreigner, manipulated by foreign powers." The young President of Guatemala was soon overthrown, declared a traitor, and chased out of the country. The old power structures were reestablished, and civil war raged across the country for over 40 years.

"[Hoessli's] sensitive portrait of the Guatemalan national reform leader, Jacobo Arbenz, is an extraordinary work of art. And yet, through the magic alchemy of film, he has turned one of the most tawdry and shameful episodes in American foreign policy into an extraordinary tribute to the endurance of Guatemala."-Stephen Schlesinger, Director of the World Policy Institute and author of Bitter Fruit

1998 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

Peace Film Prize, 18
Berlin Film Festival Peace Film Prize, 1996

90 minutes | color | 1995 | Order #LA8-18 Sale/DVD: \$440



## Killer's Paradise

A Film by Giselle Portenier A National Film Board of Canada Production



Since 1999 more than two thousand women have been murdered in Guatemala, with the numbers escalating every year. Yet, lawmakers and government officials continue to turn a blind eye. Powerful and uncompromising, KILLER'S PARADISE uncovers one of the most emotionallywrenching hidden human rights abuses taking place, while exposing the impunity allowed by an inept judicial system.

When 13-year-old Stephanie Lopez was found killed, any evidence was buried with the body. In the three months since Jorge Velasquez's daughter was murdered, the case file has shuffled from desk to desk with no real progress. After five years of hunting down her sister's killers, Maria Elena Peralta is no closer to the truth. No one knows who is behind these atrocious acts and nothing is being done to find the culprits. Cases are routinely closed and the murdered women dismissed as nobodies.

But there are traces of hope: a grass-roots human rights movement is emerging from the country's tainted past. Fueled by frustration, anger, great sadness and loss, women and men are coming together for a common fight in the name of their daughters, wives and sisters.

"Not sensational in the least, it's an urgent, vital film that pushes far past entertainment into the realm of galvanizing action. It seems inconceivable to watch the film and not be shaken by it."

-Rob Nelson. MinnPost.com

"Meticulously crafted and beautifully shot ... a bold film that captures the raw emotions of all those affected and the harsh reality of a struggling nation."

—Seattle Human **Rights Film Festival Program**  Chapters:

1. Claudia/Stephanie

2. Norma Past & Present

3. Claudina

4. Maria Helena and Nancy/Dorothy 5. Stephanie's Funeral/Benki & M18

6. Questionable Investigation 7. Peten Prison/Yessenica's Story

8. Don Jairo & Titina

9. Police/CSI/Evidence

10. Serial Killer

11. Public Prosecutor/DNA

12. The President/to Washington

13. Protest/Conclusion

14. Credits

Sale/DVD: \$398

## **Knorosov:** The Decipherment of the Mayan Script

A Film by Tiahoga Ruge & Eduardo Herrara Fernandez

KNOROSOV traces the history of the ancient Mayan codices since their discovery, and relates the fantastic story of the man who deciphered them. The film chronicles the many preceding theories about the language of the Mayas, and details successive efforts by scholars to understand the writings.



KNOROSOV recounts the personal and intellectual journey that led to his discovery, and the subsequent struggle for recognition. The film explains the process Knorosov used to eventually succeed where so many had failed, and incorporates animated sequences that illustrate how the Mayan Script was deciphered. The film includes interviews with Yuri Knorosov, and with contemporary Maya scholars including Michael Coe, author of the book Breaking the Maya Code.

The film also explores the groundbreaking work that Knorosov undertook in later years on the origin and migration of the Mayan people. And it includes footage from Knorosov's trips to Mexico and Guatemala shortly before his death, where he was awarded the highest honors that each country can bestow on a foreigner, and when he saw the Mayan ruins in person for the first time.



#### "Fascinating!"

-Professor of Archaeology David H. Kelly, **University of Calgary** 

"A wonderful movie. It is inspirational along the lines of Indiana Jones."-WordPress.com

2001 Award of Merit in Film. Latin American Studies Association

Best Editing, 2001 Pantalla de Cristal Festival

57 minutes | color | 2000 | Order #LA8-21 le/DVD: \$390

# The Todos Santos Films

By Olivia Carrescia



#### Three Classic Documentaries Now on One DVD!

In 1979 Olivia Carrescia documented life in a traditional highland Guatemalan village for TODOS SANTOS CUCHUMATAN: REPORT FROM A GUATEMALAN VILLAGE. Five years later, following a period of political violence in which these villagers wer e caught amidst a struggle between the army and guerrilla forces for control of the area, and an army attack on the village, she returned to film TODOS SANTOS: THE SUR VIVORS.

As Guatemalan-American author Victor Perera has written, "[Carrescia's] films are two halves of a story that... will endure as a testimonial to the Mayas' continuing resourcefulness and vitality. These films deserve to be shown in every college campus with a Latin American department, and in every community that cares about the fate of the threatened indigenous communities of the Americas."

Now Available on DVD for the First Time!

Three Films for the Price of One! Sale/DVD: \$398 | Order #LA8-22

### **Todos Santos Cuchamatan:** Report from a Guatemalan Village



This film provides an intimate look at everyday life in the mountain village of Todos Santos. Todosanteros go about their daily routines, the annual harvest is reaped. the elaborate Fiesta of Todos Santos is celebrated, and the workers migrate out of the mountain village in search of work on the lowland cotton plantations.

"Latin American studies would be considerably strengthened by films of this caliber. Highly recommended for college libraries." -Choice

"A must for viewing by anyone interested in Latin America and the situation of indigenous and rural populations."

-American Anthropologist



41 minutes | color | 1982

#### Todos Santos: The Survivors

Demonstrating the effect of the political turmoil of the 1980s on this once guiet

village, this film documents the legacy of a bloody civil war, and the wounds that remained unhealed even after the guns stopped firing.





Blue Ribbon Winner, 1990 American Film and Video Festival

58 minutes | color | 1989

### Mayan Voices: American Lives



Set in Indiantown. Florida, this film contrasts the immigration and acculturation experiences of Mayan refugees fleeing violence in Guatemala who arrived in the U.S. in the early 1980s with the strug-

gles of those still arriving years later.

1994 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

56 minutes | color | 1994

## From the Other Side

A Film by Chantal Akerman

The story is old as the hills, yet every day it continues to unfold, every day more terribly.

Sometimes poor people, in an attempt to survive, risk their lives and leave everything behind to live elsewhere. But they're not

wanted elsewhere. And if they are wanted it's for their labor, to do jobs that no one wants to do. Some will pay for others to do those jobs, but not much.

In FROM THE OTHER SIDE, elsewhere is the United States and the poor are mostly Mexicans. Renowned filmmaker Chantal Akerman shifts her focus between the border towns of Agua Prieta, Sonora, where people from all over Mexico wait in limbo before crossing over, and neighboring Douglas, Arizona, a town ringed by mountains and desert plains.

For years, immigrants passed through San Diego. But now the INS, using cutting edge technologies developed during the Vietnam War and perfected for the Gulf War, has managed to quell the flow of illegals there. This leaves only the mountains and deserts of Arizona for those desperate enough to try their luck. The INS calculated that the hard-ship and danger, the cold and the heat in Arizona, would stop the crossings, but you can't stop someone who's hungry.



Since the tightening of border controls in 1994, more than 4,500 Mexicans have died trying to cross the border, and the numbers are increasing each year. More than 500 died in 2007, and this number does

not include migrants from other Latin American countries. The deserts along the U.S.-Mexico border have become the largest migrant cemetery in the world.

"Stunning. As human testimony... FROM THE OTHER SIDE is unforgettably forceful."

-Stuart Klawans, The Nation

"Spare, painterly and scrupulously unsentimental."—The New York Times



2005 National Women's Studies
Association Film Festival



2003 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

99 minutes | color | 2002 | **Order #LA8-24** Sale/DVD: \$440

#### Chapters:

- 1. Family Stories
- On the Border
   Barber Shop
- 4. Surveillance
- Surveillance
- 5. Illegals
- 6. Mexican Consul
- 7. Sheriff's Office



### A Massacre Foretold

A Film by Nick Higgins



On December 22, 1997, in the southernmost Mexican province of Chiapas, 45 indigenous residents of Acteal, who had taken refuge in the village church, were massacred by paramilitary troops. Most of those killed were children and women (five of them pregnant).

The Acteal villagers were members of the pacifist group "Las Abejas" (The Bees), who, although supporters of the newly emergent Zapatista Army of National Liberation, renounced that organization's violent methods. The murders of the unarmed peasants garnered worldwide news coverage, but no serious government investigation of the atrocity was ever conducted.

A MASSACRE FORETOLD chronicles these historic events, including the 1994 emergence of the Zapatistas, the Mexican army's attacks on rural peasant communities and government "negotiations" with the Zapatistas.

In addition to archival footage—including scenes of those seeking refuge in the church photographed just hours before they were killed—the film features moving interviews with massacre survivors and eyewitnesses, the Bishop of Chiapas, human rights activists, and a lawyer for Las Abejas.

"An excellent documentary... an urgent reminder of the need for justice and an end to paramilitary violence in Chiapas."

—Professor Neil Harvey, Center for Latin American and Border Studies, New Mexico State University, author of *The Chiapas* Rebellion

Human Rights Award, 2007

Edinburgh International Film Festival

2007 Morelia Festival de Cine

58 minutes | color | 2007 | **Order #LA8-25** Sale/DVD: \$390

#### Chapters:

- 1. Zapatistas & Las Abejas
- 2. Military Repression
- 3. Peace Talks
- 4. Chiapas in Flames
- 5. Acteal Massacre
- 6. Paramilitaries
- 7. Autonomomous Zone

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### Paulina

A Film by Vicky Funari & Jennifer Maytorena Taylor



In the 1950's, when Paulina was a child in a rural Mexican village, her parents traded her away for land rights. The villagers ostracized her and the town boss raped her, keeping her as his unwilling mistress throughout much of her adolescence. At 15, she took control of her destiny and escaped to Mexico City to begin a new life.

Now middle-aged, Paulina returns to her village to confront her family about what happened and encounters a web of intrigue and denial. PAULINA interweaves documentary and fiction styles to explore the characters' radically different perspectives and memories, and those of this vital, resilient woman.

"A remarkable documentary... simultaneously devastating and inspiring... assured, intelligent filmmaking...

a testament to what the human spirit can endure and rise above."

—The New York Times

"An important study of gender and class politics, and as a powerful reminder that even the most seemingly humdrum life is significant."-Time Out New York

"A great visual invention... A chilling view of sexual expropriation and family betrayal, and one which we have never seen before."

-San Francisco Bay Guardian

2001 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

2001 National Women's Studies Association Film Festival

Grand Jury Prize, 1998 San Francisco Film Festival

90 minutes | color | 1997 | Order #LA8-26 Sale/DVD: was \$440 now \$398!

## The Passion of María Elena

A Film by Mercedes Moncada Rodriguez



When María Elena's 3-year-old son Jorge is killed in a hit-and-run accident in Chihuahua, Mexico, she begins a quest for justice that brings her face to face with racism, corruption, and the traditional attitudes of her community.

María Elena is indigenous—a Rarámuri—and Marisela, the driver who killed her son, is 'white.' María Elena must therefore face not only an official justice system that discriminates against her, but also the whispers of those in her remote mountain community who regard her with suspicion because she is a divorced woman who moved to the city.

This moving story of grief and healing, injustice and cultural identity is recounted through scenes with María Elena, her parents, other family members, and friends, plus her lawyer and a Human Rights Commission representative. These varying perspectives help us to understand the clash of opposing worldviews and to appreciate the nature of Rarámuri beliefs.

"[A] bracing look at violence and justice." —The New York Times

"Skillfully captures the quotidian and extraordinary sorrows and joys of the Rarámuri... an engaging starting point for a discussion about racism and sexism as well as the meanings of ethnic and gender identities."

-The Americas: A Quarterly Journal of **Inter-American Cultural History** 

"A true account of tragedy, grief and injustice that reflects on complex views with eloquent simplicity and heartfelt directness."-Variety

Best Documentary, 2003 💢 São Paulo Film Festival

Best Mexican Feature, 2003 Madalajara Film Festival

76 minutes | color | 2003 | Order #LA8-27 Sale/DVD: \$440

- 1. Start
- 2. Soul
- 3. Bringing On the Wind
- 4. Woman
- 5. Tesaüino
- 6. Where the Dead Are
- 7. Submit for the Judgment
- 8. Bearded
- 9. Stopping Dreams of III Omen
- 10. Broken Promises

# Tracing Aleida: The Story of a Search

A Film by Christiane Burkhard

During the 1970s, Mexico engaged in a "distriction" in a "dirty war" against left-wing dissidents and suspected "subversives," resulting in the arrest and "disappearance" of hundreds of its own citizens. In many instances, the children of the "disappeared" were adopted by other families. Since 2000, long-secret documents about these events have become public, revealing the stories of these missing victims of the "dirty war."

TRACING ALEIDA relates the story of 31year-old Aleida Gallangos, who discovered her true identity only in 2001, and her 3-yearlong efforts to locate her older brother, from whom she was separated at the age of 2 when their parents were arrested by state security forces in 1975. Researching adoption records, Aleida traced her brother, Lucio Antonio, to a Mexican family living in Washington, D.C.

This documentary interweaves Aleida's contemporary efforts to locate and arrange a meeting with her long-lost brother, now known as Juan Carlos Hernandez, with the personal and political history of her parents, including the raid on a guerrilla safe house that resulted in their disappearance and the separation of the two children, and culminates in an emotionally moving reunion, after 29 years, between Aleida and her brother.



ERTO GALLANGOS en los tiempos de la escuela.

TRACING ALEIDA shows that while Aleida and Lucio are learning to reconcile two separate personal and family histories, Mexico itself is engaged in a likewise problematic effort to acknowledge the atrocities committed against its own people and the possibility of indictments against previous government officials responsible for them.



Best Mexican Documentary, 2008 Guadalajara International Film Festival

Signis Prize, International Catholic Association for Communications. Tepoztlan Documentary Festival

Honorary Mention, 2008 Encounter Hispanoamericano Independent Documentary Film and Video Festival

2008 International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

2008 Acapulco

International Film Festival

2008 DOXA Documentary Film Festival

2008 Göteborg Film Festival, Switzerland

88 minutes | color | 2007 | Order #LA8-28

Sale/DVD: \$398

#### **Chapters:**

- 1. Looking for Tony
- 2. Aleida's Story
- 3. The Disappeared
- 4. Finding Tony
- 5. Family History
- 6. Meeting Tony

7. Tony or Juan Carlos?

"Seeks to give face, name and voice to one of the hundreds of cases of missing persons in Mexico in the seventies." -La Jornada Jalisco

"A touching film that skillfully avoids any tackiness."-Nexos

"A documentary that tells a story capable of discerning a personal story from a social and collective dimension."

-Publico



# Choropampa—The Price Of Gold

A Film by Ernesto Cabellos & Stephanie Boyd

On June 2nd, 2000 at the Yanacocha goldmine in the Peruvian Andes, 151 kilograms of liquid mercury spilled over a 25-mile long area, contaminating three mountain villages, including Choropampa, resulting in widespread mercury poisoning. The environmental catastrophe turned this guiet village into a hotbed of civil resistance.

The mine, jointly owned by a Peruvian company, the World Bank, and the Newmont Mining Corp of Colorado, insists the problem was quickly resolved, while villagers tell a starkly different story. CHOROPAMPA follows their valiant struggle for health care and justice over a two-year period.

In cinéma-vérité style, illustrated by archival footage, CHOROPAMPA exposes the global gold trade's nasty underbelly, and makes it clear that the village was sacrificed to American business interests. The story is a poignant reminder of the real cost of gold.

"Powerful... A guiet and thoughtful film that would be very useful in classes that discuss grassroots organizing, globalization, and environmental issues in contemporary Latin America."—The Americas: A Quarterly **Journal of Inter-American Cultural History** 

2005 National Women's Studies Association Film Festival

2003 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

75 minutes | color | 2002 | Order #LA8-29 Sale/DVD: was \$440 now \$398!

# Compadre

A Film by Mikael Wiström

In 1974 Swedish journalist Mikael Wiström met Daniel Barrientos, a young man scavenging with his wife Nati in a Lima garbage dump. Mikael and Daniel's encounter grew into a complicated friendship that continued through correspondence.

Some thirty years on, COMPADRE brings the story of this unusual friend-

ship up to



date, as Wiström returns to Peru to document the continuing story of Daniel and Nati, who, despite a life filled with hardship and sacrifice, have succeeded in raising four children. Black-and-white photos and footage from the 1991 film are blended with contemporary scenes of the family's everyday life.

COMPADRE is both as a revealing examination of the economic hardships faced by the

majority of Latin America's populace, as well as a revelatory look at the tensionfraught relationship between an anthropological filmmaker and his subjects.

"A brilliant and beautiful film."

—The Americas

2007 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

86 minutes | color | 2004 | Order #LA8-30 Sale/DVD: was \$440 now \$398!

# Metal and Melancholy

A Film by Heddy Honigmann

In this offbeat "road movie," documentarian Heddy Honigmann travels with taxi drivers in Lima. In the early 1990s, in response to Peru's inflationary economy and a government destabilized by corruption and Shining Path terrorism, many middle-class professionals used their cars to moonlight as taxi drivers.

Honigmann learns how these part-time cabbies manage to navigate through Lima's congested, pothole-filled streets in dilapidated cars whose survival techniques are as fascinating as those of their owners.

★★★½ Stars "A loving portrait... moving... this portrait of life for the city's cab drivers also becomes an insightful statement about Peruvian national identity."-TV Guide



2007 Hot Docs International Documentary Festival

80 minutes | color | 1993 | Order #LA8-31 Sale/DVD: \$398



- 1. Start
- 2. Our Home
- 3. Economic Crisis
- 4. Death & the Cemetery
- 5. Loving Parents
- 6. Auto Empathy
- 7. Forbidden Love

# Tambogrande: Mangos, Murder, Mining

A Film by Ernesto Cabellos & Stephanie Boyd



In 1999, the residents of Tambogrande, a small town in northern Peru, learned that the Fujimori government had secretly granted mining concessions on their land to the multinational corporation, Manhattan Minerals. The company's plans for an open-pit gold mine would involve relocation of half of the town's residents, and contaminate the soil and ground water in this agricultural region famous for its fruit or chards.

Aware of the environmental and health consequences of a gold mining operation in another Peruvian town, Choropampa, the residents of Tambogrande organized The Defense Front to protect their town. The film follows their five-year-long struggle to thwart the Peruvian government's connivance with corporate plans that would despoil their land and destroy their livelihoods.

In the ongoing history of attempts by multinational corporations to exploit Latin America's natural resources, TAMBOGRANDE (from the producers of CHOROPAMPA) is a rare success story, one demonstrating how ordi-

nary people can defeat government and corporate collusion, and one that has already become an inspiration to other popular political movements across the continent.

### Chapters:

1. Historical Background

- Historical Background
   Farmers vs. Miners
- Z. Fairners vs.
- 3. Toxic Mines4. Tambograde Defense Front
- 5. Assassination
- 6. Changing Tactics
- 7. Referendum Victory
- 8. Final Protests

"A compelling account of how the global can become painfully local."

-NACLA Report on the Americas

"Striking... This is an extraordinary story of a small town, who against insurmountable odds and threats to life and livelihood, banded together and did more than keep the invaders at bay, but expelled them from their country with a reverberating 'No' that the whole world heard."—Educational Media Reviews Online

- 2008 Honorable Mention in Egypt's Festival of Spanish and Latin American film
- 2007 Special Jury Award at Brazil's Environmental Film Festival, Bahia
- 2007 Union Latina Prize, Festival of Latin American Film, Trieste, Italy
- Jury Award, 2007 International Festival Dignity and Work (Poland)
- 2007 Green Film Festival International,
- 2007 One World Human Rights
  Documentary Film Festival (Prague)

85 minutes | color | 2006 | **Order #LA8-32** Sale/DVD: \$440

# **Energy War**

A Film by Shuchen Tan, Ijsbrand van Veelen & Rudi Boon

ENERGY WAR reveals how the economic importance of fossil fuels affects international politics and becomes a powerful tool of foreign policy. The film profiles newly emergent "superpowers" such as Iran and Venezuela. Author Thomas Friedman (*The World is Flat*) analyzes the political concept of "petro authoritarianism" and Kenneth Deffeyes (*Beyond Oil*) explains the "Peak Oil" phenomenon.

The film features an interview with Hugo Chavez, President of Venezuela, where President Hugo Chavez has nationalized the oil industry, which boasts the largest untapped oil field in the world. Empowered by record prices for oil, he promotes himself as one of the new world leaders and, when asked about Tony Blair and George Bush, he says, "They can go to hell!"

"Excellent...
Highly
Recommended."
—Educational
Media
Reviews

Online



"Contains the most significant material I have reviewed in more than 20 years... a masterful demonstration."—Science Books & Films

78 minutes | color | 2007 | **Order #LA8-33** Sale/DVD: \$398

#### Chapters:

- 1. Oil as a Weapon
- 2. Petro Authoritarianism
- 3. New World Leaders
- 4. Peak Oil
- 5. Oil States
- 6. Going Green
- 7. Solar Energy



### **FALN**

#### A Film by Peter Gessner & Robert Kramer

This 1965 documentary portrait of a civil war is today a remarkable time capsule of Venezuelan political and social history, and valuable back-

ground to the ongoing social conflicts in that country. FALN chronicles key events of the era, from the 1958 overthrow of dictator Perez Jimenez, and the flawed attempts at social reform by Romulo Betancourt's government, to the 1962 emergence of the national liberation movement—the FALN.

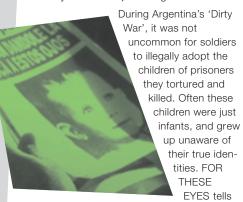
30 minutes | b&w | 1965 | **Order #LA8-34** Sale/DVD: \$225



### More Films & DVDs on Latin America

### For These Eves

A Film by Gonzalo Arijon & Virginia Martinez



the story of one young women who was actually found, of her two families, their histories and their competing claims on her.

#### "Highly Recommended!"

-Educational Media Review Online



2000 Award of Merit, Latin American Studies Association

52 minutes | color | 1998 | Order #LA8-36 Sale/DVD: \$390

### **Human Faces behind** the Rain Forest

A Film by Mady Samper



**HUMAN FACES** BEHIND THE RAIN FOREST documents the dramatic opium poppy harvest in the Colombian rainforest through the experiences of indigenous peoples. In

their own words they describe the social collapse associated with the illegal crop, from rampant alcoholism to chronic violence.



2003 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

30 minutes | color | 2001 | Order #LA8-41 Sale/DVD: \$225

### **Tupamaros**



#### A Film by Heidi Specogna & Rainer Hoffmann

During the 1960s, the Tupamaros was one of Latin America's most famous urban querrilla

groups. The early 1970s brought disintegration, and during the military dictatorship. the group survived prison and torture.



Today, the Tupamaros is one of the few Latin American resistance movements that have made the transition to a legal political for ce. Since spring 1995, it has been represented in the Uruguayan parliament by Pepe Mujica who, in TUPAMAROS, reflects on the organization's political development over the last 30 years.

"Superb... Highly Recommended!"

-Educational Media Reviews Online

93 minutes | color | 1996 | Order #LA8-37 Sale/DVD: \$440

### The World Stopped Watching

A Film by Peter Raymont Co-Produced with the National Film Board of Canada

In this sequel to THE WORLD IS WATCHING, the filmmakers return to Nicaragua fourteen years later to discover what became of the first revolution to be conducted in

the glare of the world media. They question the role and responsibility of journalists and their employers who first put Nicaraguans under the

microscope, and then

rushed off to the next



"A well-produced, articulate and intelligent film."-Educational Media Reviews Online



hot spot.

2004 Award of Merit. Latin American Studies Association

52 minutes | color | 2003 | CC | Order #LA8-38 Sale/DVD: \$390

### Refugees in Our Backvard

A Film by Georges Nahitchevansky & Helena Pollack Sultan

Since the early 1980s, millions of Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Nicaraguans have fled countries shaken by violent civil wars and acute economic crises. One million have come to the U.S. REFUGEES IN OUR BACK-

YARD focuses on the controversies created by the arrival of so many undocumented aliens into the U.S.

"Disturbingly effective."-Booklist



1992 Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Books/ **Nonprint Materials** 

58 minutes | color | 1990 | Order #LA8-39 Sale/DVD: \$390

### Welcome to Colombia

A Film by Catalina Villar

Two million displaced persons, 35,000 murders per year, 70,000 mines scattered all over the country, a kidnapping every ten



minutes: Colombia is the theater of one of the most tragic wars of our time.

In WELCOME TO COLOMBIA, filmmaker Catalina Villar travels across her countrythrough territory held by guerrillas, paramilitaries and government forces—during the course of Colombia's 2002 presidential election. Everywhere she finds people who are tired of the fighting, and who simply want peace.

"Recommended!"

-Educational Media Reviews Online



2004 Award of Merit, Latin American Studies Association

65 minutes | color | 2003 | Order #LA8-40 Sale/DVD: \$390

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**Best Mexican Documentary** 

Guadalajara Film Festival

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