

LA CUECA SOLA

A film by Marilu Mallet



Documentary, 2003
52 min, Video, Color
Canada, Subtitled

Credits:

Director: Marilu Mallet

Producers: Marilu Mallet and Yves Bisailon

Script: Marilu Mallet and Margaux Ouimet

Cinematography: Renald Bellemare

Editing: Natacha Dufaux, Marilu Mallet and Nicholas Rubbo



Synopsis

On September 11, 1973, a military coup in Chile brought Augusto Pinochet to power and over the next 17 years, thousands of men were taken from their homes—never to return. Since that time, Chilean women have danced the country's traditional courtship dance alone, and La Cueca Sola has become a symbol of women's struggle against the dictatorship. After 30 years in exile, critically acclaimed filmmaker Marilu Mallet returns to Santiago to meet with five Chilean women from three generations who suffered under the dictatorship have emerged as heroes under democracy. Isabel Allende, Monique Hermosilla, Estela Ortiz, Carolina Toha and Moyenei Valdes all lost a father, a husband, or a friend, but have surmounted their grief to bravely speak out. Illustrating throughout with a wealth of archival images, Mallet paints a vivid portrait of the country's painful past and offers insight on Chile's situation today.

Festivals

- Recontres Internationales du Documentaire de Montreal

Filmmaker Biography

Marilu Mallet is a Chilean born filmmaker whose documentary and fiction films have received numerous awards, including the prestigious Guggenheim International Filmmaking Award. Born in Santiago, Mallet studied architecture and cinema in Chile before immigrating to Canada in 1973. After the military putsch, she earned a masters degree in art history and a PhD in French Studies from the University of Montreal. She began her career as a film director at the National Film Board in 1976 and has since directed nineteen documentaries and two fiction films, including the award-winning films *Double Portrait* (2001) and *Unfinished Diary* (1986).