

Nostalgia for the Light **Nostalgia de la Luz**

Chile 2010

Directed by

Patricio Guzmán

Written by

Patricio Guzmán

Cinematography

Katell Djian

Original Music

Miguel Miranda

José Miguel Tobar

Contributions from*Gaspar Galaz,*

Astronomer

Lautaro Núñez,

Archaeologist

Miguel,

Architect

Victor González,

Engineer

and many more ...

90 min

*Our next screening...***The Untouchables**

Tue 22 January 2013

Dir: Olivier Nakache &

Eric Toledano

One of the most popular
French films of all time!

We hope you all had a good Christmas break and very best wishes for 2013. Here at WFS we will do our best to get you through these grey, early months before spring finally emerges with some stunning world cinema. Welcome back.

Patricio Guzmán examines three groups of searchers in Chile's Atacama Desert: astronomers, archaeologists and relatives of 'the disappeared'. *Nostalgia for the Light* won't make you nostalgic for anything because it's not like other documentaries you've seen. A film of rare visual poetry that's simultaneously personal, political and philosophical, it's a genuine art film that's also unpretentious and easygoing. *Nostalgia* is a completely fascinating meditation on different aspects of the past and the interlinked ways we explore them. This may sound cold and distant but Guzmán's mastery of cinema means that what sounds artificial turns out to be moving in a surprising, even profound way. When combined with cinematographer Katell Djian's stunning images, Guzmán's fluid, unconventional filmmaking deftly explores surprising relationships and meaningful cross-cultural connections among these nominally very different groups of searchers. The result is as emotional as it is unexpected, and that is saying a lot.

Kenneth Turan. *LA Times*

It isn't simply that Patricio Guzmán's Chilean documentary is moving; it has a tragic grandeur that really is very remarkable. It is deeply intelligent, intensely and painfully political, and yet attempts, and succeeds, somehow to transcend politics and perhaps even history itself. The film found its starting point in the title of a 1987 book by the French scientist Michel Cassé: 'Nostalgia for the Light: Mountains & Wonders of Astrophysics'. It reflects on how a golden age for Chilean astronomy was due to begin in the vast lunar landscape of the Atacama desert. But in the same era Chile was destined to be a closed society, and Atacama became known as the site for the concentration camps instituted by General Pinochet for political opponents. There is something Kubrickian in the way Guzmán evokes the desert's massive alienness, and the images border on the hallucinatory. It is as if Atacama is the distant planet, being watched by another astronomer on the moon. For Guzmán, the science of astronomy is not simply an ingenious metaphor for political issues, or a way of anaesthetising the pain by claiming that it is all tiny, relative to the reaches of space. Astronomy is a mental discipline, a way of thinking, feeling and clarifying, and a way of insisting on humanity in the face of barbarism.

Peter Bradshaw. *The Guardian*Voting for *Pomegranates and Myrrh*: A-21 B-38 C-7 D-0 E-0 Attendance:72 Rating: 80.3%