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MEMORIA del saqueo

A SOCIAL GENOCID

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MEMORIA del saqueo

MEMORIA del saqueo

A SOCIAL GENOCIDE

Since the beginning of the military dictatorship, 25 years ago, Argentina and its people have been enduring one of the worst economic and social collapses ever experienced by a country in time of peace.

Once prosperous, the country has had to face every single one of the traumas regularly stigmatised by anticapitalistic militancy : sky-high national debts, shameless ultra liberalism, massive political and financial corruption, and regular despoilment of national property. All this, with the help of western multinational companies, and the complicity of international organisations .

This scorched-earth policy, embodied by the likes of Carlos Menem, has led to an unbelievable cataclysm of famine, illness and sacrificed human lives : a social genocide.

«Memoria del saqueo» brings to light the mechanisms that led to this catastrophe.

This film, is dedicated to all those who resist with dignity, and with courage. It is unacceptable to let a population gradually fall into poverty. It is even more unacceptable to let poverty set in, when the process was predictable. And worse still, to let poverty appear, in a land of abundance.





Director's note

The dramatic circumstances which we are living out bring me back to my very beginnings in the cinema, thirty-five years ago, when my search for a political identity and my desire to struggle against the dictatorship led me to shoot *The Hour of the Furnaces*. Circumstances have greatly changed, but the consequences of the neo-liberal plan have today proved so disastrous that, once again, I am forced to bear witness to

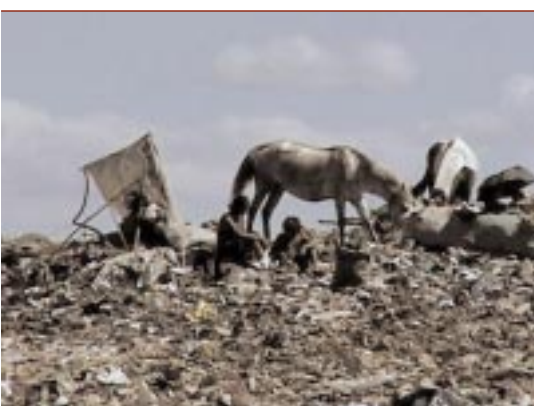
memories and testimonies by composing a living fresco based on what we have supported and endured over the past twenty-five years, from Videla's dictatorship to today. It is in this manner that I wish to contribute to the urgent debate that Argentina, Latin America and the world at large are conducting, which, as its driving force, the certainty that, faced with dehumanized globalization, "another world is possible".

Biography

Fernando Solanas, was born on February 16th 1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He spent most of the past thirty years examining the country's general History. In 1976, one of his actors was murdered, and he started receiving death threats : as the dictatorship began, Solanas was forced into exile. He left for France where he directed *Le regard des autres* («In Other Peoples' Eyes») in 1981.

In 1984, the situation in the country was barely back to normal, when Solanas decided to return to Argentina, where he shot his next film *Tangos, l'exil de Gardel* («The Exile of Gardel»). An optimistic piece, transcended by the joy of this homecoming. *Sur* («The South») and *El viaje* («The Journey») are the films that clearly started defining Solanas' cinematographic orienta-

tion, and his main topics of interest : from then on, his work was tinged with less utopia and more bitterness ...His work also started depicting the rampant corruption in the country and criticising the Menem administration. The response was not long to come : he received 6 bullets in the leg during a murder attempt... And still went on to become a national deputy, taking a five-year break from film-making. But Politics "cannot be left in the hands of a class of professional politicians" says Solanas, and "an artist's duty is to take part in national affairs". *La nube* («the cloud»), the film that preceded *Memoria del Saqueo*, was a tribute to independent theatre in Argentina, a film of revolt, against what he refers to as the "Grey Times" his country has been going through.





CREDITS

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MUSIC	Gerardo GANDINI
EDITING	Juan C. MACIAS Fernando E. SOLANAS Sebastián MIGNONA
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