

A WHILE AT THE BORDER

A FILM BY ILE DELL'UNTI

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EPISTOLARY FILM THAT TRACES THE EXILE OF TWO ARCHITECT SISTERS, FORCED APART BY THE ARGENTINIAN DICTATORSHIP IN 1978, PUSHED TO LIVE ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE WORLD: SWEDEN AND ARGENTINA

SYNOPSIS

A While at the Border is an epistolary film that traces the exile experience of two architect sisters, forced apart by the Argentinian dictatorship in 1978, pushed to live on opposite sides of the world: southern Sweden and northern Argentina. From the year 1978 until 1989, the film journeys among marginal and memory landscapes, trying to understand how life was rebuilt after surviving a genocide.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I come from a migrant family. My grandparents and great-grandparents emigrated from Europe to escape war and fascism. My parents and my aunt emigrated from Argentina to escape the fascism and military violence of the last Argentine military dictatorship. The story of my family is not written in our surname, which has been altered at various immigration offices. Although this is a familiar story, it is not told as one, because it is just like many other similar migrant stories—stories that are not stored in large libraries or Super 8 film collections. The story of my family is not one of great feats, but of small rituals to survive the world, of love as support, and of life that continues despite everything. This history is also the history of a country: the violence of an economic model imposed with blood and pain, and the echoes of it that keep hurting long after the first shot. The story of my family is also the history of a nation without a land—the nation of migrant people. Its story remains in the landscape. It is written in letters, and it is written by women.

LONG SYNOPSIS

1978. Two sisters, political activists, and architecture students, are forced apart by the Argentinian dictatorship. Claudia fled to Lund, near the Sweden-Denmark border, and Julia moved to Formosa, on the Argentina-Paraguay border. Apart by thousands of kilometers, the sisters found refuge through the letters they sent each other over 10 years, talking about their friends and lovers, the Latin colony of the exiled, the political and cultural reality of each country, and the lack of money and job, while planning a visit from Julia to Sweden and the return of Claudia to Argentina which seems far away with every letter.

40 years after democracy is reinstated and a decade after both of them died, the director of the film immerses herself into the sister's story along with two actresses, who read and listen to the reading of letters narrated by each other, while wandering among the landscapes that populated Julia and Claudia's life: a young city in northern Argentina near the tropical jungle, and a medieval university town next to the Scandinavian forest in southern Sweden.

Between Julia's internal exile; and the plane phobia that prevents Claudia from returning to Argentina; Between the Argentine economic crisis of the 1980s and the crisis of the Swedish model at the beginning of the 1990s, the film journeys among marginal and memory landscapes, trying to understand how life was rebuilt after surviving a genocide.

ARGENTINA - 143 MINUTES - ORIGINAL FORMAT 4K - SCREENING FORMAT DCP -

DIRECTOR

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Ileana Dell'Unti is a transdisciplinary documentary artist from the northern border of Argentina. She holds a Master's degree in Creative Documentary from Pompeu Fabra University, Spain, and is an Arts Ph.D. candidate at the National University of La Plata (UNLP), Argentina. Her short films premiered at international film festivals such as BAFICI, FICUNAM, DOCLISBOA, and FICIC. Her feature film "I Would Prefer Not To" premiered at DOCLISBOA in 2017.

Her video installations have been exhibited in various museums, biennials, and galleries throughout Argentina, including the Museo Rosa Galisteo, Museo René Bruasau, and the Biennial of Moving Image. She has also participated in several national art competitions, such as the 101st National Salon of Santa Fe and the National Fund for the Arts, where she received an award in 2022. In 2021, she won first prize at the Argentine Visual Arts Award from the Fundación Osde with her installation "Oración a San Juan."

PRODUCER

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Lara Decuzzi is a producer and Image and Sound Designer graduated from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), where she also completed a Master's degree in Administration of Cultural and Creative Sector Organizations. She is a professor in the Film program at IUPA. She coordinates the INCAA Theater in General Roca and directs the Audiovisual Hub. She has served as a tutor and jury member at various festivals, competitions, and committees. She is currently the Director of the Audiovisual Hub of the Province of Río Negro.

TEAM

Letters by Julia Meirama and Claudia Meirama. Actresses: Voice of Julia + Formosa Character - Florencia Cirigliano; Voice of Claudia - Soledad Dottavio. Direction by Ile Dell'Unti. Assistant direction: Odalis Sekieliyk. Screenplay by: Ile Dell'Unti and Juan Hendel. Director of photography: Franco Palazzo. General and executive production: Lara Decuzzi. Sound design and post-production: Ramiro Diaz Aguero. Color post-production: Franco Palazzo.