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The Devil Never Sleeps

(El Diablo Nunca Duerme)

U.S.A./Mexico, 1994, 87 min., color

Director/Executive Producer/Screenwriter: Lourdes Portillo

Producer: Michelle Valladares

Cinematographer: Kyle Kibbe

Editor: Vivian Hillgrove Gilliam

Music: Mark Adler, Lola Beltrán

Early on a Sunday morning in July, filmmaker Lourdes Portillo receives a phone call from her native home, Chihuahua, Mexico, with bad news. Her beloved uncle, Oscar Ruiz Alemedia, has been shot to death. His widow immediately declares his death a suicide. Most of the family, however, raise a cry of murder, with suspicions cast in a number of directions: his business partner, his farmhand, even his second wife.

Portillo returns to Mexico with a film crew to investigate and find the truth. That's where things get complicated. Who was Uncle Oscar? Who knew him? More importantly, what part of this knowledge is clouded by memory? Although the story develops like a murder mystery, the truth is a synthesis of many elements: emotion and logic, evidence and hypothesis, melodrama and police procedures. The lively cast of characters — family members and friends (both alive and dead via a séance) — are very helpful as each is only too eager to share. But as each stone is turned, we find not an answer but another question. The film becomes more than a family drama; it is a personal journey filled with poignancy, pathos, and whimsy.

What is remarkable about *The Devil Never Sleeps* is that as the facts of the murder become blurred, the film begins to resonate with the exploration of changing self and culture; Portillo even examines her unresolved emotions about emigrating to the U.S. at the age of thirteen. With striking cinematography and strategic editing, Portillo's poetic imagery bridges the gap between past and present and weaves a tapestry from the notions of family and home. In *The Devil Never Sleeps*, the devil may be something we cannot resolve, but we can't forget it, either.

— John Cooper

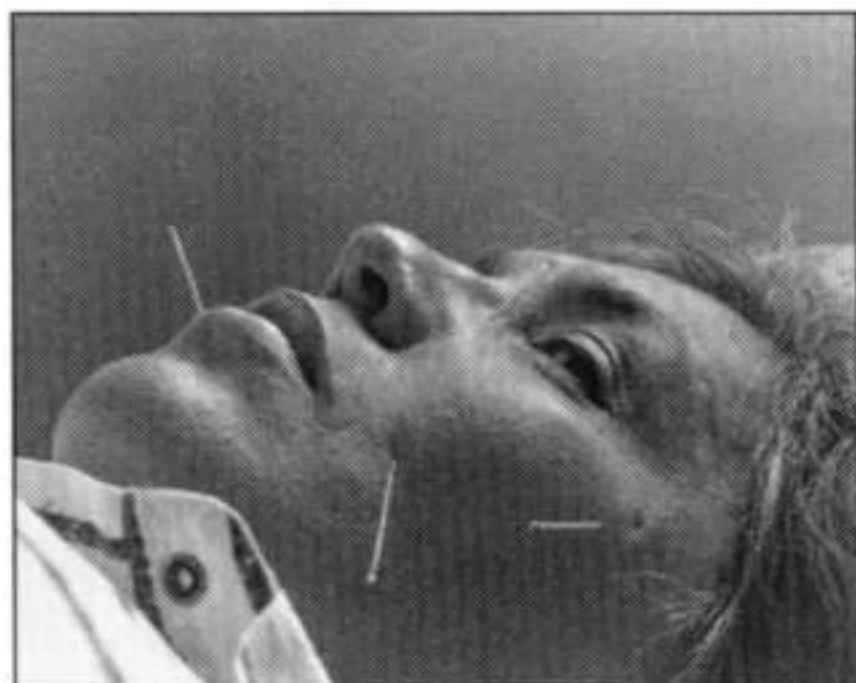
Preceded by:

Crossroads

Canada, 1994, 28 min., color

Director: Ramiro Puerta

A hilarious performance by playwright Guillermo Verdecchia highlights a lighthearted look at the Latino boom and other things that go bump in the night.



The Devil Never Sleeps

Friday Jan 20 10:40 am
Holiday Village Cinema III

Tuesday Jan 24 7:00 pm
Holiday Village Cinema I

Wednesday Jan 25 7:00 pm
Holiday Village Cinema I

Friday Jan 27 1:00 pm
Egyptian Theatre

\$7.00 (DEVIL)