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La Ofrenda THE DAYS OF THE DEAD

A FILM BY LOURDES PORTILLO AND SUSANA MUÑOZ

La Ofrenda

THE DAYS OF THE DEAD

X O C H I T L F I L M S • 5 0 M I N • C O L O R • 1 6 M M



LA OFRENDA, THE DAYS OF THE DEAD offers a personal look at the Mexican celebration for the dead, those days when the dead come back to visit the living. Through the narrator's personal journey—a Chicana's quest to understand her culture—the film explores the indian roots of the Days of the Dead and its continuity in the Chicano community. This exploration evokes the loving and sometimes humorous nature of Mexican attitudes toward death in a film saturated with color and life.

AWARDS

Blue Ribbon

American Film and Video Festival

First Prize Feature Documentary

Athens Film Festival

Jury Award Winner

Sinking Creek Film Festival

Director's Choice Selection

Black Maria Film Festival

Honors

American Documentary Association

FILM USES

Art/Anthropology

Chicano Studies

Psychology/Sociology

Religion/Philosophy

Folklore



The word death is not pronounced in New York, Paris or London, because it burns the lips. The Mexican, in contrast, is familiar with death, jokes about it, caresses it, sleeps with it, celebrates it, it is one of his favorite toys and most steadfast love.

Octavio Paz



“Through memorable poetic images, **La Ofrenda** constructs open and fluid configurations of cultural identity. New versions and visions of the cultural past inform present multi-cultural perspectives.”

*Tomas Ybarra Frausto
Professor of Spanish
Stanford University*

“**La Ofrenda** is a remarkable evocation of ritual in all its dimensions: poetic and philosophical, historical and humorous, grounded in the everyday lives of those who carry it. A superb film for understanding Mexican identity, and cross-cultural approaches to death.”

*Faye Ginsburg
Director, Program in
Ethnographic Film and Video
New York University*

“... This film is truly a delight for the senses, capturing the colorful images, the passion, and the sound of celebration. As it records the various ceremonies and rituals **La Ofrenda** becomes in itself an offering to those who continue to value and generate their cultural legacy.”

*Cindy Rios
Assistant Director,
San Antonio Cine Festival*

“In tracing the origins and history of the Days of the Dead, the filmmakers have produced a fascinating documentary in **La Ofrenda**. There is an obvious care in telling the story of the Day of the Dead, and an obvious connection between the filmmakers' personal histories and the story itself. **La Ofrenda** is nothing less than brilliant.”

*Gary Soto,
Writer and Professor
of Chicano Studies*

“**La Ofrenda** offers the viewer the opportunity to confront and contemplate one's own mortality while immersing oneself in a candlelit and sun-drenched film redolent with sensuousness and joy.”

*Robert Hawk
Director, Film Arts Festival*

Sponsored by Film Arts Foundation

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LA OFRENDA THE DAYS OF THE DEAD

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La Ofrenda • The Days of the Dead

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**Blue Ribbon Award, 1990 American Film and Video Festival*

**Best Documentary, Athens Film Festival*

"A film saturated with color and life. Stunning to the eye, this exploration of a true phenomenon evokes the loving sometimes humorous nature of Mexican attitudes toward death. Within the framework of the narrator's personal journey — a Chicana's quest to understand her culture, Mexico and the Day of the Dead — **La Ofrenda** reflects on the pre-Hispanic roots of El Día de Muertos, then looks at the present day celebration in Oaxaca and its permutations in the United States."

Robert Hawk

A film by Lourdes Portillo and Susana Muñoz

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Las Madres • The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo

64 mins. Spanish and English

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**Best Documentary, Bilbao, Spain*

**Best Documentary, Prix Des Public, Int. Films Des Femmes, France and 18 other International Film Prizes*

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Michael Sragow, San Francisco Examiner

A film by Susana Muñoz and Lourdes Portillo

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A film by Lourdes Portillo and Nina Serrano

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