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VENEZUELA 1988

America, Unknown Land

Amerika, tierra incognita

6.30 NFT2

Director: Diego Riskey

Production Company: Prods Guakamaya

Producer: Andrea Radonski

Screenplay: Diego Riskey, Luis Angel Duque

Photography (Delta Print Super 16mm blown up to 35mm, Colour):
Andres Agusti

Export Agent: Prods Guakamaya, calle Oriente, Quinta Solange,
Country Club, Caracas

Leading Players: Alberto Martín, Mana Luisa Mosquera, Hugo
Márquez, Amapola Riskey, Jhonn Phelps

Running Time: 98 mins

Festival: Cannes

With this extraordinary film, the best-known Venezuelan director, Diego Riskey, has completed the trilogy begun with *Simón Bolívar* (1969) and continued with *Orinoko Nuevo Mundo* (1984). As with his previous works, Riskey chose to shoot the film in small-gauge and to blow it up to 35mm to achieve a very seductive and intriguing visual and narrative texture. With virtually no dialogue, his vibrant images show the rape and plunder of every object, plant and mineral, including man himself. The strength of the thread running through the trilogy is now finally proven beyond a reasonable doubt. If *Simón* showed Latin America and its history as Europeans liked to see them and *Orinoko* is the anarchic impression they have of themselves, then *America* contains the vision of the Latin Americans projecting back into Europe what they see in us. In France Riskey's films have turned out to be reasonably commercial as well as 'culturally significant' – which proves that it's worth taking a few Riskey. –*Don Ranvaud.*