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Despues de la tormenta

After The Storm

Tristan Bauer

Argentina, 1990, 120 minutes
Colour/35mm

Production Company: Killarney

Executive Producer: TVE/Killarney

Producer: Edgardo Pallero

Screenplay: Tristan Bauer, Ruben Alvarez,
Graciela Maglie

Cinematography: Ricardo de Angellis

Editor: Cesar D'Angiolillo

Art Director: Abel Facello

Sound: Abelardo Kuschnir

Music: Rodolfo Mederos

Principal Cast: Lorenzo Quinteros, Patricio
Contreras, Ana Maria Picchio, Eva Hernandez,
Jofre Soares

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Despite the initial successes of democratization in Argentina, that now country finds itself in its most serious economic bind to date — the foreign debt, hyperinflation, and deindustrialization, not to mention the arrival of Menem. With *After The Storm*, Tristan Bauer offers us a very contemporary portrait of life in the once splendid metropolis of Buenos Aires; he has constructed a moving tale of the decline and disintegration of a working class Buenos Aires family. As the film opens, the father is reeling from the closure of the factory where he has worked for years. Everywhere he turns, what he knew is gone — friends, unions, connections. He is diagnosed as medically unsuitable for work in other factories, and finds himself in an enormous hiring hall full of chaotic masses of unemployed men fighting each other for menial day jobs — a prototypical scene of the survival of the fittest. He is finally forced to leave his home, taking his wife, son and daughter to live in the shanty town on the edge of the endless Buenos Aires garbage dump. This is a society of despair — petty crime, hunger, boredom — and the family falls apart. The son is jailed for drug running; the wife and daughter disappear. He escapes to his family home in the country to survive as a farm worker. Life appears no better there, in fact even the rich landowner has no more money; but deeply rooted rural traditions provide a new source of hope and inspiration. This is the tale of Argentina writ large and bold. Told in a style that consistently edges into surreally beautiful imagery — herds of wild horses grazing through the early morning mist rising from heaps of urban refuse — *After The Storm* is reminiscent of Fernando Birri's classic, *Los Inundados*, in its unflinching realism and extreme sense of the absurd. A powerful and elegant work.

Tristan Bauer was born in Argentina and studied film, specialising in documentary work. He has directed a number of short films and videos, and has worked as cinematographer for Estela Bravo and Miguel Littin (*Acta General de Chile*). *After The Storm* is his first feature film.

Helga Stephenson

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