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Island *Chick*
MUJER DE MILFUEGOS (1976)

— (Woman of a Thousand Fires) 15 min., color, rental: \$25 sale: \$250

Available in Spanish with English subtitles

Film Forum
Pacific Film Archive
Museum of Modern Art

An expressionistic, surrealistic portrait of a Latin American woman. MUJER DE MILFUEGOS is not a personal portrait so much as an evocation of the consciousness of women in rural parts of such countries as Spain, Greece and Mexico: women who wear black from the age of 15 and spend their entire lives giving birth, preparing food and tending to household and farm responsibilities. MUJER DE MILFUEGOS depicts in poetic, almost abstract terms, their daily repetitive tasks as a form of obsessive ritual.

The film uses dramatic action to express the thoughts and feelings of a woman living within this culture. As she becomes transformed, her isolation and desire, conveyed in symbolic activities, endows her with a universal quality. Through experiences of ecstasy and madness we are shown different aspects of the human personality. The final sequence presents her awareness of another level of knowledge.

A kind of hermetic fantasy film, MUJER DE MILFUEGOS would make unusual and fascinating viewing for courses in women's studies, Latin American studies, sociology and psychology.