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*** **ARAYA** by Margot Benacerraf (Venezuela, 1958, b&w, sound)
Format: ~~16mm~~ and 35mm. Rental: \$200. guarantee. Availability: April 1990.

A milestone of the New Latin American Cinema, **Araya** is a film which defies definition. Set in Araya, on the Caribbean Coast of Venezuela, whose inhabitants depend exclusively on what the sea provides - salt and fish - the film has an almost hypnotic visual splendor. Photographed in stark, beautiful black-and-white images, the film creates an unforgettable canvas of the inhabitant's cycle of dependence on the conditions in which nature forces them to live. Like the films of Eisenstein and Flaherty, **Araya** draws a line between social observation and aesthetic pleasure. Through the eyes of pioneer Margot Benacerraf, the everyday life is turned into the magical. Winner of the International Critics Prize at the 1959 Cannes Film Festival and the Prize of the Comite Technique superieur du Cinema Francais. **Araya** received critical acclaim at the Berlin and Edingurgh festivals and was screened at the Moscow, Locarno and Venice Film Festivals.

"The great French director Jean Renoir summed up all that can be said of **Araya** in a single sentence. On departing from a showing, he congratulated the film's creator with these words: 'Above all...don't cut a single image.'" --
Angel Hurtado, Latin American Visions Catalogue