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Ana

(PORTUGUESE-COLOR)

Berlin, Feb. 21.

A Portuguese Institute of Cinema presentation. Produced by Antonio Reis, Margarida Cordeiro, Paulo Branco. Direction and screenplay by Reis and Cordeiro, text, Rainer Maria Wilke. Features entire cast. Camera (color), Acacio de Almeida, Elso Roque; art direction, sound, Antoinr Bonfanti; editors, Reis and Cordeiro. Reviewed at the Delphi, Berlin, Feb. 21, 1983. Running Time: 115 MINS.

With: Ana Maria Martins Guerra, Octavio Lixa Figueiras, Manuel Ramalho Eanes, Aurora Afonso, Mariana Margarido.

Husband and wife filmmaking team of Antonio Reis and Margarida Cordeiro have produced an interesting curiosity from Portugal entitled "Ana." While recent Portuguese films have attracted attention at film festivals, this film is unlikely to open doors for international distribution.

Set in a remote mountain area of Portugal, the film centers on a primitive family and a group of ethnographers. The film relies on incident rather than establishing a narrative flow to the event. The effect is disjointed and irritating for audiences.

Film's strongest point is Acacio de Almeida's camerawork which captures both the darkness and sombre quality of the primitive mountain folk and the sunnier coastal hues. However, "Ana" displays more style than substance and eventually one is uncertain whether these people actually exist or are the creation of the filmmakers.

Action around the family unfolds at a tortoise's pace and their inability or reluctance to communicate verbally does little to convey a sense of the characters. If the incidents are meant to be symbolic, then this is lost in translation. Conversely, the scientists speak volumes about a possible Mesopotamian link to the area which fails to pay off dramatically.

"Ana" appears confined to festival slottings where audiences will find the film more curious than revealing. —*Klad*.