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Author(s)	E. Lavine
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"... and the earth did not swallow him"

USA 1994 98 mins



Sponsored by PG&E and Pacific Bell

Director/Screenwriter Severo Perez **Producer** Paul Espinosa **Camera** Virgil Harper **Editor** Susan Heick **Music** Marcos Loya **Sound** Susumu Tokunow **Cast** Jose Alcalá, Danny Valdez, Rose Portillo, Marco Rodriguez **Print Source** KPBS-TV

After a twenty-year quest to realize his vision, Severo Perez offers us his heartfelt filmic version of Thomas Rivera's 1971 semiautobiographical novel. The story centers around Marcos (Jose Alcalá), a sensitive, artistic twelve-year-old Mexican boy struggling to piece together the confusing and painful events of his turbulent young life. The year is 1952 and Marcos' beloved older brother is reportedly missing in action in the Korean War. Their mother, Florentina (Rose Portillo), anguishes over her the loss of her eldest son as she travels the country with her migrant family in search of work. Unable to secure either a meaningful education or a sense of belonging, Marcos becomes involved in a succession of volatile, dangerous interactions. Amidst the uncertainty and chaos of his fragile existence, he drifts aimlessly through life, growing ever weary of attending to a God who does not answer his prayers. It is for Marcos to discover whether life is worthy of his effort, whether he will pull himself together and survive.

—E. Lavine

In person: Severo Perez, Paul Espinosa