

## Document Citation

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## Spain



### ***Absence***

*(Tiempo de Ausencia)*

1984. Color. c. 90 min.

In Spanish, with English subtitles

Latin-American Series

Director, Rodolfo Kuhn; Screenplay, Osbaldo Bayer; Producer, Jose G. Jacoste; Music, Victor Manuel; Songs, Anna Belen; Print Source, RTVE, Centro Empresarial Somosaguas, C/Saturno, 10, Madrid 23

The subject matter is political repression and the "disappeared." *Missing* did it fictionally, by focusing on the plight of a father in search of his son disappeared in Chile. *Absence* looks at this problem in Argentina through the powerful testimony of the mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who through their courageous weekly demonstrations brought the plight of their disappeared sons and daughters to the eyes of the world.

Few documentaries combine intelligence and emotion to the degree *Absence* does. It features testimonials from: Marta—rich, Catholic, now in exile in Spain; Antonia and Maria, the grandmothers whose drama reveals the blackest chapter of the military dictatorship—the disappearance of children; and Hebe Pastor de Bonafini, working-class housewife and President of the Mothers' Movement, whose powerful testimony traces the epic struggle to conquer the Plaza—asserting, thus, the mothers' unbreakable faith in life as a resounding answer to the "Argentinian Death" instituted by the military in 1976.

—Denis W. DeLaRoca

(Additional Screening: 9:45 PM, Saturday, April 20, Archive)

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