

Document Citation

Title A tribute to Joris Ivens

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Source Pacific Film Archive Calendar

Date 1989

Type program note

Language English

Pagination

No. of Pages 1

Subjects

Film Subjects A Valparaiso, Ivens, Joris, 1963

Tuesday January 31

A Tribute to Joris Ivens

For an introduction to Joris Ivens, please see Tuesday, January 10.

A Valparaiso and The Spanish Earth 7:30

A Valparaiso

Chris Marker wrote one of his finest commentaries for this film—writing not on location in Valparaiso, but in Paris, based on notes taken by Ivens during the filming. A Valparaiso has been described as "a film of brilliance and tragic beauty, about the fascinating Chilean port...Belying the tragedy of the poor, faces and forms, streets and shacks are pinioned in beauty by the bright light and the film's art."

• Directed and Written by Joris Ivens. Commentary by Chris Marker. Photographed by Georges Strouve, Patricio Guzman. (1962, 29 mins, In French with English subtitles, B&W and Color, 35mm, Print from Films Inc.)

The Spanish Earth

Contemporary Historians, a group of American writers and intellectuals which included Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos, Archibald MacLeish and Lillian Hellman, sponsored this milestone documentary to inspire support and publicity for the Spanish Republican cause. The setting is the small Spanish village of Fuenteduena, near Madrid, and the road between Madrid and Valencia, where the villagers develop plans to irrigate the land recently confiscated from the feudal landowners, while military forces take part in the defense of Madrid.

• Directed and Written by Joris Ivens. Commentary by Ernest Hemingway. Photographed by John Ferno, Ivens. Edited by Helen van Dongen. (1937, 52 mins, B&W, 16mm, Print from PFA Deposit)