

COBOS FILMS **presents**

**a film by** HEDDY HONIGMANN

# el olvido

**oblivion**



SAN SEBASTIAN INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

# el olvido

a film by HEDDY HONIGMANN

**A film about poverty and poetry in a country plundered by the powerful. But also a film where the powerless resist being consigned to oblivion.**

**EL OLVIDO** takes us to the forgotten city of Lima, to a forgotten people, the Peruvians and - like most countries in Latin America - the forgotten land of Peru.

Occasionally - during presidential elections, after a serious earthquake, or when a new mass grave is discovered, and then only if it's big enough - the world remembers Peru's existence, but just for a few days.

But in **EL OLVIDO**, we do not witness elections or experience earthquakes and neither are we present at the discovery of a mass grave.

As we wander through the streets of Lima, we visit old restaurants and some small shops, we enter a few smart bars and we sit down in various plazas to watch and observe. We meet some moving characters who use poetry, real or mental juggling, dreams and creativity to resist being consigned to oblivion and against those who have sworn for centuries that they love their people, but who in reality they despise.

Like great unassuming poets, the characters of **EL OLVIDO** look at history with a sense of humour and irony and give a twist to reality: in a little alley, a street vendor with an endearing smile sells toys - tiny buckets. Holding up the biggest of them, he yells in a loud voice:

"Look at this giant one; buy it, it can hold up to 10 litres of water!" Which is ironic in a country where you can never be sure if there will be water when you turn on the tap. If you have a tap, that is.

But in **EL OLVIDO** there's also room for silence and in those moments Lima resembles Macondo, the imaginary city of "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by García Márquez. Just so they wouldn't forget, the villagers of Macondo wrote down the names of things and stuck them to the objects that might be forgotten: a tree, a house, a bird...everything. In this Macondian Lima, shoeshine boy Henry wanders through the streets. What is one to make of a 14-year-old boy who doesn't have any memories, neither good nor bad? In his unforgettable face, the emptiness shows. Perhaps some frog juice - a Peruvian remedy for memory loss - will help him recall at least one happy moment.

**directed by** HEDDY HONIGMANN

director of award-winning films *O Amor Natural*, *The underground orchestra*, *Metal and melancholy* and *Forever*.

**produced by** CARMEN COBOS

producer of the award-winning films *The Last Victory* and *Forever*.

**made with the participation of** the Dutch Film Fund, the CoBO Fund and the Dutch Cultural Broadcasting Promotion Fund

**international sales** FILMS TRANSIT INT INC.

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**length** 93' & 58', digibeta 16.9 & HD & 35mm

**original language** Spanish with English and Dutch subtitles

