

El Norte

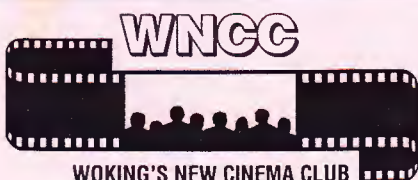
THE NORTH



AN INDEPENDENT PRODUCTIONS FILM in association with AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE 'EL NORTE'
starring ZAIDE SILVA GLITCHER and DAVID VILLALBA - screen play by GREGORY NAVA and
ANNA THOMAS - produced by ANNA THOMAS - directed by GREGORY NAVA

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INTERNATIONAL FILMS



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Silver Award - 1986
Special Commendation - 1987
Film Society of the Year - 1988
Best Programme Notes - 1990
Special Commendation - 1992



El Norte

T H E N O R T H

TECHNICAL CREDITS

Screenplay GREGORY NAVA and ANNA THOMAS
Director GREGORY NAVA
Producer ANNA THOMAS
Cinematography JAMES GLENNON
Sound ROBERT YERINGTON
Film Editor BETSY BLANKETT

CAST

Rosa Xuncax ZAIDE SILVIA GUTIERREZ
Enrique Xuncax DAVID VILLALPANDO
Arturo Xuncax ERNESTO GOMEZ CRUZ
Lupe Xuncax ALICIA DEL LAGO
Josefita STELLA QU'AN
Raimundo ABEL FRANCO
Nacha LUPE ONTIVEROS



El Norte (The North) is an independent American film directed by Gregory Nava and produced by Anna Thomas. They wrote the screenplay together as husband and wife and filmed it under harrowing conditions.



The film tells the story of Enrique and Rosa - brother and sister - and their journey from Guatemala to America following the murder of their father and the disappearance of their mother. The journey is beset with difficulties. They are reliant on operators or "coyotes" to smuggle them across the Mexican border into America. This involves crawling through rat infested sewers. Once across the border they find jobs, but life in the U.S is not what they dreamt it to be.

There were numerous problems in making El Norte. Nava and Thomas worked with a limited budget. The highlands of Chiapas in Mexico were a convincing alternative to the Guatemalan landscape, but they turned out to be a violent place to film. The local officials were unreliable due to frequent drunkenness and at one point the production manager was kidnapped and held for 12 hours. Fortunately the film was able to be made.

The background to the story is interesting. Gregory Nava lived in San Diego as a child and often crossed the Mexican border to visit relatives. He was curious about the people he met. He may have felt as I did when visiting Tijuana as a young adult and seeing the deprivation and squalor so close to the affluence of the U.S. In making El Norte Nava wanted to avoid just portraying the Third World as the starving unfortunate people of the Earth, without attempting to capture the undeniable beauty and magical richness of their lives.

Nava and Thomas have previously collaborated on 'The Confessions of Armand' (1973). The film was written, produced and directed by Nava and shot with a budget of just \$13,000. It won the Best First Feature at the Chicago International Film Festival. Nava also assisted Thomas with her 1977 film "The Haunting of M".

El Norte has some parallels with the highly acclaimed Swiss film "Journey of Hope". Both films share the theme of finding a better life in the First World. The film has been criticised by some for being overly sentimental. I do not agree. The film is compassionate, heart-rending and unforgettable. There are few films more appropriate to be shown during One World Week.

Steve Jarvis



David Villalpando (centre).



SPECIAL EVENT
TWICE THE SUSPENSE IN A HITCHCOCK DOUBLE BILL!

COMING
NEXT
MONTH

Following his free adaptation of John Buchan's *THE 39 STEPS* (shown at the Club last June), Alfred Hitchcock found inspiration in the novels of two other popular authors for both of his subsequent films which we shall be presenting in the order in which he made them.....



THE SECRET AGENT

Hitchcock clearly delighted in the variety of atmospheric locations, including a precipitous Alpine ledge, a crowded troop train and a sinister chocolate factory, in this "thriller, with elements of comedy", based loosely on Somerset Maugham's 'Ashenden' espionage stories. John Gielgud, Peter Lorre, Madeleine Carroll, Robert Young, Michel Saint-Denis. 1936 Alfred Hitchcock

SABOTAGE

Hitchcock's British reputation peaked with his Gaumont-British and Gainsborough thrillers. Joseph Conrad's novel *The Secret Agent* provided the source for this chilling tale about a London family torn apart by anarchist activities. Hitch brilliantly manipulates the suspense, changing Verloc's profession from tobacconist to cinema owner and drenching scenes with the sights and sounds of ordinary London. Strong performances from Oskar Homolka and Sylvia Sidney. 1936/Dir Alfred Hitchcock.



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Goldwater
ON
Lodge **BIGSCREEN**

PERFORMANCE ENDS 11.00 p.m.

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