

Films to watch about Chile/Latin America

Violeta Went to Heaven

You all know my affection for music, so of course a film about a musician has to be first. This is about the life and legacy of Violeta Parra, an artist who many refer to as Chile's Edith Piaf. She is a Chilean folk musician whose music still reverberates around the world. If you haven't spent any time listening to Violeta Parra, I can't recommend it highly enough. I always get lost in her melodies (and get a little choked up). Be prepared for a pretty introspective evening when Violeta comes on :) I hope you like this film as much as I do.

No

"In 1988, international pressure comes to bear on Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, forcing him to call a referendum on his presidency. The country will vote either yes or no on extending Pinochet's rule for another eight years. Leaders of the "no" movement recruit Rene Saavedra (Gael García Bernal), a young advertising executive, to spearhead their campaign. With few resources and constant scrutiny by the dictator's minions, Saavedra and his team hatch a bold plan to win the election."

Nostalgia for the Light

I just watched this. This film is both beautiful and gut wrenching.

"Director Patricio Guzman travels to Chile's Atacama Desert where astronomers examine distant galaxies, archaeologists uncover traces of ancient civilizations, and women dig for the remains of disappeared relatives."

Gloria

This list can't all be political stuff. Life is about friends, family, love, togetherness and happiness ☺ So, I suggest you watch this movie. There was an American remake with Julianne Moore (it was fabulous and she was fabulous....as always).

"Best actress award winner Paulina Garcia (Berlin Film Festival) is a free-spirited woman rediscovering life, love, and heartbreak in this critically acclaimed film."

Crystal Fairy and The Magical Cactus

This film is a Chilean comedy and it's mostly in English. It's a really beautiful portrait of young adulthood and one which I can relate to quite readily, having had a very nomadic period in my twenties. I recommend watching this film, however **DO NOT** do what they do in this film when we are in Chile. This is, however, related to plant science so I find it apropos.

"Jamie invites an eccentric woman on a road trip with his friends. His devil-may-care journey becomes a battle of wills, as the two lock horns before they try a hallucinogenic concoction."