

La Segunda

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"A Man Aside", a documentary at the level of the best filmmaking.

When Bettina Perut and Iván Osnovikoff were sensitive enough to see the human being behind one of the secondary characters of their awarded documentary "Chi-Chi-Chi-Le-Le-Le Martín Vargas from Chile", they showed their first big hit. This founded the solid grounds of one of the most powerful and outstanding works of the category known in Chile: "A Man Aside" will be screened tomorrow at the Hoyts Cinema in La Reina.

The flatteries to this production can be taken from many different angles: the language, the coherent truth in the narrative, the clear, but free of question, point of view, the capacity, almost psicoanalytical, to undress the deepest and most painful truth of a man who still does not want to face his reality. Because of any of these qualities, this 56 minutes film is exceptionally valuable. The whole of them makes it comparable to those great novels of the universal literature.

The couple set eyes on the octogenarian ex box promoter, Ricardo Liaño. And maybe what best proves their accurate description, which meant a joint search of the truth during nine months, is what the main character declared today in a morning press interview. "There were beautiful things about my life to include in the documentary, but unfortunately they weren't so (...) I am not a man aside. (...) They're only showing a ten percent of my life in this documentary."

Actually, the most interesting part of the work was that it took an option and was able to capture that very ten percent: the here and now of a man whose absolutely refractory attitude towards his reality has pushed him, in the last stage of his life, to an anguishing loneliness, that in which his closest people avoid him... The documentary also shows the remains of that pushing protected against any stumbling rock that once gave him good results, but that once it becomes an obsession, it turns people into loners, ignorant victims of their own mistakes and defects they definitely refuse to see. "I'm a triumphant, I'm a winner", tells he, with his strong Spaniard accent, to the supposed script writer who will make a film about him. "I think I'm wise and smart", he adds, when the scriptwriter tries to make him see his reality telling him that the truth is he is nothing but a lonely, abandoned man with illusions.

This is a work with a deep human content, a road that will hopefully inspire our filmmakers in general.

Ana Josefa Silva