

Vacuum

25 years ago, in December 1985, the Uruguayan citizens voted for the validity of the State's Impunity Law, protecting the military of any civil justice in connection with the dictatorship between 1973-84. The majority of the people hardly ever confronted themselves with the past, while the torturers and murderers enjoy generous pensions for *servicios a la patria*. In Uruguay, there are still a lot of *desaparecidos* – people who vanished between 1973-84 and were never found again. María Emilia Islas is one of them and still missing. She disappeared at the age of 22 with her husband and her 18-months-old child. Her mother, María Esther Gatti, spent searching 16 years for her granddaughter – finally finding her living with a family of an Argentinean military officer in Buenos Aires. After learning the truth about her origin, the 18-year old granddaughter chose to continue living with the parents who adopted her by force. This film is a most sensitive account of María Emilia's family torn apart as well as a detailed report of the atrocities of the military dictatorship: a story of courage and oppression, of love and suffering, representative for so many fates throughout South America. In October 2004 the presidential elections brought about an unexpected change of political power. The new left-wing government has started seeking for the victims...



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