

The Pearl Button (El Botón de Nácar)

Directed by Patricio Guzmán

Chile, Spain, France, 82 minutes

Spanish with English Subtitles



Competition, Berlin Film Festival

Silver Bear for Best Script, Berlin Film Festival

After the acclaimed *Nostalgia for the Light* (2010), with its study of the desert, the stars, light and time, as well as the recent memory and remains of disappeared people in North Chile under Pinochet, Patricio Guzmán takes us on a journey into the water and ocean of Southern Chile.

The sea holds all the voices of the earth and those that come from outer space. Water receives impetus from the stars and transmits it to living creatures. Water, the longest border in Chile, also holds the secret of two mysterious buttons which were found on its ocean floor. Chile, with its 2,670 miles of coastline and the largest archipelago in the world, presents a supernatural landscape. In it are volcanoes, mountains and glaciers. In it are the voices of the Patagonian Indigenous people and their tragic history, the first English sailors and also those of its political prisoners. Some say that water has memory. This film gives it a voice. Using both archival images and gorgeous new footage, *The Pearl Button* manages once again to convey different periods of history and geography in a gripping tale of our modern world.

‘...poetically shot gem.’

Peter Yeung, *The Daily Telegraph*

‘It is the director’s extraordinary intuition about the synchronicity of history, geography and the physical universe – a mysterious relationship that has nothing to do with cause and effect – that gives the film and its predecessor their undeniable power. Watching them opens up mental windows, unknown vistas appear, subliminal connections are made.’

Deborah Young, *The Hollywood Reporter*

'The director's follow-up to "Nostalgia for the Light" is another major cinematic accomplishment.'

Kevin B. Lee, *Indiewire*

CREDITS

Writer and Director Patricio Guzmán

Image Katell Djian

Editing Emmanuelle Joly

Sound Recording Álvaro Silva Wuth

Original Soundtrack Miranda & Tobar, Hughes Maréchal

Assistant Director Nicolás Lasnibat

Producer and Artistic Advisor Renate Sachse (Atacama Productions)

Photography Assistants Patricio Guzmán, David Bravo,

Yves de Peretti, Patricio Gianfranco, Raúl Veas

Still Photography Martín Gusinde, Paz Errázuriz

Sound editing and Mix Jean-Jacques Quinet.

Executive Producer and Production Coordinator Adrien Oumhani

Co-producers Bruno Bettati, Fernando Lataste, Jaume Roures Llop

Co-production Companies Valdivia Film, Mediapro, France 3 Cinema

Filmed in HDCAM

