

THE LAST TEAR

Review on the short film "El orden de las cosas" – By Roger Gasia

Unfortunately, we live in an atmosphere of fog leads us to deny knowing about our society. Abuses and tears are taking over the dark part of us. In general, we put aside the truth because it is too painful to open our eyes. "The order of things," shows us this hard reality. It was directed by César Esteban Alenda and José Esteban Alenda premiered in 2010, Spain. It's a dramatic short film that explains the hard pain that our protagonist suffered, Julia. It takes place inside a bathroom and tells us how Julia, a battered woman, tries to survive in a sea of male chauvinism. Moreover in 2010, It was nominated for best fiction short film, winning a Goya award in his honor.

When we talk about male chauvinism, the best example to show us this reality is "El orden de las cosas", a short but complex film which explains the life of Julia, a battered woman by her husband. Inside the film, the symbols are the best way to explain a real situation about male chauvinism. For example, we could talk about what is significant about the bathtub. For the woman, in the film, it was as a shelter for herself but at the same time it was her back where the problems continue existing. As well, there was where the water started increasing as time passed by. Moreover, the water helps her to hide the belt, another symbol. In this case it means the power and the control that a "man" needs to have to be better than the woman. This belt passes from generation to generation, always existing in this cycle of mistreatment. In the film, there also appeared a ring, being a chain linking the two main characters. Also, there are more symbols such as the open door, meaning the control and the broken plane which that could be related with the promises that are never kept. She was always naked and wet, explaining the absence of privacy that she could have and also she never grew up unlike of her husband and her son. The water stopper is a symbol too, and we can see it when the "man" used to take over it as a way to get Julia out of her comfort zone. This form of power appeared also in the way they call Marcos the son, and Marcos the father. The brother-in-law called Marcos (the father) "Marquitos" when he felt superior and Marcos when the situation got an atmosphere of "normality". This more or less happens when the father calls his son "Marquitos" instead of Marcos to his son. Finally, the last scene ends when Julia arrives on a beach leaving behind her a sea and also other bathtubs. In my opinion, this means that she finally died the same as other women, a safe place after suffering as other women have suffered.

This short film is a masterpiece in the way that the story is explained, and also about the millions of symbols that allow them to confuse or make us better understand the final meaning of the film. The first adjectives that come to my mind to describe it would be thought-provoking and gripping. We could see it just at the beginning as they want to convey us this reality that a lot of women suffer and we don't usually reflect about it. Moreover, in all the time you must be thinking about how it ends and feeling nervous for the captivating plot. However, in a lot of scenes it was really breathtaking for what could be going on. The lights and the music helped to create a melancholic cold mood in scenes of worry or sadness. Furthermore, I would like to add It was really dramatic and poignant how they describe the consequences of this male chauvinism, reflected in the pain of Julia's face and also the body. She was always naked inside a small bathup, wet, with marks of blows on the back... it was so heartbreaking. However, in some moments by the

end, the story had a twist. It was an enigmatic but quite confusing end, opened so that the one behind the screen deduces. In addition, we should point out the concept that all the members around Julia grow as people, while she remains stuck in a past that is still present. I suppose it could be related to the fact that she remains young, without growing, because of her mistreatment she couldn't have been able to move forward and grow, or it could be Marco himself, who doesn't let her grow.

"El orden de las cosas" is a must-see for its complexity and its meaning which are hidden behind the images but in the same way. It is the essence of the film, according with the difficulty of understanding and the harsh reality that it shows, as far as I'm concerned, I would recommend it for people who could understand its meaning. In spite of everything, I have really enjoyed and also appreciated the open ending so that who sees it, deduces on his own what is happening with our protagonist. From my point of view, with less they have done more, since with only one room and a bathtub they have managed to highlight the poor reality that Julia lives in her house. So much that it could be ours!

