

Film Notes

By Ella Moorhouse

Cuerpo Celeste



2025 | 97mins

Director: Nayra Ilic Garcia

Starring: Néstor Cantillana, Helen Mrugalski,
Daniela Ramírez,

Cuerpo Celeste is a Chilean coming-of-age historical drama, and the second feature directed by Nayra Ilic Garcia. In 1990, 15-year-old Celeste is celebrating New Year's Eve with family and friends in a coastal town near the Atacama Desert. The country is finally returning to democracy after Pinochet's dictatorial rule. The world seems promising when a tragic event upends Celeste and her mother's lives. Almost a year later, Celeste returns to the town to watch the solar phenomenon, only to find everything has changed.

Ilic Garcia's feature examines the role of destiny from the political to the personal. With the title translating from Spanish as 'celestial body,' the film moves between the micro and the macro journeys of fantastical change, drawing parallels between the meteorite shower, Celeste's transition from child to woman, and the wider backdrop of a country finding its new identity. Part memoir, Nayra Ilic Garcia was a child when Chile was liberated from Pinochet's dictatorship, but felt a need to contribute the female perspective of this era that she felt was missing from the canon of Chilean cinema. The core of the film's message is summarised by the director as 'joy comes from justice, and if justice is delayed, it is not justice' (Revista Encuadres, 2025).

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Plus **Run Like a Girl**

Mickey Redman | 10mins

Run Like a Girl is a documentary short film examining the rise of all-female running clubs. Through evocative score and intimate interviews, we follow members of the local run club, Girls That Run, and their personal journeys towards one of the biggest events in the city: the Bath Half Marathon. The documentary highlights how running can be an act of resistance against urban spaces that are built against women. Like *Cuerpo Celeste*, the short documents how to claim back our destiny through our bodies and the power of community.

Winning the best feature at Guadalajara International Film Festival, *Cuerpo Celeste* is making waves at the festival circuit, the film "reinforces the push and pull between memories of the past and the promise of the future" (Tribeca Film, 2025).

'Cuerpo Celeste, is a quietly powerful coming-of-age drama ... the film navigates the fragile transition of both a young girl and her country emerging from the shadow of Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship, offering an honest and restrained portrayal of personal upheaval'

-Davide Abbatescianni

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here



Excellent

Fair

Poor

Did You Know?

- Nayra Ilic Garcia grew up in El Salvador in a merged community that would camp at the same remote beach every summer.
- Members of the crew for *Run Like a Girl* were also part of the Bath Half Marathon.

Continue Your Journey...

If you enjoyed this film, you might like:



Cholitas (2019)
A documentary follows a group of indigenous women from Bolivia whose shared goal is to climb the highest mountain in America.



Chile '76 (2022)
Delving more into the effects of Pinochet's rule, a middle-class woman must confront the atrocities of her society after agreeing to take care of a young man sheltering in secret.

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We really value your opinion and your answers are really helpful to help us understand our audiences, improve the festival and apply for funding.

Excellent

Fair

Poor



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Please add any further comments here

Please detach this from your Film Note and drop it into the box or hand it in at the end of the screening. Thank you!