

HANG A LITTLE LONGER

REVIEW “EL ORDEN DE LAS COSAS”

The film *El Orden de las Cosas* (The Order of Things) was directed, written and produced by the Alenda brothers (César Esteban Alenda and José Esteban Alenda). It was released in 2010, the year in which the film was nominated for best fiction short film of the Goya 's. The two brothers dedicated this short film to their mother; who is said that could have also been a victim of gender violence. It stars Manuela Vallés as Julia, Biel Duran (25), Javier Gutierrez (40) and Mariano Venancio (60) as Marcos in different age gap and Luis Jimenez (10) and Junio Valverde (18) as Marquitos in different age gap. The main aim of this short film was making the whole world be conscious about the amount of people, in this case women, that have to live through this hell called gender violence. Drop by drop she will build up the courage to change the order of things.

This short film starts with the searching of a lost belt which is an excuse to delve into the real problem that is the violence that Julia is constantly suffering. She has been dealing with gender violence since she got with Marcos, her husband. The first sequence that shows up in the film is Marcos, the father, searching for his belt. He has a lot of affection for the belt as it has been bequeathed throughout the family generations and one day he will give it to his son Marquitos. Marquitos starts to help his father to find the belt as he ordered him to do it, the years pass by and Marquitos finds out for what his father wants the belt he instantly drops his airplane toy that he has in his hand and it breaks, his father promises that he will fix it for him. They keep searchin during the years and when Marquitos is finally eighteen. He realises that his father only wants the belt to beat his mother with it and helps her to keep it in the bathtub, where Julia has been hiding it all the time. Marquitos tries to help his mom but he can't so he decides to leave the house. He ended up forgetting about the toy and we can see that it is a clear symbol of the promises that he never kept. The water seems to be her safe place, she is always in there and it is where she hides the belt. The bathroom is like a prison, she remains there all the film, she can seem comfortable but it is because she is used to it and she can't move from there. However, the fact that she doesn't grow old and that the bathroom door always remains open are symbols that show inferiority, he tries to expose her in every way he can. He only closes the door when he is going to hit her. The phone is the help that she needs to go out of the hell where Marcos has chained her, it is the only source she has, to call someone. When she is about to do it, she remembers that she is isolated and the consequences won't be good so she decides to give up. All these symbols could make us understand the film, perhaps it is difficult to understand because of the situations, and because there are a lot of symbols that are hard to notice but all of them have a reason and a consequence.

It is more than clear that the film is created by someone who knows this subject closely, and the Alenda Brothers know how to convey the message perfectly through symbols, music and special effects. Manuela Vellés is fantastic, her expression perfectly reflects the feeling of fear, despair, unable to get out of an anguishing and painful life. Javier Gutierrez, represents a very difficult character, his movements, his appearance, his expressions, the way he talks with the intonation etc. The thespian did a great job dealing with such a difficult subject they did it in a way that conveys all those feelings and makes you totally immersed in the movie. The music underlines a mood, for example, when in a lot of scenes there are

drops falling down, the music they chose is so accurate and you can see and feel how the bathtub is filling up and there is a moment when no more water can fill in the bathtub. This film is thought-provoking, it makes you reflect and it makes you open your eyes because sometimes what we have always seen in our house is not normal, it shouldn't be. It also makes you think of all those people who have to go to such extremes of being controlled by another person and how bad it must be for them to be treated like if they were a puppet. Nobody should experience this type of thing, no one deserves it.

This film it's shocking but it's beautiful and makes you reflect a lot, but I hate that when we are in the 21st century we have to continue creating these films, these advertisements... Because that means that there is still gender violence. I hate that we have to create content of this type to remind us that we must stop gender violence. Yet, it should have stopped by now. This movie makes you put yourself in her shoes and makes you think that we should fight for all those people who are in those bathtubs. The hope they speak to us about is that ability to make big decisions at the right time and stop a life of fear. On a scale from zero to five, I give this film a five and, from my point of view, everyone should see it because it is a film that expresses so much feeling, so much love, so much hate, so much sadness... But the main thing is the message it sends and we should all internalise that.