

Memories of a Dreamer: The Journey of a Political Prisoner ★★★



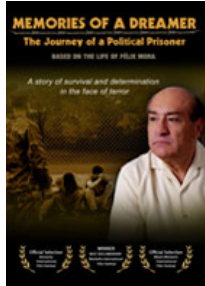
(2007) 51 min. In Spanish w/English subtitles.

DVD: \$24.95. Choices, Inc. PPR. ISBN: 978-1-933724-30-0.

Alisson Larrea's documentary presents a stark portrayal of Chile during Augusto Pinochet's military dictatorship, seen primarily through the firsthand account of Felix Mora, who was a teenage member of Chile's socialist youth movement. Following the 1973 coup that toppled President Salvador Allende, Mora was arrested and tortured under Pinochet's regime. Incarcerated for a year—including a period of near-starvation at the Victor Jara Stadium in Santiago, where many were confined (in one stunning anecdote, he tells of inmates being hidden when FIFA World Cup officials toured the facility)—Mora eventually developed typhus, after which he was placed under house arrest. In 1974, Mora left his country for exile in Rome, and later settled in Canada, where he became a human rights activist. It was only after Pinochet resigned in 1990 that Mora returned to his barely recognizable homeland. *Memories of a Dreamer* questions why the rebellion against the junta was so long in coming, and also looks at the negligent global response to Chilean human rights offenses of the era. Although Larrea incorporates archival footage and dramatizations, she relies primarily on interviews, as Mora—joined by his family and fellow prisoner Jorge Aro—painfully yet eloquently recalls his experiences and the challenges of life as an expatriate. DVD extras include a director's introduction, an interview with Mora, and a lesson plan/guidebook.

Recommended.

(P. Hall)



Memories Of A Dreamer: The Journey of a Political Prisoner
2008

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Produced by Alisson Larrea

Directed by Alisson Larrea

DVD, color, 48 min.

Jr. High - Adult

Human Rights, Activism, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, Networks

Reviewed by Malcolm L. Rigsby, Department of Sociology, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR

 Highly Recommended

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This film brings the viewer up close to the life of Félix Mora and his dream to overcome the challenges of his life in exile from his home in Chile. On this journey he overcomes his past and pays tribute to the thousands of Chileans who both died and survived the military coup led by General Pinochet against the socialist Allende Government in 1973. Moreover his struggle is to arouse and strengthen the devotion and solidarity of the Chilean people to take an active part in Chile's history.

Larrea's careful and diligent camera catches the reflections and stories of Mora and others as they share the memories and active feelings of pain, struggle and injustice in a very personal yet universal way that allows the viewer to connect these experiences to his or her own life. These common life factors therefore unite the viewer and subjects to a call for justice and righteous conduct between citizenry and those in governmental power. The shocking details of the experiences of Mora and the individuals who speak in this film deliver a stark reality gathered over a lifetime. The result is to better understand how quickly political powers may change from humanitarian seeking benefactors to inhumane dictatorships seeking to dispense with all opposition.

This video is very modestly priced and offers an invaluable tool for opening discussion about democracy, freedom and individuality of free expression. Choicesvideo.net offers a supplemental [Guide Book](#) for the video at no extra charge that provides guidance for group discussion as well as a [film clip](#). The Guide provides historical dates, vocabulary, glossary, a synopsis, as well as discussion questions, online resource links and a bibliography for further research and verification.