

**BEST DOCUMENTARY 2004**  
Association of Film Critics of Uruguay

**BEST DOCUMENTARY**  
Lleida Latin American Film Festival 2005



# Words of Truth

*A look at life and work of MARIO BENEDETTI*

A production by **GUAZÚ MEDIA** in co-production with **ZIP Films** and **Television of Catalonia** with the support of **Teve Ciudad**, **Sur Films**, **Cinemateca Uruguay** and **FONA**

**Written and directed** Ricardo Casas · **Cinematographer** Daniel Rodríguez · Pedro Luque · Joan Babiloni ·  
**Sound** Daniel Yafalián · Lício Marcos de Oliveira · José Mendieta · Eduardo Martín ·  
**Music** Carlos Da Silveira · **Edition** Guillermo Casanova · **Mezcla** Daniel Yafalián ·  
**Executive Producers** Yvonne Ruocco · Jordi Redú · Norbert Llaràs ·

# Synopsis

How can one paint a portrait of such a public person, one so well-known and well-loved by his vast readership -a readership which covers every age and every country in the Spanish-speaking world? Why is Mario Benedetti quoted and recited, even by his enemies? What is it about this man, a man of such modesty, so "typically Uruguayan", yet who is able to represent so many kindred spirits throughout the width and breadth of Latin America and Spain?



If we think back to Citizen Kane, we will remember that behind each man there is a "Rosebud", an enigma to be investigated, one whose meaning we will probably never discover. So many questions to be answered. A documentary enables us to enquire and discover many things in a man's life and work. The reasons which have created such a successful personality and the problems which this fame generates, often unsought by the person himself, but rather imposed on him by the force of events, by a reality which overcomes us all.

**WORDS OF TRUTH** searches for the keys of this illustrious citizen of Montevideo in his life and especially in his poetry. Here is a man who has had to face various periods in exile yet who has received all the prizes the world can offer. But above all else, who has received the unconditional love of his readership, a massive and faithful audience that follows him everywhere he goes and that spoils him every day with its applause and its reading.



According to Manuel Vázquez Montalban, he is the most read poet in the Spanish language, totally lacking in the usual author's pride or dignity, according to José Saramago, a survivor of a generation which came to grips with hell. Someone who has opened many doors, without renouncing his very strong principles, those principles so dear to the psyche of a man of Montevideo, to this citizen of the world, this very ordinary man who marches out each day in search of the answers which are never fully explained.

An unhappy childhood, a life as a young man dedicated to work and reading, a maturity filled with political commitments and exiles - all these have marked Benedetti and his work provides a historical testimony, the kind that only artists can give us. And the documentary follows him, almost invisibly, gathering up little pieces of this long story, laden with moments which moved us all and which will undoubtedly continue to move us.

# Ficha Técnica

**Written and Directed by**  
Ricardo Casas

**Executive producers**  
Yvonne Ruocco  
Jordi REDIU  
Norbert Llaràs

**Camera**  
Daniel Rodríguez  
Pedro Luque  
Joan Babiloni

**Sound**  
Daniel Yafalián  
Lício M. Oliveira  
José Mendieta  
Eduardo Martín

**Music**  
Carlos Da Silveira

**Edition**  
Guillermo Casanova

**Sound Editing**  
Daniel Yafalián

**Cast**  
*Especial participation*  
Miguel Angel Solá

**A production by**  
Guazú Media

**in co-production with**  
ZIP-Films  
Guazú Media  
Televisión de Cataluña

**and the participation of**  
Tevé Ciudad  
SUR Films  
Cinamateca Uruguay  
Media Profile & Kommunikation

**Funded by**  
FONA  
MVD Socio Audiovisual



# El

# Director



**RICARDO CASAS**  
(Montevideo, 1955)

1973  
Begins medical studies.  
Studies cinema with Ing. Miguel Castro.

1975-1978  
Takes part in Courses on Film run by the Uruguayan Cinemateca.  
Works in its Production Department until 1982.

1977  
Directs first fiction short : "Apenas una ilusión" (Just An Illusion) as well as commercials for advertising.

1982  
Takes part in the production of the feature film "Mataron a Venancio Flores" (They Killed Venancio Flores).

1991  
Creates "Espacio Uruguay" a competitive section of the International Film Festival of Uruguay, open to national filmmakers and still part of the Festival today.

1992-2004  
Director and Organizer of the International Film Festival for Children and Young People, DIVERCINE, an annual event which takes place, first in its main headquarters in Montevideo, then travelling to various other places in the region : Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Perú and Venezuela. DIVERCINE will also shortly travel to Colombia.

1993-2004  
Takes part, both as jury member and curator, of various other Uruguayan and international festivals in Latin America and Europe, both adult and children's festivals of film, television and video.

1998  
Premieres his documentary on Eduardo Darnauchans, Uruguayan popular musical artist, "Donde había la pureza implacable del olvido". (Where there was purity, forgetfulness was implacable) which is then shown in various Festivals.

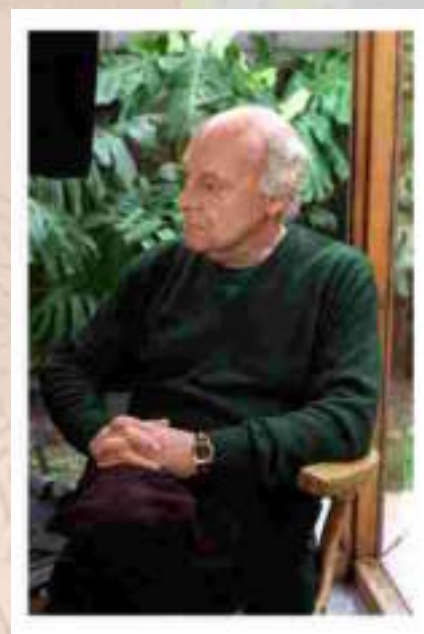
2000  
Is named representative in Uruguay of "Prix Jeunesse International".

2001  
Becomes the Uruguayan representative of the CIFEJ (Centre International du Film pour l'Enfance et la Jeunesse).  
Voted Vicepresident of the Asociación de Productores y Realizadores de Cine y Video of Uruguay. (Uruguayan Association of Producers and Directors of Film and Video)  
Commences research for the documentary "Palabras verdaderas" (Words of Truth).

2002  
Is named local producer for the Uruguayan segments of a Spanish documentary on Joan Manuel Serrat, directed by José Angel Montiel.

2003  
Invited to be Jury Member at the Berlin Film Festival (Berlinale), in the section "Cinema for Children and Young People".

2004  
Completes filming of the documentary "Palabras verdaderas" (Words of Truth) about the Uruguayan writer, Mario Benedetti.





**ZIP**



**FILMS**

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