



Heartland Film Society presents

The Pope's Toilet (2007)

El Baño del Papa

February 18th 2010 - AGM



César Charlone, the cinematographer for *City of God* and *The Constant Gardener* teamed up with Enrique Fernández to write and direct this wee gem. Perhaps the first Uruguayan film Heartland Film Society has shown *The Pope's Toilet* is a small town film, with small town concerns, some of which may be familiar...

It is 1988 in Enrique Fernández' impoverished hometown of Melo, and Pope John Paul II is about to pay a visit. Expecting hordes of Brazilian visitors from across the nearby border, the townspeople anticipate a material, if not spiritual, windfall. But while everyone else plans to set up stalls for food and drink, one enterprising smuggler decides that a public pay toilet is a failsafe scheme. Enlisting the help of his neighbour and using money that his wife had set aside for their daughter's education, he sets his plan in motion—but a series of obstacles puts his marriage and friendships to the test.

What one critic said: The Pope's Toilet" uses a seamless blend of professional and nonprofessional actors to take an oblique dig at [the Catholic] church ... details are touchingly credible, generating a tone of profound sadness .. that Mr. Charlone's upbeat cinematography works hard to dispel. Despite the whimsical title, this is a movie that offers little in the way of relief, for villagers and audiences alike.

Jeanette Catsoulis, New York Times

And a response: ... I don't share the reviewer's sense of pessimism ... parts are truly touching and laugh-out-loud funny. Poverty in communities is reproduced time after time But it also shows the eternal possibility of hope.

dbb , Seattle, WA

Length and certificate: 97 minutes **Language:** Spanish with English subtitles

Featuring: César Troncoso (Beto), Virginia Mendez (Carmen), Mario Silva (Valvulina), Virginia Ruiz (Silvia)

Coming next... 4th March **Man on Wire** & 5th March **Blindsight**

Your membership covers viewing one of these films. If you'd like to see both you pay for the second

For more information about our programme of films see

www.heartlandfilmsociety.org.uk