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Earthly and Celestial Quests Meld in Chile's Remote Atacama Desert in POV's 'Nostalgia for the Light,' Premiering Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012 on PBS

A Poetic, Deeply Personal Meditation on Astronomy, Archaeology and 20th-Century Politics
From Celebrated Filmmaker Patricio Guzmán

A Co-presentation with Latino Public Broadcasting

"Rates as the filmmaker's masterpiece, an exquisitely filmed, poetically written meditation on how past and present fuse in humanity's most unresolved questions."—Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

National Dates: **Nostalgia for the Light**, winner of the 2011 International Documentary Association's IDA Award for Best Feature, has its national broadcast premiere on **Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012**, at **10 p.m.**, during the 25th anniversary season of the award-winning PBS series POV (Point of View). (Check local listings.) It is available for mobile preview on the PBS video app for iPad and iPhone from **Oct. 19-Oct. 25, 2012**, and will stream on POV's website, www.pbs.org/pov, from **Oct. 26 – Nov. 21, 2012**.

POV concludes the season with fall and winter specials (dates to be announced). American television's longest-running independent documentary series, **POV** is the winner of a Special Emmy for Excellence in Television Documentary Filmmaking, two IDA Awards for Best Continuing Series and the National Association of Latino Independent Producers Corporate Commitment to Diversity Award.

The Film: Patricio Guzmán's **Nostalgia for the Light** is a remarkable meditation on memory, history and eternity. Chile's remote Atacama Desert, 10,000 feet above sea level, provides stunningly clear views of the heavens. But it also holds secrets from the past in its arid soil: human remains, from pre-Columbian mummies to the bones of political prisoners "disappeared" during the Pinochet dictatorship. In this otherworldly place, earthly and celestial quests meld: Archaeologists dig for ancient civilizations, women search for their loved ones and astronomers scan the skies for new galaxies. *An Official Selection of the 2010 Cannes Film Festival. Winner, 2011 International Documentary Association Award for Best Feature. A co-presentation with Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB).*

The Atacama Desert is also the driest place on earth, with zero percent humidity, giving it some of the clearest skies on the planet. Astronomers come from all over the globe to peer through the world's biggest telescopes, hoping to discover the secrets of the cosmos. Underfoot, the desert's dry soil has preserved layers of human remains, from pre-Columbian mummies to the bones of 19th-century explorers to the corpses of political prisoners taken by Chilean army under General Augusto Pinochet after the military coup of September 1973,

never to be seen again. Guzmán explores the deep motivations the astronomers, archeologists and prisoners' relatives and the surprising ways their searches overlap.

Nostalgia for the Light is an Icarus Films release. It is a co-production of Atacama Productions S.A.R.L. (France), Blinker Filmproduktion GmbH and WDR (Germany) Cronomedia Ltda. (Chile). The film is a co-presentation with Latino Public Broadcasting.

Embed a trailer, download press materials and learn more at www.pbs.org/pressroom.

Online: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/nostalgiaforthelight/> - POV's Webby Award-winning website offers a broad range of exclusive online content to enhance the broadcast of **Nostalgia for the Light**. Watch the full film online for free for a limited time following the broadcast (Oct. 26 – Nov. 21, 2012), view a video interview with the director and download a discussion guide and other viewing resources.

Outreach: POV works with educators, public television stations and national and community groups across the country to foster dialogue around the issues presented in our films. For a list of upcoming screening events, go to www.pbs.org/pov/outreach. POV and nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow develop discussion guides with background information to help event organizers facilitate conversations. The **Nostalgia for the Light** discussion guide includes background information on observatories in the Atacama Desert, Chile during the Pinochet era and today, as well as a list of further educational resources. Cari Ladd, M. Ed., has developed a lesson plan for grades 6-10 to accompany the film. Event organizers may email POV at events@pov.org to request a free loaned DVD to screen at their event.

Filmmaker's Statement: "For four years, I struggled to make this project happen," says Guzmán. "There were times I felt discouraged, but the subject was so powerful that I had to follow it through. The film has many angles: mystical, spiritual, astronomical, ethnographic and political. They were a tangle of questions gnawing at me. How to explain that the calcium that makes up our skeletons is the same calcium in the stars? How to explain that Chile is the world's leading hub for astronomical investigation even as 60 percent of the assassinations committed by the dictatorship remain unsolved? How to show that the labor of a woman who rummages through the earth with her bare hands resembles that of an astronomer?"

Filmmaker Bios: [Patricio Guzmán \(Director/Cinematographer\)](#)

Patricio Guzmán was born in 1941 in Santiago, Chile. In 1971 he directed his first documentary, *The First Year*, which covered the first 12 months of Salvador Allende's government. Filmmaker Chris Marker, who was passing through Chile at the time, saw the film and assisted in having it screened in France. Two years later, Marker donated the raw stock needed to begin filming *The Battle of Chile*, Guzmán's four-hour documentary trilogy chronicling Allende's final year. Filming lasted until the very day of the coup d'état on Sept. 11, 1973, when Guzmán and thousands of others were imprisoned in Chile's National Stadium.

After gaining his freedom, Guzmán left for Europe. *The Battle of Chile* (1975-1979) won six grand prizes in Europe and Latin America and was shown in theaters in 35 countries. In 1987, Guzmán made *In God's Name* about the Catholic Church's fight for human rights in Chile. *The Southern Cross* (1992, Grand Prize, Marseille International Festival of Documentary Film) concerned the theology of liberation and popular religion in Latin America. In 1995, *Town in Stasis* focused on the historical memory of a Mexican village. In 1997, *Chile, Obstinate Memory* looked into collective political amnesia in Chile. 1999

brought *Robinson Crusoe Island* about a remote Chilean island. *The Pinochet Case* (2001, Grand Prize, Marseille) examined the international legal case brought against Pinochet. In 2002, Guzmán completed *Madrid*, a personal look at Spain's capital.

Guzmán's recent films include the award-winning *Salvador Allende* (2006). Guzmán currently chairs FIDOCS, the international documentary film festival in Santiago that he founded in 1997. He lives in Paris with Renate Sachse, who collaborates on the scripts for his films and produced **Nostalgia for the Light**. His two daughters, Andrea and Camila, are also filmmakers and frequently collaborate on his projects.

Related Stories: "50 Years of Incredible Space Images from the European Southern Observatory," by Adam Mann, *Wired*, Oct. 1, 2012. <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2012/10/incredible-images-eso-50th/>

"ALMA's breakthrough in measuring up stellar nurseries," by Paul Sutherland, *SEN*, Sept. 23, 2012. <http://www.sen.com/news/alma-s-breakthrough-in-measuring-up-new-born-stars.html>

"To Make a Documentary is an Adventure. I Never Know What Will Happen: Interview with Patricio Guzmán," by Sofia Serbin de Skalon, *Sounds and Colours*, July 9, 2012. <http://www.soundsandcolours.com/articles/chile/to-make-a-documentary-is-an-adventure-i-never-know-what-will-happen-interview-with-patricio-guzman/>

"Desert of the Disappeared: Patricio Guzmán on Nostalgia for the Light," by Chris Darke, *Sight and Sound*, July 6, 2012. <http://bfi.org.uk/news/sightsound/patricio-guzman-extended-interview>

"European Extremely Large Telescope given go-ahead," by Jonathan Amos, *BBC News*, June 11, 2012. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-18396853>

"For Chileans, Allende's Exhumation Raises the Past," by Annie Murphy, *All Things Considered*, May 31, 2011. <http://www.npr.org/2011/05/31/136831116/chile-investigates-ex-presidents-cause-of-death>

"At the End of the Earth, Seeking Clues to the Universe," by Simon Romero, *The New York Times*, April 7, 2012. http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/08/world/americas/high-in-chilean-desert-a-huge-astronomy-project.html?_r=0

Credits:	Director/Writer:	Patricio Guzmán
	Producer:	Renate Sachse
	Cinematographer:	Katell Djian
	Editors:	Patricio Guzmán, Emmanuelle Joly
	Sound Recording:	Freddy González
	Original Music:	Miranda y Tobar

Running Time:	86:46
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POV Series Credits:

Executive Producer:	Simon Kilmurry
Co-Executive Producer:	Cynthia López
VP, Production and Programming:	Chris White
Series Producer:	Yance Ford
Coordinating Producer:	Andrew Catauro

Awards/
Festivals:

Winner, IDA Award, Best Feature, 2011
Winner, Fund for Social Justice and Nuevo Vision Awards, Santa Barbara International Film Festival, 2011
Special Mention, Prix François Chalais, Cannes Film Festival, 2010
Winner, Best Documentary, European Film Awards, 2010
Winner, Best Documentary, Abu Dhabi Film Festival, 2010
Official Selection, San Francisco International Film Festival, 2011
Official Selection, Miami International Film Festival, 2011
Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival, 2010

Pressroom: Visit POV's pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and celebrating its 25th season on PBS in 2012, the award-winning POV is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. POV has brought more than 325 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *POV's Borders*. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. Visit www.pbs.org/pov.

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