

## **WILL THE LAST DROP HOLD?**

### **REVIEW OF THE FILM “EL ORDEN DE LAS COSAS”**

“El orden de las cosas” is a Spanish film released in 2010 written, directed and produced by the brothers César and José Esteban Alenda. The character of Julia, the abused woman, is played by Manuela Vellés, the young Marcos is played by Biel Duran i Pascual, Javier Gutiérrez plays the middle aged Marcos, Mariano Venancio as the elder Marcos and Junio Valverde as Marquitos. This film was nominated in the Goya’s awards in 2011.



The story mirrors a succession of visual scenes, which shows the issues gender violence entails and the two different endings it can have. Thus, from the quantity of water from the bathtub meaning not only the feelings Julia has, but also her only safe place where the protagonist spends her time in, while Marcos desperately searches for his belt which has been a traditional heritage icon for his family. Julia will have to endure a lot of abuses, not only physical but also psychological. Each and every drop will fill the bathtub until it finally spills all over. But the question is will Julia gather all her strength and drops and change the order of the things or will she yield?

César and José Esteban Alenda's work is just marvellous and although the film is short, it has a thought-provoking topic in which all the characters have been involved in, with different roles. There's the suffering from Julia, the inhumanity in Marco, the purity in Marquitos and the evil support from Marco's family, which sums up all the component of a gender violence situation. Furthermore, this is also thanks to the flawless performances of the thespian, as they've really achieved a film in which the fear can be seen through Julia's actions, the barbarism in all the Marco's scenes, and even the innocence in Marquito's eyes. Moreover, in this film I noticed the music and its scenery, which go along with the plot and the main character, having an overriding part in it, as it gives the dynamism and marks the compass of the scenes in which the characters have different dialogues. The movie setting is a remarkable one, since it shows you some tools that the abusers use towards their victims, which are isolation, control and minimisation which are the ones I think best, represent the bathtub. Alongside the setting, there's the suitable make up that perfectly presents the bruises all over Julia's body, which makes the plot even more poignant. Besides the make up, its script has a dramatic, balanced but also peerless component and it all brings to the crowd a gripping environment which is totally moving. And last but not least, the lighting has also a role inside the different scenes, as it changes depending on the mood and the tension the scene has.



As far as I'm concerned, being able to present, highlight and report such an important topic as this in such a reduced time and space has a lot of merit, because of the greatness and significance it has. In this film you meet drama, impotence and awareness towards these violence situations, so it fills you with a bunch of thoughts that guide you to reflect on its powerful topic. I highly recommend the film so as to show the cruel and unfortunately real situations a lot of women have to cope with, without even those around them noticing it. It left me thinking about all the silent voices that endure similar situations every and each day of their lives.

