



A film by  
Martin Jönsson and Pontus Hjorthen

# Mari Carmen España THE END OF SILENCE



"Our democracy is built on these pillars, it's like living in a lie..."

<http://maricarmen.info.se>

Editing Carl Javer    Soundtrack Kalle Gustafsson Jerneholm    Performed by Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra    Produced by Andreas Jonsson



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## MARI CARMEN ESPAÑA - FINAL DEL SILENCIO



**Dos suecos viajando por toda España** buscan comprender la relación que los españoles mantienen con su historia. **Un roadmovie documental en coches alquilados.**

En 1975, cuando eran niños, **Olof Palme** llamó "**Asesinos del Diablo**" a Franco y sus generales, y predijo un veredicto histórico "terriblemente duro".

En Andalucía en 2006 conocen a Mari Carmen España. Quedan conmovidos por su incansable lucha con las autoridades por darle justicia y reconocimiento a su abuelo asesinado que yace bajo una escombrera. Incluso llegan a intentar ayudarla.

Se quedan asombrados por el impactante contraste entre como se honra al instigador de estos asesinatos, con misas diarias en el Valle de los Caídos bajo **la Cruz más grande del mundo**, y entre como sus víctimas todavía yacen en fosas comunes por todo el país, sin ningún tipo de reconocimiento.

**FINAL DEL SILENCIO** es la historia sobre lo que pasa cuando un país intenta amputar su pasado.



### Professor Helen Graham on The end of Silence:

This is the perfect classroom event: a road-movie documentary with scintillating twenty first-century production values that also respects the 'old-fashioned' ones of historical context and investigative rigor. In Mari-Carmen the history of Spain's difficult past and lengthy coming-to-terms is told as a luminous detective story about one real life. What is complex is thus made accessible, but never simplistic. My students were utterly compelled by it; in great part because of the endearing presence of the film-makers, Martin Jönsson and Pontus Hjorthén. Their investigative odyssey quickly draws the viewer in, while their gentle humour and quirky intelligence provide the perfect foil for a sombre subject.

Mari-Carmen herself is the 'grandchild's gaze', a walking lesson in civics whose power and presence lie in her instinctive understanding that the work of uncovering the past is not only a debt paid to her extra-judicially murdered grandfather, but also a

*"Documentary dynamite!" Prof Helen Graham, University of London,*

*"Grand moment de cinéma!" Pays Basques Info*



**Una película de Martin Jönsson & Pontus Hjorthén**

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**Televisiones:**

SVT (Suecia), WDR (Alemania), NRK (Noruega), VPRO (Holanda), RTV (Slovenia)

**Festivales:**

Docúpolis (Barcelona), FIPA (Biarritz), MiradasDoc (Tenerife), Göteborg International Film Festival (Suecia), Polar Film Festival (Finlandia)

**Versiones:**

Cine (75'), Televisión (58')

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*"Por favor, señor Sueco; bajese usted del cielo..."*

- Don Anselmo Alvarez, Padre Abad del monasterio en el Valle de los Caídos.



restorative act through which Spain's democracy today is enacted and reinforced. Indeed, Mari-Carmen's journey vividly depicts something we forget at our peril: that democracy is neither passively possessed nor indeed secure, unless we engage in 'doing' it as an everyday, inclusive practice. The very making of the documentary is an example of this practice. It exemplifies the quest to name the 'disappeared', to recognise those traduced by the state, thereby enacting a form of civic solidarity across time.

Innovative and stylish as a film, Mari-Carmen's arresting depiction of history in dialogue with the present connects immediately with its audience. It is state-of-the-art documentary-making that understands perfectly that the medium is the message. These innovative qualities, plus its rigor, explain why we'll be using it at RHUL on our new Public History MA. Highly recommended. It's documentary dynamite!

*Helen Graham, Royal Holloway University of London, July 2009*