

Chester Film Society presents

Clara Sola

Sweden/Costa Rica/Belgium/Germany/France 2021 | 1hr 46m | Cert 15

Director: Nathalie Álvarez Mesén

Starring: Wendy Chinchilla Araya, Ana Julia Porra Espinoza, Daniel Castañeda Rincón

Synopsis

Stunningly realized Costa Rican drama in which a woman experiences a sexual and spiritual awakening after years of repression by her community.

Critical acclaim

"Nathalie Álvarez Mesén portrays a world that it's oppressive and suffocating despite unfolding in open spaces with fresh and green lushness, a relatable scenario for many people in many places in Latin America." *En Filme*

"This atmospheric debut from Costa Rican-Swedish director Nathalie Álvarez Mesén combines mud, moss and mysticism to arresting effect."

The Observer

"There might be no better time... to mainline a story about a repressed woman pushing at restrictions in her culturally conservative world, which Nathalie Álvarez Mesén's "Clara Sola" offers up with a forestful of divine energy, artistry, and mystery."

LA Times

"Clara Sola compels when it dwells in its central mysteries, like Clara's special, empathic connection to nature and animals." *New York Times*

"Characters and atmosphere reminiscent of La Niña Santa by Lucrecia Martel and Nazarín by Luis Buñuel, and that, however, ends up converging with none other than Carrie, by Brian de Palma."

El Pais

"Led by a feral performance from dancer Wendy Chinchilla Araya, the drama occupies its own territory, tinged with magical realism and deeply immersed in the sensory world." *Hollywood Reporter*

"An engrossing character study, a Latin film with lots of local color, a hint of magical realism and an air of hopelessness tinged with menace -- a unique cinematic experience." *Movie Nation*

"Like a slow, pained moan that slowly builds into a furious scream, Clara Sola is a remarkable feature debut from Álvarez Mesén, full of desire, anger, love, and magic, with a heroine you want to protect even as you are in slight fearful awe." *Screen Anarchy*

Conclusion

Discomfiting and dreamy, Clara Sola brings a sensual surreality to a story of oppressed autonomy, with debuting star Wendy Chinchilla Araya providing a mesmerizing focal point. This central performance anchors much of the film, an astounding display of internalized pain fighting for personal freedom.

Our next film:

Nostalgia. Showing April 4th 2024

7.30pm (doors 7 pm)

At The Garret, Storyhouse

www.chesterfilmsociety.co.uk

Please rate tonight's film using the scale below. We welcome your comments! Detach and hand in as you leave.

| ---- I loathed it ---- | ---- I disliked it ----- | ----- It was OK ----- | ----- I liked it -----| -----I loved it ----- |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10