

Las Constituyentes

A DOCUMENTARY BY OLIVA ACOSTA

OPENS ON THEATERS DEC 14TH

Produced by Olivavá Producciones
in a co-production with Canal Sur, ETB, RTVCanarias
with the collaboration of: Junta de Andalucía, Department of Culture

Distribution: Oliete Films

*"Women have to go into politics,
because politics is very important, too important
to be left only to men, and if we don't,
they will do it for us, which is what has been happening so far."
María Izquierdo Constituent MP*

*"When a woman enters politics changes the woman,
but when there are many women who come in,
what changes in the politics"
Michelle Bachelet. Former president of Chile.*

PRESS

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SYNOPSIS

The documentary is about 27 women, members of parliament and senators, who were protagonists of political change during Spain's transition towards democracy, because of the parliamentary role which they played during the first constituent term in office in 1977 after the transition to democracy.

Through the personal experiences of these pioneering women, the documentary reveals a fascinating side to the history of women's political involvement in Spain and it analyses its current state. The documentary also captures a meeting between present female members of parliament and politicians and the mothers of the constitution, which culminates in an intense debate.

A cutting edge audio-visual work that until now is unprecedented in the history of Spain.

ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY

Mothers of the Constitution is an audio-visual documentary of undeniable value about the history of the political and social involvement of women in Spain. It traces the political and personal path that led these women, after Clara Campoamor, Victoria Kent and her contemporaries, to becoming the first to find themselves within Spain's democratic Parliament in a unique and pivotal moment in Spanish history.

Made up of 21 members of parliament and 6 senators, following Franco's dictatorship these 27 women entered the Spanish Congress and Senate during the democratic elections of the 15th June 1977. They were involved in creating the Spanish Constitution of 1978, including actively defending equality for women in Spanish society.

Through accounts **from the protagonists**, and an emotive sequence that shows a meeting between current members of parliament, politicians and some of the mothers of the constitution, the documentary provides a suggestive analysis based on first-hand experience of what makes up one of the most compelling eras of parliamentarianism in Spain: that of the Constituent Assembly between 1977 and 1979, and does it through the eyes of the woman. The documentary offers a glimpse of Spain's transition to democracy and is unprecedented in the history of this country.

"Las Constituyentes" will arrive to theaters in Spain 14th December.





In its successful career in Festivals the film has won the following awards: Silver Biznaga 'Affirming the Rights of Women' in the Malaga Film Festival 2012, Special Mention 'Eurodoc' European Film Festival in Seville, first prize in the category 'feature documentary' International Festival of Women in Focus of Buenos Aires, Meridiana Award 2012 of the Junta de Andalucía, Progressive Women Award 2012 from Valencia and Mariana Pineda Award Women's Film Festival Granada.

In addition, the ICAA (Ministry of Culture) has included "Las Constituyentes" in the new category in the rating of films: 'Especially recommended for gender equality', as a film that promotes "the elimination of prejudice, stereotyping and roles based sex, and promote the construction and dissemination of plurals and actual representations of both sexes." It is the first documentary to receive this rating.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

"With gender in mind, we had to go back to this moment in history. It was vital that the memories of these 27 women were brought back to life and showcased because these very women, following the footsteps of Clara Campoamor, defended gender equality with great dignity and actively contributed to reforms, driven by the Parliament, that made political debate on the rights of women possible.

On the anniversary of the Spanish Constitution every year, I would hear "the fathers of the Constitution" talking of that period in history and I always wondered what ever happened to women politicians. They were also involved in the general elections of 1977... As Carmen Calvo said in a sequence that we filmed for the documentary: "the male politicians are remembered, but about the women...not a trace!"

I considered the making of this documentary to be a one-off opportunity to recover the memories of these women and keep them safe in the name of history, given the generation to which they belong:

I could not believe that no archiving work had been carried out in Spain on these women apart from the book by Professor Julia Sevilla 'Mujeres parlamentarias de la legislatura constituyente' (parliamentary women of the constituent term). Getting to know them inspired me to make a short film, which was a good start...but then I wanted to delve even deeper.





When we were filming I felt as if I had Victoria Kent or Clara Campoamor in front of the camera. I believe that figures of such importance and wisdom command no distractions but the use of a visual strategy of just their voice, their gaze back into the past followed by the editing of the audiovisual or sounds files.”

My intention with this documentary was to provide proof of and bring to light the long journey that was taken in securing equal rights for women. I also wanted to link the past not only with the present but with today's generations through the sequence showing the meeting between the politicians and mothers of the constitution that we filmed in the Senate. To get to know the political and personal side of these important women has been a great challenge –a challenge made easier thanks to their readiness along with their contribution.

The meeting sequence in the Senate was filmed without cuts in a debate between politicians from some of the parties of the political spectrum that lasted for more than two hours. From a technical point of view, it was complicated but the equipment was soon forgotten about and they quickly become embroiled in an incredibly interesting debate, which covered themes as and when they naturally arose. My only request from them was that the topic of the involvement of woman in politics in Spain came up and I asked them to talk freely about this. Thankfully though, I feel that we achieved our main goal, which was the freshness that is often lost in political discourse.

Oliva Acosta



MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND SENATORS THAT TOOK PART

Ana María Ruiz Tagle	Constituent MP for Seville
Nona Ines Vilariño	Constituent MP for La Coruña
Belen Landaburu	Constituent Senator by Royal Appointment
Soledad Becerril	Constituent MP for Seville
Amalia Miranzo	Constituent Senator for Cuenca
Carlota Bustelo	Constituent MP for Madrid
Dolors Calvet	Constituent MP for Barcelona
Rosina Lajo	Constituent MP for Gerona
Asuncion Cruañes	Constituent MP for Alicante
Virtudes Castro	Constituent MP for Almería
María Izquierdo	Constituent MP for Granada
Mercedes Moll Miguel	Constituent MP for Granada
Dolores Pelayo	Constituent Senator for Tenerife
Esther Tellado	Constituent MP for Tenerife

PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING SEQUENCE BETWEEN POLITICIANS IN THE SPANISH SENATE.

Ana María Ruiz Tagle	Constituent MP for Seville
Nona Ines Vilariño	Constituent MP for La Coruña
Amalia Miranzo	Constituent Senator for Cuenca
Carlota Bustelo	Constituent MP for Madrid
Ana Oramas	Coalición Canaria MP
Ines Sabanés	Ex-spokeswoman for the Madrid Assembly (Izquierda Unida party)
Carmen Alborch	Vice-President of the Senate (PSOE – Spanish Socialist Worker's Party)
Margarita Uría	Member of the Spanish General Council of the Judiciary and ex-MP PNV (Basque Nationalist Party)
Bibiana Aído	Ex-secretary of State for Equality (PSOE)
Sara Dueñas	MP (PP – Popular Party)
Carmen Calvo	President of the Committee of Equality (PSOE)
Carmen Quintanilla	Vice-President of the Committee of Equality (PP)
Montserrat Surroca	MP (Convergencia i Unió)



THE PROTAGONISTS PARTICIPANTS

1. Asunción Cruaños Molina. 1925-2012 Alicante. Lived in Xavia, Valencia, PSOE. Six children. Daughter of a teacher at the Institución Libre de Enseñanza (institute of free teaching). Well-known during the feminist movement of the 1960's as a member of the MDM (Women's Democratic Movement). MP for Alicante for four terms of office.
2. Belén Landáburu. 1934, Burgos, lives in Madrid. Senator by Royal Appointment. Lawyer, worked for Spanish Phalanx's female organization. Court lawyer and national advisor for the Spanish National Movement. Part of the Law Committee for the Political Reform of 1977, the only woman that participated in this significant process.
3. Soledad Becerril. 1944, Madrid, lives in Seville, 2 children. UCD (Union of the Democratic Centre Party). University lecturer. Graduate in Philosophy. Partido Demócrata Andaluz (Democratic Party of Andalusia). Culture Minister in 1981. Senator for Grupo Popular, Mayoress of Sevilla. MP for Seville.
4. Dolors Calvet Puig. 1950, Sabadell. One daughter. Journalist. Women's movement of the PSUC (United Socialist Party of Catalonia). Feminist. Organiser of the Catalan Women's Conference in 1976. Amnesty law that excluded women. Language equality.
5. Ana Maria Ruiz Tagle. 1944, Seville. One son. PSOE. Labour lawyer. Founder of the Andalusia's first legal labour consultancy along with Felipe González. Lecturer at the Faculty of Law at the University of Seville. MP for Seville and senator during various terms of office.
6. Esther Tellado Alfonso. 1929, Tenerife. Two children. UCD. Languages graduate, Housewives Association. Spanish Phalanx's female organization. Interested in family issues.
7. Nona Inés Vilariño Salgado. 1944. One daughter. Born and lives in El Ferrol. PGI (Independent Galician Party). Philosophy and Arts. Teacher, political vocation. Secretary General of the PGI. MP during the first legislative term after the transition. MP for La Coruña, UCD
8. Maria Dolores Pelayo Duque. 1943, Tenerife. Partido Social Demócrata, UCD group. Two children, lawyer. Member of the Spanish Association of Women Lawyers. MP for 5 terms of office. Town Councillor of Tenerife City Council. Member of the PSOE Federal Committee Director of Club s. XXI. Equal rights for women in the succession to the throne. Supports public schooling.



9. Carlota Bustelo. 1939, Madrid. Feminist. PSOE. Three children. Involved in creating the Spanish Women's Liberation Front. First speech of the PSOE on women in Congress in 1975. Divorce Law. Spain's member of CEDAW within the UN. First Director of the Spanish Women's Institute in 1983. MP for Madrid. Key player in the debate on the sexual and reproductive rights of women in the 1977 constitution.

10. Virtudes Castro García. 1938, born and lives in Adra, Almería. PSOE. Primary school teacher. Law graduate at the Spanish Open University (UNED). Senator. Dedicated to understanding agricultural problems in Almería.

11. María Izquierdo Rojo. 1946, Oviedo. Lives in Granada. PSOE. University lecturer. Anti-Franco activist at university. MEP. Advisory bodies for women in Andalusia which gave rise to the future creation of women's institutes. Fight for the equal rights of women in Andalusia.

12. Rosina Lajo Perez. 1931, Valladolid, Teacher and Director of the Vives Institute. Interested in education issues. Lives in Gerona. PSOE.

13. Amalia Miranzo Martinez. 1939, Cuenca. Lived in Madrid. Three children. Only woman in the PSOE Senate group during the creation of the Spanish Constitution. Senator for Cuenca. Left politics and began a career in teaching.

14. Mercedes Moll de Miguel. 1941, Mallorca, lived in Granada. Independent UCD member. First association of business women in Granada. Worked towards eradicating sexist stereotypes in the business and military sectors. MP for Granada.

WERE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE:

15. Gloria Begué Cantón. 1931, Leon, lives in Salamanca, Senator by Royal Appointment in 1977. Economic Committee, Budgets. First female head professor in any law faculty in Spain. Chair of Political Economics and the Treasury. Appointed as Dean in 1969.

16. M^a Teresa Revilla. 1936, Tetouan. PP-UCD. MP during the first legislative term after the transition. Lawyer. Sole woman in the Constitutional Committee made up of 39 members. Defender of full women's rights in Article 14 of the 1977 Constitution.

17. Inmaculada Sabater Llorens. 1952, Elche. PSOE. MP for Alicante. The youngest of all the women. Founded the first neighbours association of Elche. Resigned from her seat because of disappointment with the legislative process. She felt incapable of doing anything as she believed that everything had already been decided beforehand.



18. Juana Arce Molina. 1935, 73 years old, born in Albacete, lives in Madrid. Three children. Languages teacher. MP for Albacete during the first legislative term after the transition. Secretary of the Parliamentary Group of UCD during the first constituent term of office. Senator. Social politics.

19. Elena Maria Moreno González. 1941, Santander. UCD. Director of the Bank of Bilbao. MP for Pontevedra. Work Committee on the physically and mentally disabled and prison facilities.

THOSE DECEASED

20. Maria Rubiés Garrofé. 1932, born and lives in Lérida. Coalición Democracia i Catalunya. Secondary school teacher. Senator for the Senate's Entesa dels Catalans Group.

21. Dolores Blanca Morenas Aydillo. 1937, passed away in 1998. Two children. Badajoz. PP Parliamentary Group of UCD. Teacher and Head Professor of Natural Sciences and Biology at the University of Badajoz. Ministry of Industry for the Pre-Autonomous Government of Extremadura.

22. Palmira Plá Pechovierto, deceased. 1914, born in Teruel and lived in Castellón. PSOE. Teacher. Socialist Youth of Spain, 1931. Generation of republican teachers. Manager of summer camps to protect children from the impact of the Spanish Civil War. Exiled in 1939 in Paris and Venezuela. Education.

23. Dolores Ibárruri, 1895, Vizcaya. Six children. PCE (Communist Party of Spain). Passed away in 1989 at the age of 94. MP for the Popular Front in 1936. MP in 1977. Provisional Vice-president of the Spanish Parliament. Constitutive Session with Rafael Alberti, senior vice-president.

24. Marta Mata, passed away in 2006. Born in 1926, Barcelona. PSC (Socialist Party of Catalonia). Teacher and pedagogue. Her mother was also a teacher. Worked in pedagogical renewal. MP in the first and second terms of office after the transition. Senator for Catalonia during the second term. Senator during the fifth term. Chair of the State School Council. Received various prizes for her work in education. Defender of public education in the 1977 Constitution.

25. Pilar Brabo, passed away in 1993. Born in 1943, Madrid. One daughter. Studied Physical Sciences at university. PCE (Communist Party of Spain). Anti-Franco university activist who operated from the Spanish Democratic University Federation (FUDE). MP in the first and second terms of office after the transition. Governor for Castellón and Director-General of Civil Protection.



26. María Victoria Fernández-España. 1925, Coruña. Deceased. AP (People's Alliance). Grand-daughter of the founder of the newspaper *La Voz de Galicia*. Journalist. MP for three terms of office. Left her party because she did not agree with its stance on NATO. Vice-president of the Administration Committee of *La Voz de Galicia*.

27. Carmen García Bloise. 1937, Madrid. Passed away in 1994. PSOE. Exiled in Paris. Chartered Accountant. Member of the Socialist Youth of Spain at 15 years old. Trade Union activist in Renault. Secretary of UGT trade union in Paris. Belonged to the Mitterrand politic team. She kept the accounts of the PSOE. Grupo de las Navas of the PSOE.

THE DIRECTOR

In a "past life" Oliva Acosta was part of the communication team for Equality and Social Development Department at the UN Headquarters in New York, but the director and script writer from Cadiz has built up experience mainly in the world of the documentary. Her first feature film, "Reyita" was filmed entirely in Cuba and was shown for the first time in Havana's International Festival of New Latin American Cinema. It later featured in numerous international film festivals before arriving to the Spanish screen in Madrid and Barcelona in 2008.

She has worked as the script writer and director for many television documentaries such as "Infancia Rota" (broken childhood) for *Documentos TV OF TVE* (Spanish National Television). The programme won various prizes like that of the New York Television Festival, the silver award at the Hamburg Festival and the human rights prize from the General Council of Spanish Lawyers. "Somos lo que Comemos" (we are what we eat) for *Documentos TV* was nominated as best TV programme at Malaga's International Biennale of Scientific Film. "Acciones, no palabras" (actions, not words) was filmed in the UN in New York and was shown on TVE's *La Noche Temática* programme. She has also worked on other *Documentos TV* documentaries such as "Mi vida por 1000 euros" (my life for 1000 euros), "Hombres" (men), "El largo camino hacia el triunfo" (the long road to triumph) or "Madres Invisibles" (invisible mothers).

From 1994 to 1999 she was Communications officer in the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat in New York, DAW. Here she worked on the organisation of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and also on its monitoring processes. She was creator and coordinator of the collective initiative of UN organisations on equality: "Womenwatch.org". After this period, from Brussels she coordinated the Women's Human Rights Network, an initiative that brought together a wide range of NGO's from across the world to form a single international platform.



Five years ago, along with three other partners, Oliva set up her own production company with headquarters in Chiclana, Cadiz. From here she develops her audiovisual projects.

TELEVISION DOCUMENTARIES

- 2000.- Acciones, no palabras (actions, not words), TVE
- 2002.- Somos lo que Comemos (we are what we eat), TVE
- 2003.- Infancia Rota (broken childhood), TVE (script and research)
- 2004.- Mi vida por 1000 euros (my life for 1000 euros), TVE (script and research)
- 2004.- Madres Invisibles (invisible mothers), TVE (script and research)
- 2006.- Hombres (men), TVE (script and research)

SHORT FILM DOCUMENTARIES

- 2010.- LAS CONSTITUYENTES (MOTHERS OF THE CONSTITUTION), with Áurea Martínez
- 2010.- UN PINTOR DE ALCALÁ (A PAINTER FROM ALCALÁ)

FILMS

- 2008.- REYITA, with Elena Ortega
- 2011.- LAS CONSTITUYENTES (MOTHERS OF THE CONSTITUTION)

TECHNICAL DATA

Format: Documentary
Run time: 70'
Production Date: 2011
Filming Format: HD 1920x1080i
Aspect ratio: 16:9
Language: Spanish, English subtitles
Produced by: Olivavá Producciones
Director and Script: Oliva Acosta
Producers: Jose Carlos Sabán and Oliva Acosta
Production Manager: Jose Carlos Sabán
Photography: Andrés Garzas
Canal Sur co-productions coordinator: Pilar Ortega
Editing: M^aLuz Domínguez
Sound: Juan Carlos del Castillo, Gabriel Hurtado
Original Sound Track: Alicia Alemán
Documentation: Lucía Ruiz Oliveras
Production Assistant: Sheila López, Rosario Ruso
Colour Correction: La Zanfoña
In a co-production with: Canal Sur Television.
With the help of: Department of Culture of the Junta de Andalucía.



LOCATIONS

ANDALUSIA (Almería and Granada)
THE CANARY ISLANDS (Tenerife)
CATALONIA (Barcelona and Gerona)
MADRID (Madrid City)
VALENCIA (Alicante)

Spanish Senate and Congress Buildings, Parliament of the Canary Islands,
Auditorium of the University of Barcelona, Chamber of Gerona's Town Hall,
Granada's Town Hall, homes of the mothers of the constitution

PRODUCTUCION COMPANY INFORMATION

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