

MEN WITH GUNS

(JOHN SAYLES, USA 1997)



Original title: *Hombres armados*

Cast:

Federico Luppi Dr. Fuentes
Damián Delgado Domingo, the soldier
Dan Rivera González Conejo, the child
Tania Cruz Graciela
Damián Alcázar Padre Portillo

Director: John Sayles

Length: 127 minutes

Sound: Dólby

Country: USA

Producer: John Sayles

Language: English, Spanish and Quechaquel

Color: Color

Writer: John Sayles

Photography: Slawomir Idziak

Editing: John Sayles

Music: Mason Daring

Questions of analysis:

1. What is the relationship between the film and its title? What enigmas does it create in the audience?
2. What is the film's historical context?
3. Whose story is it?
4. Identify the main theme(s).
5. What is the film's ideology? Is there a sub-textual ideology?
6. What is the coherent message? Is it universal or localized? Defend your answer.
7. What is the meaning of "El cielo"? Defend your answer.
8. Elaborate about the spaces that Dr. Fuentes travels from the beginning of the film. What does his trip mean (literally and/or metaphorically).
9. What is the basic conflict? Are there metaphors to such conflict?
10. Explain the role of the character's dialogue? (Include the fact that a character speaks an Indian language in your discussion).
11. What is the film's plot structure? Is it a comedy or a tragedy? Elaborate.
12. What cultural values does the film propose, emphasizes or criticizes?
13. Who is in the intended audience?
14. How is the "Other" portrayed? How does a foreign gaze affect the presentation of the storyline?
15. What expectations does the opening scene create in the audience?
Comment on the film's final scene? What effect does it create in the audience?
16. What role does religion play in *Men with Guns*?
17. Explore religious topics present in the film, such as redemption.
18. Elaborate on the role of religion in Latin American culture.