

World Film Locations: Buenos Aires, ((Reino Unido): Intellect).

Esperando la carroza.

Lucía Rodríguez Riva.

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WAITING FOR THE HEARSE/ ESPERANDO LA CARROZA (1985)

LOCATION

Echenagucía 1232, Versalles



ALEJANDRO DORIA'S *Waiting for the Hearse* is set within the universe of the neighbourhood, away from the centre of the city. Its focus is on the pace, culture and humour of the suburban life of the city, rather than the bustle, speed and stress of the urban core (nevertheless, it is not afraid to portray the inequalities as well). The film follows a typical middle-class family, in which (as in its beloved precursor *The Three Amateurs* [Enrique Susini, 1933]) each of four brothers enjoys quite different socio-economic status. This is especially evident in their homes. The film begins in the house of Jorge (Julio de Grazia), which is obviously a modest dwelling. However, it is in Sergio's (Juan Manuel Tenuta) home where the majority of the action takes place, including uproarious fights over who has to take care of the elderly matriarch Mamá Cora (Antonio Gasalla). His house is a typical 'casa chorizo', a structure that was developed in the nineteenth century to more fully exploit the long, narrow plots available in the rigid city block. This architectural form, characteristic of Buenos Aires, consists of a long, thin ground floor in which all rooms are set in a row, and all open out onto a narrow, bright and airy courtyard, producing a specific configuration of the relationships between inhabitants, as well as a number of specifically cinematic potentials for action, movement, drama and in this case in particular, broad comedy. When Mamá Cora, presumed dead, returns home, her family attempt to conceal her funeral preparations. ➔ **Lucía Rodríguez Riva**

Directed by Alejandro Doria

Scene description: Mamá Cora returns from the dead

Timecode for scene: 1:21:40 – 1:25:42



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