

A STORY ABOUT EXILES

FROM A CIVIL WAR

BECOMES A STORY

OF A MARRIAGE

# HOMELANDS

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A FILM BY

TOM ZUBRYCKI



**HOMELANDS is a portrait of a marriage,  
the story of Maria and Carlos, refugees from the war in El Salvador  
who have settled in suburban Melbourne.**

**S**even years have passed. Like many migrant women in new social circumstances, Maria has flourished. Carlos has not. Formerly a teacher, he can only find work as a cleaner. When peace suddenly arrives in El Salvador, Carlos and Maria, like thousands of others, have to choose between their new and old **homelands**. Carlos chooses to go back immediately to help re-build his country. Maria and their four children decide to remain in Australia.

Six months later with no sign of Carlos returning, Maria decides to re-visit El Salvador, both to find Carlos and to confront her past. When she arrives she finds the tables have turned. **Carlos** is feeling self-fulfilled while **she** has come to feel out of place. This tension and other events test their marriage to the limits. Even the filmmaker is drawn into the process.

Maria and Carlos, like many refugees, are caught in the dilemma of deciding where they want to **live** and where they ultimately **belong**.

# H O M E L A N D S



**"Startling, lacerating and sweet"** Bob Ellis. ENCORE MAGAZINE

**"Fascinating viewing. Unpredictable, intriguing, dramatic.**

**Like the filmmaker, we the audience become intimate**

**observers of their domestic tension"** Tait Brady. MELBOURNE FILM FESTIVAL

# A N D S



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER Tom Zubrycki

CAMERA Joel Peterson

SOUND Lloyd Carrick, Tom Zubrycki

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER/EDITOR Ray Thomas

SOUND MIXING Robert Sullivan

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TOM ZUBRYCKI spent a year filming with the family capturing their physical and emotional upheavals. This result is a sense of intimacy rarely seen in documentary films. Tom is one of Australia's foremost documentary filmmakers. Since 1979 he has produced a major body of work dealing with contemporary Australian political, cultural and social issues. He has a string of local and international awards to his credit. **HOMELANDS** was premiered at the 1993 Sydney and Melbourne Film Festivals and has been nominated for **BEST DOCUMENTARY** in the 1993 AFI Awards.

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