TAMBIÉN
LA LLUVIA

Alejandro Amenábar (2004)
**Information**

Even the Rain (Spanish: También la lluvia) is a 2010 Spanish drama film directed by Icíar Bollaín about Mexican director Sebastián (Gael García Bernal) and executive producer Costa (Luis Tosar) who travel to Bolivia to shoot a film depicting Christopher Columbus’s conquest. Sebastián and Costa unexpectedly land themselves in a moral crisis when they and their crew arrive at Cochabamba, Bolivia, during the intensifying 2000 Cochabamba protests, which their key native actor Daniel (Juan Carlos Aduviri) persistently leads.

About the film, the director said: “It’s not an intimate film, but I do believe it’s about the characters, and in that sense it’s a lot like my previous ones, but bigger, with a aspect of that time and another of the present in which it narrates social events that happened in Bolivia. But it is a story about two people, and above all about Costa, the producer, who makes a personal journey of maturity and of personal commitment.”

**Plot**

Mexican filmmaker Sebastián (Gael García Bernal) and his executive producer Costa (Luis Tosar) arrive in Cochabamba, Bolivia, accompanied by a cast and crew, prepared to create a film depicting Christopher Columbus’s first voyage to the New World, the imposition of Columbus’ will upon the natives, and the subsequent indigenous rebellion. Cognizant of his limited budget, Costa elects to film in Bolivia, the poorest country in South America. There, impoverished locals are thrilled to earn just two dollars a day as extras in the film, and willingly engage in physical labor for set preparation. Costa saves many thousands of dollars by having underpaid extras perform tasks meant to be completed by experienced engineers.

Sebastián casts a local man named Daniel (Juan Carlos Aduviri) in the role of Atuey, the Taíno chief who led a rebellion against Columbus; and Daniel’s daughter Belén in a crucial role as well. Their first encounter with Daniel gives Costa pause and causes him to oppose his casting, but Sebastian gives him the role. Sebastian
is unaware that Daniel is leading demonstrations against water privatization that the Bolivian government has agreed to. Filming begins smoothly despite the alcoholism of actor Anton, (Karra Elejalde) cast as Colon (Columbus), but when Costa observes Daniel’s revolutionary involvement, he grows uneasy.

Daniel pretends to acquiesce to Costa’s insistence that he stop protesting, but heedlessly continues and sustains facial wounds in a clash with the police. At this point, Costa bribes Daniel to wait for filming to conclude before participating in the rebellion again. Daniel agrees, accepting the money, but spends it on funding the protesters and remains involved, eventually becoming bloodied and imprisoned. Sebastián experiences moral conflict and begins to doubt the likelihood of the film’s completion, but is reassured by Costa, who bribes the police for Daniel’s temporary release in order to film a key scene. Upon this scene’s completion, police arrive in the Bolivian jungle to once again detain Daniel but are besieged by the film’s extras, aiding Daniel’s escape.

That night, when actors Juan and Alberto see the latest news reports showing violence in Cochabamba, they become worried to the extent that they demand to leave. Sebastián begs that they stay and they hesitantly agree. The next day, as the cast and crew prepare to depart for filming, Costa is met by Daniel’s wife, Teresa, who desperately implores him to assist her in finding her daughter Belén, who has disappeared into the protests and is reportedly wounded and needing hospitalization. Teresa’s persistence wins over Costa’s conscience, and despite Sebastián’s equally impassioned insistence against it, he leaves with her.

After Costa and Teresa’s obstacle-laden drive through riotous Cochabamba, Belén’s life is saved, but her leg is badly injured and may never fully heal. Meanwhile, the rest of the crew is stopped by a military blockade and all except Antón leave Sebastián to journey home. The revolution ends shortly thereafter with the departure of the multinational water company, but Cochabamba is left in ruins from the conflict. Costa expresses hope that the film will be finished after all, and Daniel emotionally presents him with a vial of Bolivian water in appreciation for his life-saving efforts.
MAIN CAST

Luis Tosar - Costa, executive producer in the movie

Gael García Bernal - Sebastián, director in the movie

Juan Carlos Aduviri - Daniel, Bolivian native cast as Hatuey

Karra Elejalde - Antón, alcoholic Spanish actor cast as Colón

Raúl Arévalo - Juan, Spanish actor cast as Montesinos

Carlos Santos - Alberto, Spanish actor cast as Las Casas

Cassandra Ciangherotti - María, assistant director to Sebastián

Milena Soliz - Belén, Daniel’s daughter cast as Panuca in the movie

Leónidas Chiri - Teresa, Bolivian native and Daniel’s wife
MAIN THEMES AND QUESTIONS

The Cochabamba Water War

1. As the filmmakers arrive they see a long line of people, what are they all waiting for? Why would they come from so far for something like this?

2. Where does the title come from and why was it chosen?

The colonization of South America

1. What historical story are they recreating in the film? Why is it problematic that they’re filming in Bolivia? (Think about where Columbus originally landed in the Americas.)

2. In what way does the film demonstrate the violence of the conquest and colonization?

3. Consider the way in which Costa talks about and interacts with the Indigenous people throughout the film. Now consider the way the film portrays Columbus´ interactions with Indigenous people. Compare and contrast the two men´s views. What point do you think the director wanted to make here?

Differences between Spain and Bolivia – cultural/economical/language etc.

1. Sebastian insists that the film be done in Spanish and not English. Does it seem to matter to him that they are going to use Quechua people, an entirely different indigenous group from the Taíno that Columbus encountered?

2. Describe the exchange between Antón /Columbus and Alberto/ las Casas. What point does Antón /Columbus make about the discrepancy between the meal they just ate and the lives of the indigenous actors and staff?

REFERENCES

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tambi%C3%A9n_la_lluvia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Even_the_Rain
https://julianwhiting.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/eventherain_01.pdf