

MY FATHER USED TO SAY / A Short Film by Oswald Gschliesser

Haunted by guilt and grief, OWI must embark on a journey into the remote Paraguayan Chaco to fulfill his father's last wish.

Director's Biography:

Oswald Gschliesser is a Paraguayan filmmaker from Concepción, a small city in the north. The son of foreign parents, he grew up between cultures and fell for movies early—especially drama and sci-fi. In 2011 he moved to Los Angeles to study film, then returned to Paraguay, where he's worked across the audiovisual field as a director, cinematographer, editor, and producer.

Director's Statement:

This film comes from a real personal transition. After my father passed, I found a letter stating his wish to donate his few belongings. I chose to film the move from promise to action—without reconstruction or spectacle.

The voice-over weaves in phrases my father "used to say," and a worn wristwatch serves as a humble compass. We kept a simple ethic: distance and respect during the donation—no close-ups of beneficiaries. It's a restrained piece, made with a tiny crew and meaningful silences. I hope it nudges viewers to face what remains unfinished in their own lives—and to follow through, even when the map changes.

AI Disclosure

AI-generated imagery was used in a limited number of VFX shots to (a) create/modify text on signs and road signage and (b) extend environments (matte painting), including day-for-night and minor set-dressing additions.

No AI was used to generate or alter performances, dialogue, or voice-over. All live-action photography and sound were captured by the production. Music is licensed (not AI-generated).

MI PADRE SOLIA DECIR / Un cortometraje de Oswald Gschliesser

Perseguido por la culpa y la tristeza, OWI emprende un viaje al Chaco paraguayo para cumplir el último deseo de su padre.

Biografía del Director:

Oswald Gschliesser es un cineasta paraguayo de Concepción, una pequeña ciudad del norte. Hijo de padres extranjeros, creció entre culturas y desde pequeño se enamoró del cine, especialmente del drama y la ciencia ficción. En 2011 se mudó a Los Ángeles para estudiar cine y luego regresó a Paraguay, donde ha trabajado en el ámbito audiovisual como director, director de fotografía, editor y productor.

Nota del Director:

Esta película surge de una verdadera transición personal. Tras el fallecimiento de mi padre, encontré una carta en la que expresaba su deseo de donar sus pocas pertenencias. Decidí filmar el paso de la promesa a la acción, sin reconstrucción ni espectáculo.

La voz en off entrelaza frases que mi padre "solía decir", y un reloj de pulsera desgastado sirve como humilde brújula. Mantuvimos una ética sencilla: distancia y respeto durante la donación; sin primeros planos de los beneficiarios. Es una pieza sobria, realizada con un equipo reducido y silencios significativos. Espero que impulse a los espectadores a afrontar lo que queda pendiente en sus propias vidas y a seguir adelante, incluso cuando el mapa cambia.