

SYNOPSIS

In this biopic blending fact and fiction, Gael Garcia Bernal plays a detective on the hunt for the poet and senator, Pablo Neruda (played by Luis Gnecco), after he's threatened with impeachment for accusing the Chilean government of abandoning communist ideals to appease the US. The two are locked in 'a fabulous chase' that turns out to be part myth and part fact. Following on from the fantastic *No*, Pablo Larrain offers yet another masterpiece delving into the history of his home country, Chile.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY

'It's also refreshing to see a biopic that doesn't deify its subject. Neruda is an influential idealist and a skilled poet, but he's also an egotist and a snob. There's a fascinating interaction when he's approached by a fellow Communist who questions him on his growing status and how his persona is ultimately against the ideals of the party. Like the character himself, the film never stays still and is vibrant with ideas and energy.'

The Guardian



'It starts, cameras whirling and swooping, in 1948, with Neruda (Luis Gnecco), a prominent leftist politician as well as a literary celebrity, in a rhetorical war with Chile's president, Gabriel González Videla, an erstwhile ally in the process of moving from left to right. When Videla bans the Communist Party, Neruda — who represents that party in the Chilean Senate — goes from opposition figure to outlaw. Much of "Neruda" is a shaggy-dog cat-and-mouse game, as Neruda and his wife, Delia (Mercedes Morán), are pursued by Oscar Peluchonnet (Gael García Bernal), a preening police inspector who stakes his professional honor on his ability to track down the country's most famous fugitive.'

The New York Times

BLOGS, PODCASTS AND ARTICLES**PODCASTS**

Podcasts are a great free resource allowing you to listen to interviews, reviews and opinions surrounding a whole range of films. They are available from a number of different providers on your phone (iTunes or the podcast app) or via Soundcloud or Spotify on the web. For this particular film have a listen to:

- **The Barbican Film podcast number 16 (11/04/2017) in conversation with Gael Garcia Bernal:** <https://soundcloud.com/barbicancentre/gael-garcia-bernal-neruda>
- **Filmmaker Toolkit Podcast: Pablo Larraín On Catching Ghosts to Make His 'Neruda' and 'Jackie', episode 17 (22/12/2016)** <https://soundcloud.com/user-445966404/jackie-neruda-director-pablo-larrain>

ARTICLES/ BLOGS

For a little bit more information about the film, the relationship between fact and fiction within this semi-biopic and the context surrounding this event you might also want to have a look at the following short articles:

- **Pablo Neruda's Nobel Prize biography-** http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1971/neruda-bio.html
- **'Neruda' and 'Jackie' Prove Pablo Larraín is the Year's Most Fearless Director: Awards Spotlight (Zack Sharf)** <http://www.indiewire.com/2017/01/neruda-jackie-pablo-larrain-director-awards-spotlight-1201768100/>

- **Fiction vs Truth: Interview with Neruda filmmaker Pablo Larrain and star Luis Gnecco-**
<http://thetfs.ca/2016/12/16/fiction-vs-truth-interview-neruda-filmmaker-pablo-larrain-star-luis-gnecco/>

RECOMMENDED FURTHER WATCHING

No, Pablo Larrain

Set against the backdrop of Chile's 1988 referendum, *No* tells the story of an advertising executive designing and implementing a campaign to beat Pinochet.

The Battle of Chile (Parts 1, 2 & 3), Patricio Guzman

This three part documentary follows the tensions in Chile starting with the 1973 counter revolution against the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende.

Nostalgia for the Light, Patricio Guzmán

A documentary focusing on the effect of politics and the closing off of Chile under the Augusto Pinochet regime on the scientific community and the advances in Chilean astronomy in the Atacama desert.

Gloria, Sebastián Lelio

Set in Chile, a woman in her 50s refuses to succumb to the pressure of friends and family to abide by the stereotypes of an 'older woman' living a life of solitude. Instead, having been divorced for ten years and with two adult children she embraces her freedom, love of dance and desire for companionship.

The Pearl Button, Patricio Guzmán

A meditation in vision and sound on the geography and history of Chile, structured around the water which permeates the country and gives life to its inhabitants, looking in particular at the fate of two persecuted groups: the indigenous people and the victims of Pinochet.

Bad Education, Pedro Almodóvar

A Hitchcockian examination on the effect of Franco-era religious schooling and sexual abuse on the lives of two long-time friends. One of Gael Garcia Bernal's earlier films and most outstanding performances.

SONNET XVII, BY PABLO NERUDA

I do not love you as if you were salt-rose, or topaz,
or the arrow of carnations the fire shoots off.
I love you as certain dark things are to be loved,
in secret, between the shadow and the soul.

I love you as the plant that never blooms
but carries in itself the light of hidden flowers;
thanks to your love a certain solid fragrance,
risen from the earth, lives darkly in my body.

I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where.
I love you straightforwardly, without complexities or pride;
so I love you because I know no other way

than this: where I does not exist, nor you,
so close that your hand on my chest is my hand,
so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep.