

**¡TU CINE! DISCUSSION GUIDE**



**Cholitas**

(Spain, 80 min., 2019, Spanish & Aymara w/ English subtitles, Documentary)

This is the chronicle of a unique expedition: its objective is to climb the highest mountain in the Americas, Mount Aconcagua. The surprising thing is that the expedition is made up of six Bolivian indigenous women.

**Dir.:** Pablo Iraburu, Jaime Murciego

**Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/363550379>

**SET THE STAGE THOUGHT-STARTERS**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Cholitas is a documentary film that tells a unique expedition. The goal is the top of the highest mountain in America, Mount Aconcagua. The expedition is made up of six Bolivian indigenous women: Dora, Liita, Lydia, Cecilia, Yanina and Elena. His image is surprising: they climb ice walls wearing their traditional skirts in bright colors. They are more than climbers, they are brave women who find in the mountain a space to feel free, happy and alive. The film has the narrative structure of a chronicle. But this is a two-way journey: towards the top of the mountain and into each one of us. In spectacular and grandiose scenarios we will discover the intimacy of deep and endearing characters. The mountain will open our eyes to big questions: nature, life, death. Our protagonists will accompany us in an inner search: human dignity, the value of being a woman, the importance of keeping tradition alive, the harmony behind its way of relating to nature. As Dora, Liita, Lydia, Cecilia, Yanina and Elena approach the top of Aconcagua, the viewer will approach the interior of himself.

—Pablo Iraburu

**ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

*Jaime Murciego Tagarro*

During his career he has worked for different media such as Atresmedia or Zeppelin TV, as a filmmaker and animator. In 2015, he directed his first documentary short film, *Boxgirls*. This piece has been selected in more than 40 festivals worldwide. In 2016, after reading an article about the “Climbing Cholitas”, he decides to contact them and travel to Bolivia. There he understands why their dream is the Aconcagua peak, and concludes that their story must be told.

*Pablo Iraburu*

Founder of Arena Comunicación, Paul Iraburu completed his second feature length documentary film *The ridge* after his experience on *Nomadak TX* in 2007, which also premiered on *El Documental del Mes*. He has also directed several documentaries for national and international institutions, as well as for many nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide.

## WORDS TO KNOW

- Themes: culture, expedition, travel, empowerment, nature
- Media Arts: narrative, audience experience, media messages, tone, point-of-view

## TALK ABOUT IT **DISCUSSION**

- What lifestyles, values, and cultures were represented?
- Whose perspective did we see? Were other points of view shown?
- What characters or issues could you relate to, and why?
- How did the narrative (story) unfold? What was the crisis or conflict? How was it resolved?
- What was omitted from this film that you might want to know?
- What are Cholitas/who are they?
- What does the Aymara flag represent?
- What is Cholita Traditional Fashion?
- What are the challenges in climbing a mountain?
- What are their religious practices?
- How did the women feel after climbing Mount Aconcagua?
- What perspective did you gain after watching this documentary?

## BEYOND THE FILM **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- <http://cholitasfilm.com>
- <https://www.facebook.com/cholitasfilm/>
- <http://formulariosambiente.mendoza.gov.ar/>
- <http://formulariosambiente.mendoza.gov.ar/>
- <https://www.earthtrekkers.com/hiking-aconcagua-base-camp-argentina/>

*This program is supported in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency. Any findings, opinions, or conclusions contained herein are not necessarily those of the California Arts Council.*

Media Arts Center San Diego offers project-based Youth Media classroom residencies where students can learn the art of digital storytelling. Contact Larry Da Silveira at [larry@mediaartscenter.org](mailto:larry@mediaartscenter.org) or (619) 230-1938 to learn more.

