

Cria Cuervos

("Raise Ravens"; aka: "Cria!")

Spain : 1975 : dir. Carlos Saura : Elias Querejeta

: 115 min†

prod: Carlos Saura : scr: Carlos Saura : dir.ph.: Teo Escamilla

[Ana Torrent](#)

Geraldine Chaplin; Héctor Alterio; Conchita Pérez; Florinda Chico; Germán Cobos; Garontes Josefina Díaz; Mirta Miller; Mónica Randall; Juan Sánchez Almendros; Maite Sánchez

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	☠	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5974	3	6	4	820	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

[† video version runs only 93 min]



Source: *Film Review 1978*

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Eight-year old orphan girl is raised with her sisters by an aunt, but dreams away in memories of her parents and imagines she has a magical power whereby she can control life and death in her surroundings. Is little Ana projecting herself into the future as an adult doppelganger of her mother, or is everything a memory of the Adult Ana? In either case family and society have remained just as loveless and petty. Intriguing, but the unnecessarily complex play with future, past and undiluted melancholy receives irresistible power through the magical expressiveness of Torrent's eyes in an otherwise emotionless face. Saura's pretentiousness and symbolism are turned by

his youthful heroine into an existential and universal drama. ***1/2 "

Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide review:

"Nine-year old Ana (Torrent) is a serious-minded child desperately seeking to understand the world she inhabits. Having watched her mother die a terrible death of cancer a few years earlier, and blaming her father for this tragedy, she then holds herself responsible for his subsequent death. Saura's almost dreamlike attempt to enter the mind of a deeply unhappy child moves across three periods in Ana's life and the result is a bit of a curate's egg. Agony is piled on to the point where it becomes difficult to believe and the motive force is not clear. There are some magic moments though, with

Torrent superb and Chaplin, doubling as the dying mother and Ana as an adult, is terrific.

Special Jury Prize Cannes 1976."



CRÍA!



The Good Film and Video Guide review:

"A rather intense child (Ana Torrent) observes the events of the grown-up world, which include the deaths of both parents and various infidelities. For all its pretensions, this is chiefly a vehicle for a child star who is not wholly ingratiating; Geraldine Chaplin plays her as an adult. * "

The Time Out Film Guide review:

"A mesmerising film which conflates the drive to wish fulfilment – a young girl, after watching the death of her father, comes to believe she holds the key to life and death – with a partial account of the last days of Fascism in Spain. At the root of both strands of Saura's elliptical script lies the idea of repression as the motor force behind the strange goings-on in the isolated (yet in the middle of Madrid) home of the Anselmo family. Intriguingly, the film suggests that the spirit of the dusty surrealism of Buñuel lives on in his native Spain."

The Virgin Film Guide review:

"A quietly haunting family album, "CRÍA!" follows an upper-class Spanish family, specifically a young child, during the years following the Spanish Civil War. As the film opens, nine-year old Ana (Ana Torrent) comes downstairs in her nightgown, awakened by the sounds of her father (Hector Alterio) making love. Behind his closed door, he gasps for breath and dies. Hurriedly leaving his room is Amelia (Mirta Miller), the wife of his best friend. This is the second death for Ana, her mother, Maria (Geraldine Chaplin), having died a few years earlier. Maria, however, has not left Ana's imagination and continues in this manner to return to her daughter's side, enabling the young girl to resist the attempts of her friendly but stern Aunt Paulina (Monica Randall) to raise her and her sisters.

A mesmerising tale, "CRÍA!" Brilliantly weaves the tapestry of time – past and present – into a

perfect blend of history. Rather than separate the past from the present, director Carlos Saura layers the two on top of one another. Characters who have died rejoin the living; others, like Ana, exist in any number of generations. Ana is seen not only as a young girl (the brilliant Torrent) and as an adult (Chaplin), but also in the form of Maria (again Chaplin) – all of whom share the same time and space in the film. A remarkable achievement, which both examines the textures of a once-patriarchal family life and draws a parallel to the end of the Franco regime. ****”

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

“This deep, psychological portrait follows young Ana (Ana Torrent), roughly nine years old, once the death of her father leaves her and her two sisters orphans and in the care of a strict aunt. Flashbacks to earlier times and narration from the adult Ana paint an often bleak look at childhood. Think of a more modern **“FANNY AND ALEXANDER”** with a female lead and you should get the idea. A highly praised Cannes’ winner; recommended!

Rated NR: adult themes [sic]; brief/moderate nudity; sexual themes; violence

Language: Spanish (with English subtitles)
Categories: Drama, Girl Films, Little to Preteen, Adolescent .”

Cast:

Maria / Ana as an adult .Geraldine Chaplin
Ana Anselmo**Ana Torrent**
IreneConchita Perez
JuanaMaite Sanchez
Paulina.....Monica Randall
RosaFlorinda Chico
AnselmoHector Alterio
Nicolas GarontesGerman Cobos
Amelia GarontesMirta Miller
AbuelaJosefina Diaz

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993"]

No further information currently available

See also **“BADKONAK-E SEFID”** and **“BASHU”** - both recent Iranian films, and subject index under **ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST**.