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# Health, Business, and Gender Topics in Film

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# HEALTH, BUSINESS & GENDER TOPICS IN FILM

## *The Aura* *Secuestro Express*

**Lisa Dueñas:** *The Aura* (2005) by film director Fabián Bielinsky depicts the different perceptions of reality and the confrontation of theory and practice. Photographic memory and strategic planning skills will initiate a journey plagued with obsessions, corruption, and betrayal. At the intersections of personal fantasies and violence, the initial puzzle will become a deadly trap filled with confusion and enlightenment.

**Courtney Sipes:** *Secuestro Express* (2005) by Jonathan Jakubowicz is a thought-provoking film that displays two conflicting ways of living in Venezuela. The film follows the kidnapping of a couple and a terrifying game of survival. The kidnappers argue over their fate, between murder and release. Through the use of techniques and symbols the director is able to highlight vital social and economic issues.



## *Felicitas* *The Mission*

**Meg O'Sell:** The film *Felicitas* by María Teresa Costantini (2009) explores the themes of death, duty, and love. Set in Argentina, the film is based on the true story of the life experiences of Felicitas Guerrero. The cause of her death, a murder-suicide from her first love, shows that life without love is not worth living. It is a tradition for girls to tie ribbons to the gates of her tomb, asking for help finding love.

**Taylor Rouse:** *The Mission* (1986) by Roland Joffé focuses on the influence of the Jesuits in Argentina. The Jesuits built missions for the Guaraní people and helped them understand Christianity. The Treaty of Madrid in 1750 ended a border dispute between Spain and Portugal, but caused the Guaraní war (1754-1756). When the Jesuits were expelled in 1767, they were administering over 250,000 Indians.

## *Pan's Labyrinth* *The Girl of Your Dreams*

**Maggie Boyd:** *Pan's Labyrinth* (Guillermo del Toro, 2006) takes place in post-Civil War Spain depicting the war's terrible effects on children. War and violence affect the minds, psyche, attitudes, and character of adults and children alike. Themes, symbols, and messages carried common aspects of hope, justice, defense mechanism, courage, and the power of the imagination to reconstruct the lost innocence.

**Rebecca McConnell:** *The Girl of Your Dreams* (1998) by Fernando Trueba is a film about the impact of repression and survival. In Civil War torn Spain, Germany invites a group of filmmakers to shoot two versions of an Andalusian musical drama in Berlin. Soon they discovered that they cannot leave the war and related conflicts behind them. The collaboration to produce a work of art will turn into a plan to survive.



**José Hernández:** *Escuela de Música* (Miguel Zacarías, 1955) is based on cultural aspects of Mexico: music and folklore dancing. Mariachi music comes from the state of Jalisco, originally played with string instruments. A dance style associated with Mariachi is the "Jarabe Tapatío." The dance represents the courtship of a man and a woman, with the woman first rejecting the man's advances, then accepting them.

**Danielle Stephens:** The documentary *El Cordobazo* (Santiago Sein & Marcos Pedroza, 2009) explains the civil uprising in Argentina in 1969, during the military dictatorship of Onganía. It was headed by students and workers against the government. The Cordobazo showed that they could find popular support for revolutionary means of actions, thus radicalizing the social and political context of Argentina.

**Caleb Addis:** The main lesson taken from the film *All About My Mother* (Almodóvar, 1999) is that in some ways we are all mothers, an important role we all fill at some point on life's journey. It also demonstrated that gender is more than black and white: there is a spectrum to gender, and gender roles are not so easily distinguished. This film celebrates women as they hold our society together, a part of the love we all need.

**Jennifer Bolta:** The film *Talk to her* (2002) by Pedro Almodóvar, presents the struggles of two comatose patients. The characteristics of coma vary, and some people are able to hear and understand what is going on around them. There is no certain answer to this argument. Both characters must resolve the crossroads of mind and body, and reconcile the doubts and confusion about their self-identity in their condition.

**Escuela de Música**  
**El Cordobazo**



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**All About My Mother**  
**Talk to Her**