

## **How the Garcia Girls spent their Summer** **Escape from the Desert**

**All you need is a car and a man, girl**

„She was my first girlfriend, my first girlfriend. My dad had an old piece of junk from the 1930s. And to impress her I told her, get in and let's drive. And she opened the door and got in.” Old men telling stories. Stories that will be told the same way by the next generation and

the one that follows. Nothing else happens; never ever will, so it seems. In that desolate desert area, somewhere in Arizona, immigrants had settled down. Leaving behind their past in Mexico, seeking for a better life in another country. Now, many years later, they find themselves and their children stuck. Their glorious future turned out to be a dusty cul-de-sac. The only place that would offer any hope: This is it.

How to escape? How to get away from that? Director Georina Garcia Riedel finds an answer: cars and sex and love. It all is twisted in a psychological net of catholic morality, sensual pleasure and the longing for affection. But more than that, the story tells about personal liberation under



the most difficult of circumstances. Georina Garcia Riedel shows three single women, mother, daughter, granddaughter. The Garcia girls, that is: the 70 year old immigrant Doña Genoveva (Lucy Gallaro), who never got rid of her spanish accent, her daughter Lolita (Elizabeth Peña), who found an income at a „carnicería”, a meat market, and 17 year old Blanka (America Ferrera) who tries to find out who she is and how to fit in. There „is not much to smile about” for any of them, however, all of them somehow have a sense of what they want. You might have to get used to the pace of the movie. Long takes of unspectacular situations

and landscapes make the audience feel abandoned. But hang in there! You will find much wisdom in-between the lines. What seems tedious at first turns out to be a catalyst for change. With a twinkle in her eye Georina Garcia Riedel lets humanity reign.

And, viewer, please don't make fun about guys and girls having a thing about a "piece of junk". Cars can make people fly.

*/// Laelia Kaderas*

**> „How the Garcia Girls spent their Summer“, Donnerstag, 7.9., 22.30 Uhr, Wallkino. Wiederholung: Freitag, 8.9., 20.00 Uhr, Casablanca Blackbox**