

## **Tiempos Menos Modernos by Simón Franco**

### **SYNOPSIS ONE PAGE**

Payaguala is a native Tehuelche who lives alone, cut off of the world in a hut lost in the middle of the Patagonian Andes.

He leads a simple life mostly working and looking after his land.

As he has a special talent for arts and music and so he is able to earn a living playing music for foreign tourists in an exclusive hotel where he also sells his handicrafts.

His small hut is surrounded by the most beautiful nature, a blue sky and the enormous lands property of an American landlord who expands his territory more and more.

Payaguala resists the neighbor's pressure peacefully by staying in his land and respecting the rhythm of the nature.

One day, a military lorry shows up. Payaguala, afraid of being evicted again, doesn't leave his hut. The soldier calls his name several times and finally gives up and leaves a big package at Payaguala's door, a huge wooden box, marked with the National Emblem, sent by the Ministry of Social Development.

Days gone by and Payaguala ignores the box, carrying on with his duties with such an indifference... almost to the point that the box becomes part of the landscape.

When Felipe, Payaguala's only friend, a young peddler who visits him from time to time, always shearing good moments where each one feels good being together, shows up and sees the box he convinces him to open it.

The box contains a Satellite Television Set powered by solar energy, a telephone and a letter from the Argentinean government explaining this plan, which pretends to integrate the border region.

They install these devices together with Payaguala indifferent and skeptic, not wanting to learn how to use them and even asking Felipe to keep his telephone number in secret, until the first images -Chaplin's Film The Great Dictator- scroll across the screen invading his little hut and turning his life upside down... altering irremediably his way of perceiving the world.

## **Tiempos Menos Modernos** *Alternative/Synopsis*

Payaguala is a man with Tehuelche ancestors who lives alone, retired in a hut, lost in the middle of the Patagonian Andes. His life is based mainly in working and looking after his land. He is skillful in respect of music and handicrafts. He earns his own living by playing music for foreign tourists in an exclusive hotel and selling his little handicrafts.

The enormous lands surrounding his hut belong to an American landlord who threatens him by expanding more and more. Thousand of kilometers away and not knowing a word about that conflict, the National Government is preparing a plan in order to integrate the border region. Payaguala resists peacefully his neighbor's pressure by staying in his land, working and respecting Nature rhythm.

He has a friendship and working relationship with Felipe, a pedlar who visits him from time to time, always shearing good moments where each one feels good being together.

One day, a military lorry appears. Payaguala is scared because he thinks that he is going to be evicted again. The soldier quiets him and delivers a package for him.

It is a box marked with the National emblem. The Ministry of Social Development sends it.

Inside, there is a satellite television system, powered by solar energy. Since the first image received by the TV set, Payaguala starts suffering a change that will affect his own life and his way of seeing the world.