



Piqueteros
A Film by Alexandra Guité
Editing and Sound: Federico Dufau
Duration : 19 Minutes

The Argentina crisis is striking. Hundreds of Argentines fall every day below the poverty line in a country once hailed as the model of capitalism's triumph. Those that yesterday had a job, a home, today have only their ingenuity and political will left to survive and construct autonomous power. Argentines have lost faith in traditional politics and institutions. Most of the society's pillars have fallen apart. And yet, a large movement of social reconstruction is building itself:

The Piqueteros...

The film *Piqueteros* retraces the piquetero's political creativity. The piqueteros' name comes from the blockade, piquetes, that they set up on roads so that they can be heard. This film brushes a portrait of the political modalities of this social resistance that goes way back to 1995. Filmed mostly in the shantytowns and roadblocks of Buenos Aires, *Piqueteros* presents the strategies of social resistance that the Argentine unemployed workers propose to confront the crisis that has stricken their country. Let's listen to them propose a different country. A country where thousands of workers take control of their factories, where citizens build roads, organize solidarity communities in the shantytowns, redefine direct democracy encouraging the participation of all, imagine a popular government and local autonomy, feed their population and block the roads and bridges that give access to the cities.

The film *Piqueteros* takes us into the intimacy of these inspiring men and women that show us how to struggle and imagine together when all has broken down. Two characters, Maru and Darío, of the distinct movements Barrios de Pie and Aníbal Verón, lead us into the Argentine resistance. Also using footage of Indymedia Argentina and several Argentine filmmakers, the film presents explicitly the State violence and police repression the Piqueteros are faced with.

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