



Tu ne verras pas Verapaz

Original title: Tu ne verras pas Verapaz

Wie goat er mee naar Verapas? Doar moete wij niet wirke eten en drenke op eu gemak, sloape gelijk een virke.' ('Who's coming to Verapas with us? There's no need to work there, just drink and eat if you want to and snooze like a pig.') This 19th-century song from Ghent refers to an unfamiliar piece of Belgium's history: the former Belgian colony in Guatemala, Santo Tomas de Castilla. When Leopold I bought a piece of Guatemala in 1843, his goal was not to exploit valuable resources as was done in the Congo, but to reduce crime levels in Belgium. To achieve this, he inspired rich stock holders to start up the 'Company of Colonisation'. Propaganda was vital: the Company handed out exotic engravings, fake letters supposedly written by Belgian migrants praising Santo Tomas as a land of plenty and representing Guatemala as a promised land. In this way they managed to deport the unemployed, losers and adventurers - rejects of 19th-century society.

CREDITS

DIRECTOR: An Van Dienderen
PRODUCER: An Van Dienderen
WRITER: An Van Dienderen, Didier Volckaert
EDITING: Didier Volckaert

TECHNICAL SPECS

RUNNING TIME: 56'
RELEASE FORMAT: Analog Betacam



CONTACT & SALES

MORE INFO

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CREATION DETAILS

TYPE: Film
PRODUCTION SHARE: Majority Flemish Production
YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2002
PRODUCTION STATUS: Completed
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