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The Mole Agent

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The Mole Agent

Abstract

This is a film review of *The Mole Agent* (2020), directed by Maite Alberdi.

Author Notes

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The Mole Agent (2020) dir. Maite Alberdi

This documentary is a departure from the expected. Sergio is an 83-year-old Chilean man who is recruited by a detective agency to go undercover at a retirement home. The daughter of one of the patients fears that something isn't right at the home, and so Sergio is tasked with making daily reports about his observations. Sergio's wife has recently died, and therefore he welcomes the opportunity for a distraction and sees the importance of his assignment. For this reason, he is a willing trainee, embracing the fact that he must adopt new technologies to let his handler know what is going on each day.

Sergio is the hit of the seniors' home; kind, well-dressed, and gentlemanly as he is described by the other residents. One woman quickly plans to marry him, and in short measure, he is elected king of the home during their anniversary celebrations. Although he is only tasked with making observances, he cannot help asking questions and befriending several of the people that live there.

The film reminds us that end of life care is complicated. Sergio's observation is that the home is caring and performing due diligence with regards to its clients, but that lack of visitation is causing them to decline at a furious rate. Addressing important issues such as the quality of end of life care, this film treats an important subject with an interesting flair, carried by the likeability of Sergio.