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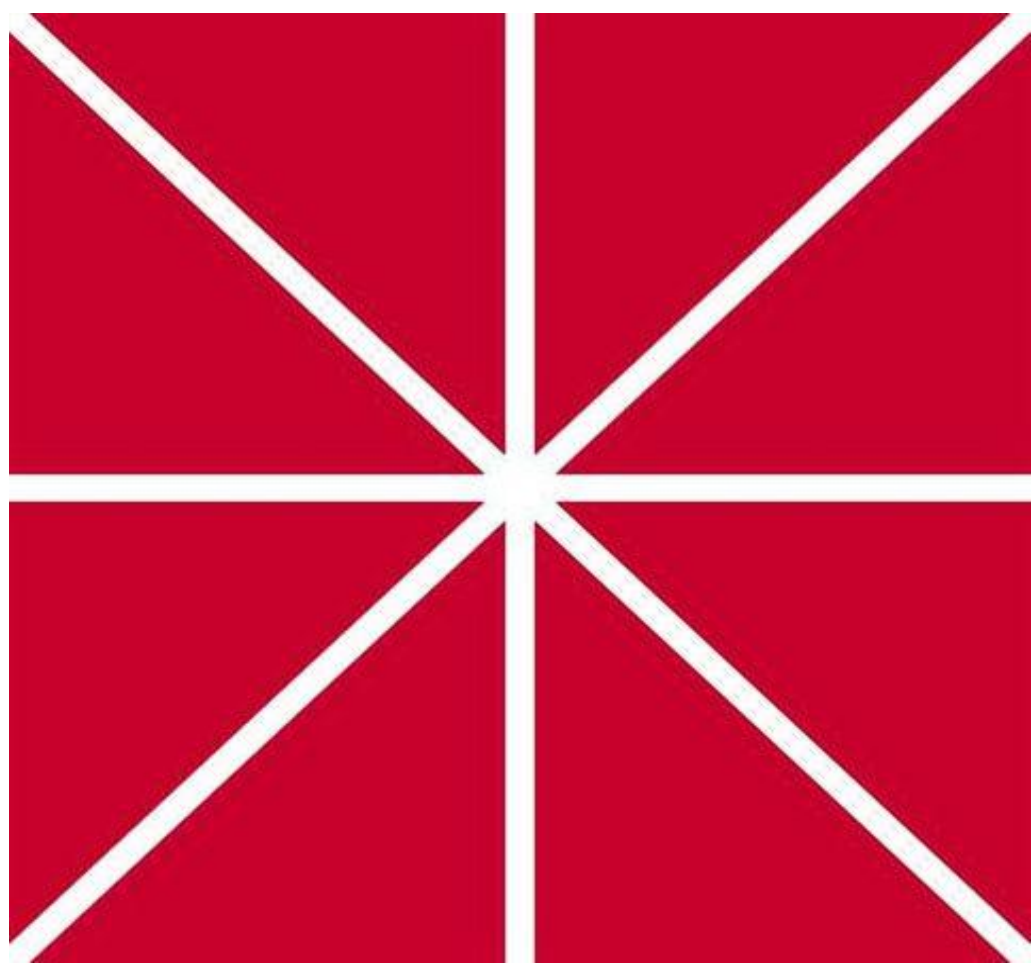
Artistic Resistance Under Dictatorships in Spain and Argentina Through The Lens of Communication Theory

Adrian Self

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Artistic Resistance Under Dictatorships in Spain and Argentina Through The Lens of Communication Theory

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Spain

The Francoist Dictatorship

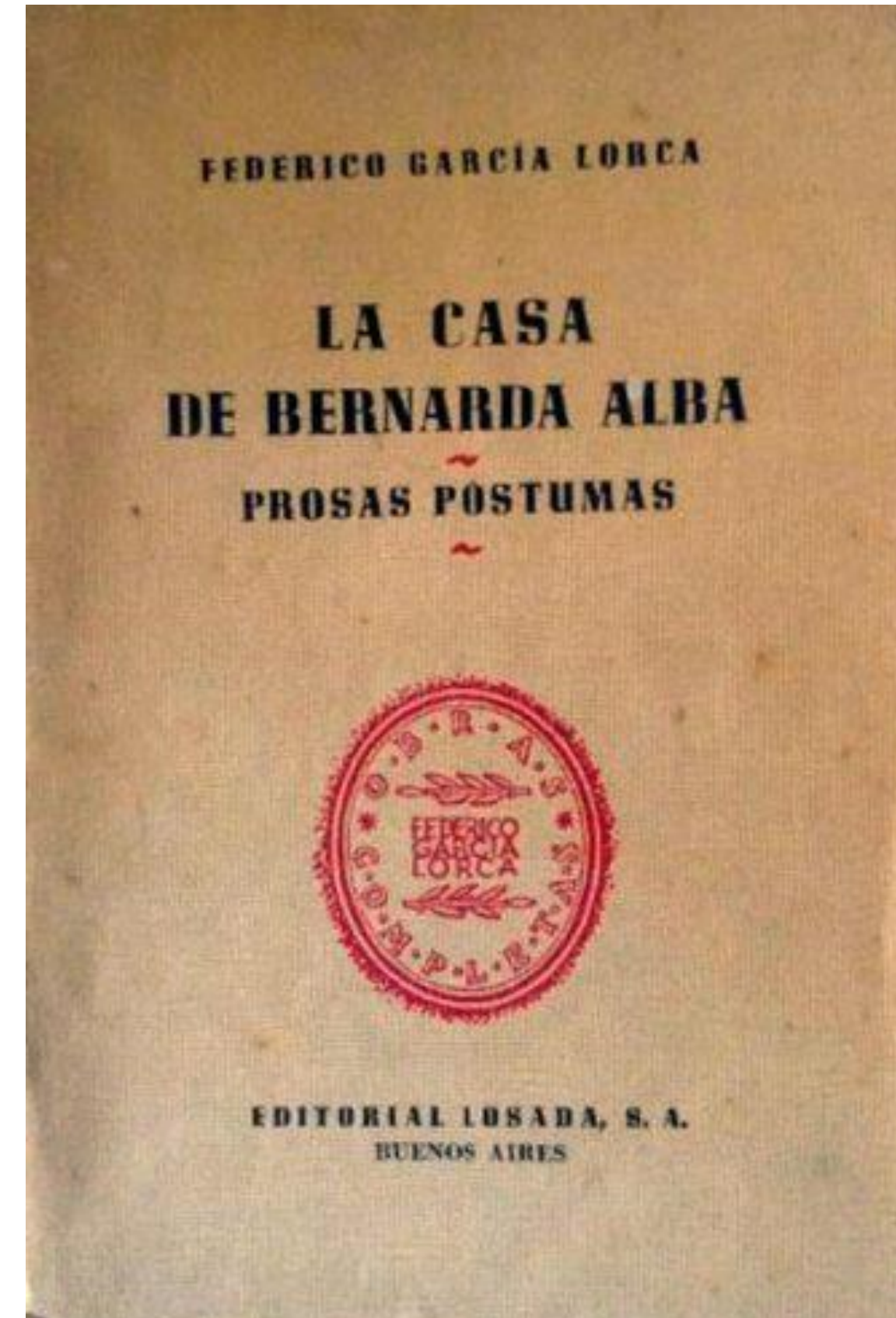
- Dictatorship led by Francisco Franco (1939-1975).
- An authoritarian government that upheld traditional values and sought for a “unified Spain,” targeting liberals, socialists, homosexuals, Jews, Protestants, Andalusians, Basques, and immigrants, among other groups.
- All literary and cinematographic works of art had to be submitted to the Spanish Censorship Board

Censorship in Cinema: *Viridiana*, Luis Buñuel

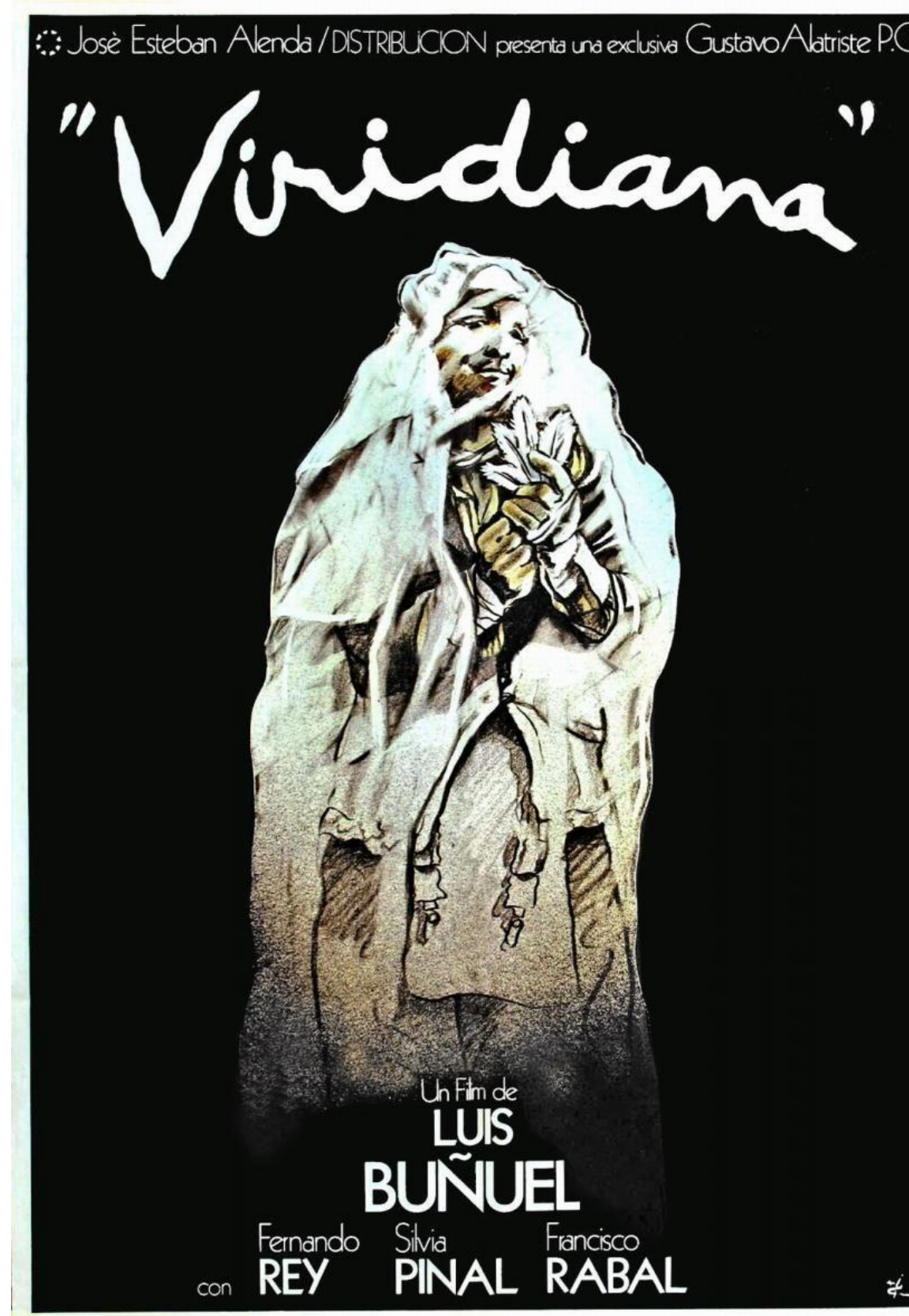
- 1961 film funded by the Spanish government, banned from 1961-1978
- Centers on Viridiana, who is about to enter a convent, as she visits her uncle, Don Jaime. Don Jaime tries to seduce his niece and, upon rejection, kills himself, and Viridiana inherits his house and starts a new life outside of the convent
- **Themes:** Satire directed at the Catholic church, false piousness and charity

Censorship in Literature: *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Federico García Lorca

- 1939 play written by Lorca, who was assassinated by Franco’s troops for his political beliefs and alleged homosexuality.
- Bernarda and her five daughters enter a seven-year mourning period following the death of her husband. The daughters are mandated to remain in the house and see no one except Angustias, the engaged eldest daughter. Rebellion, secrets, and betrayal tear the family apart.
- **Themes:** Oppression of women and sexual desires, critiques of Spanish social norms, rebellion.



La casa de Bernarda Alba by Federico García Lorca



Viridiana by Luis Buñuel (1961) Original movie poster



Viridiana by Luis Buñuel (1961). Scene that resembles “L’Ultima Cena” by Leonardo da Vinci

Argentina

The National Reorganization Process Dictatorship

- Dictatorship led by Jorge Rafael Videla (1976-1983)
- Right-wing military dictatorship targeted socialists, communists, and other suspected left-wing political participants, as well as students, artists, and homosexuals, among other groups.
- Responsible for banning, censoring, and burning thousands of literary and cinematographic works.

Censorship in Cinema: *Rebellion in Patagonia*, Héctor Olivera

- 1974 film based on the strikes in Patagonia in the 1920s that led to the government killing between 300 and 1,500 protesters.
- Banned for showing anarchist and socialist groups, framing the government poorly, and civilian rebellion.
- **Themes:** Social justice, workers rights, unions, government brutality

Censorship in Literature: *Kiss of The Spider Woman*, Manuel Puig

- 1976 novel about Molina and Valentín, who are in jail for corruption of a minor and political rebellion, respectively.
- Banned for its revolutionary and homosexual content and incorporation of various liberal academic theories in the footnotes.
- **Themes:** Sexuality, repression, political violence.

Communication Theories

Agenda-Setting Theory (framing theory):

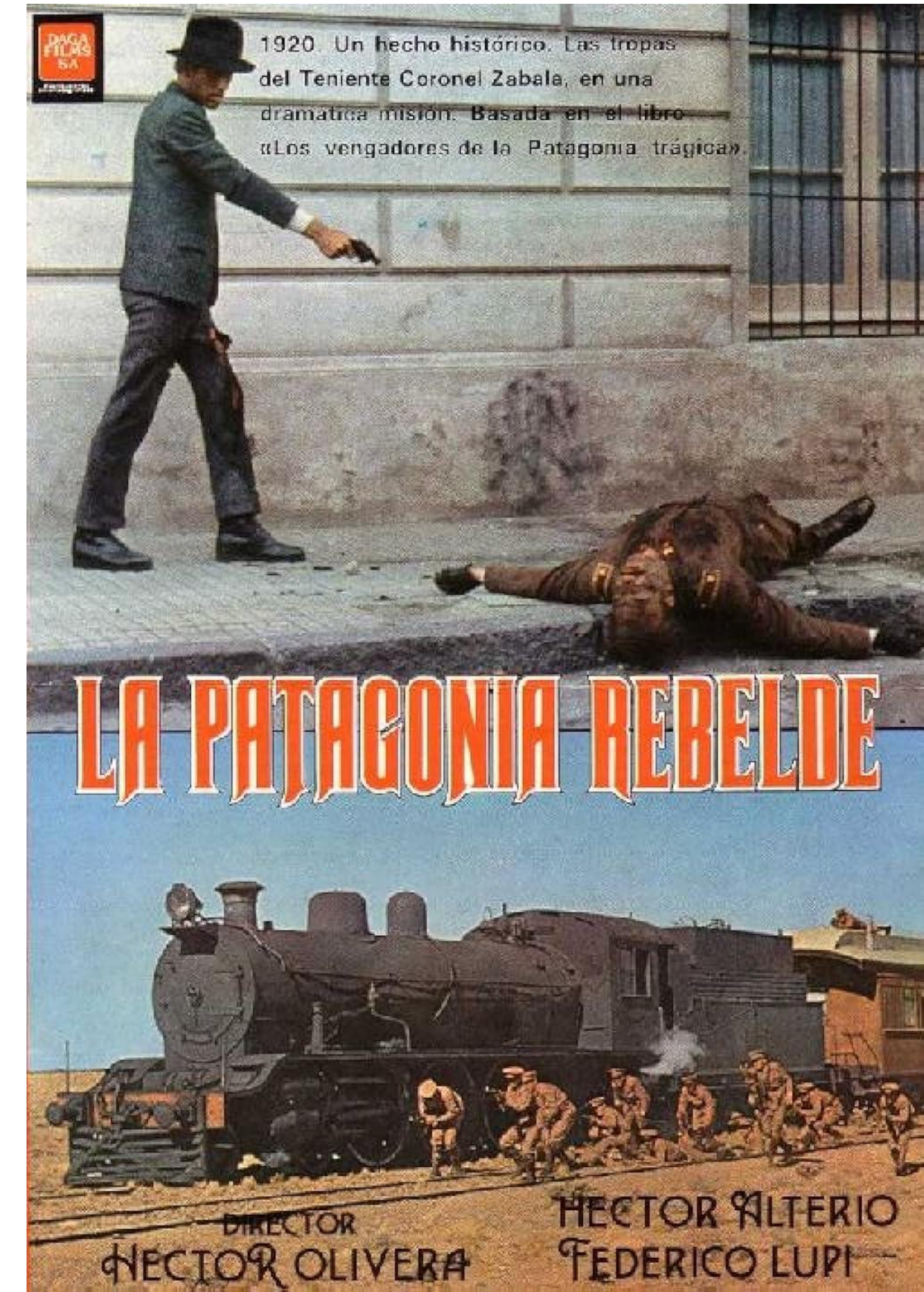
- The Agenda-Setting Theory by McCombs and Lewis explains how it is decided what information and art reaches the public. Information and art must go through “gatekeepers,” like editors and publishers, to reach the public. Agenda-setting can be persuasive but is not inherently so.
- The framing theory under the framework of the Agenda-Setting Theory explains how artists, authors, and gatekeepers alike package and present information with connotations with persuasive intention.

New Censorship Theory:

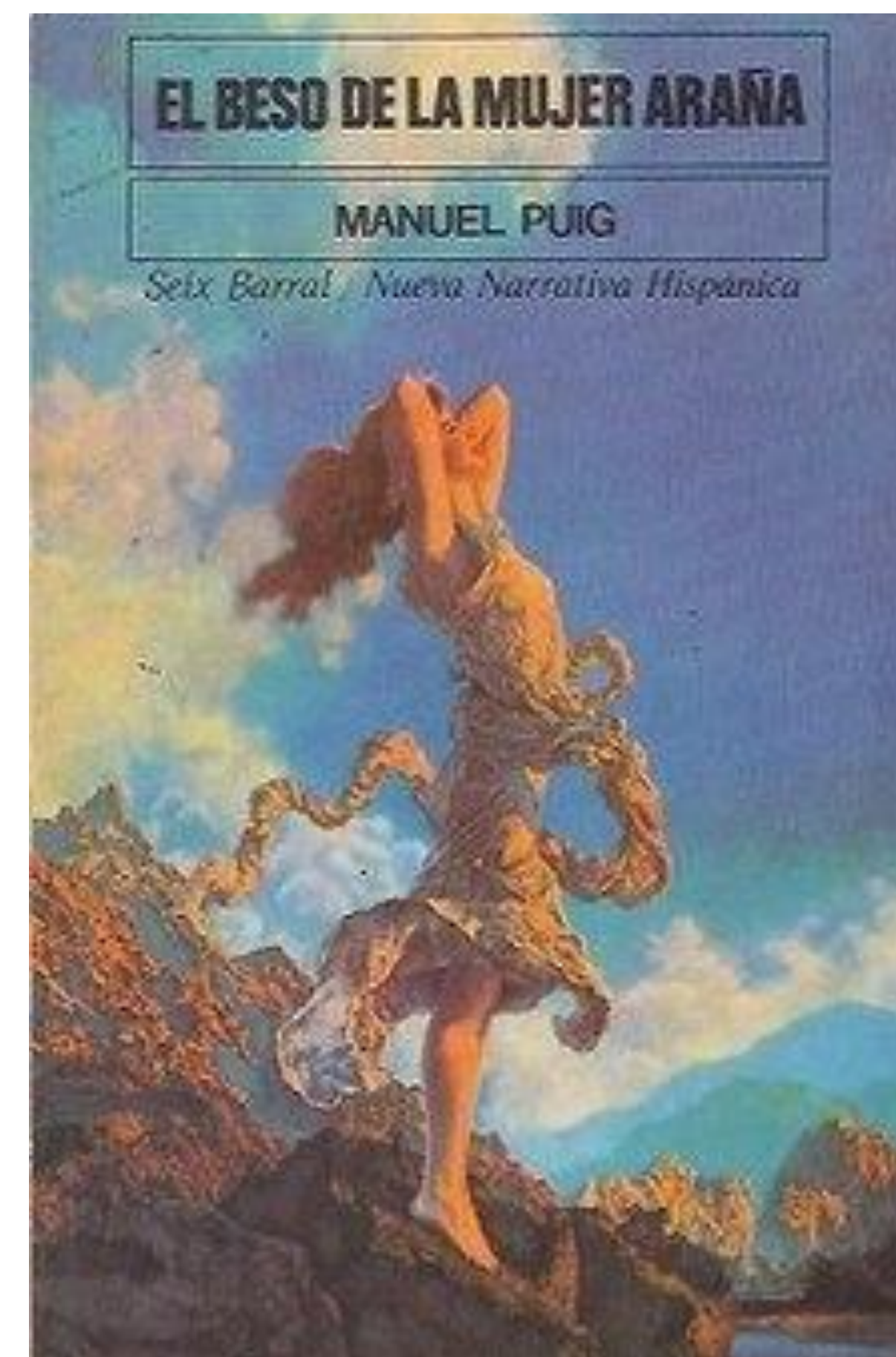
- Published by Bunn in 2015, it reexamines and broadens the definition of censorship past the state and into interpersonal communication. It also examines how censorship promotes new forms of communication to supersede those repressed.

Reception Theory:

- Published by Hall in 1973, it explains how messages of all kinds, including literary and cinematographic, have no explicit meaning. Senders encode messages with shared symbols, usually culturally specific, and hope the message’s receiver will interpret the symbols in their intended way.



La Patagonia Rebelde by Héctor Olivera (1974).



El beso de la mujer araña by Manuel Puig



600+

KNOWN CENSORED AND
BANNED BOOKS IN
ARGENTINA FROM 1976-1983

500,000+

BOOKS THAT PASSED
THROUGH THE SPANISH
CENSORSHIP BOARD

Books burned following orders of the Centro Editor de América Latina (1980, Buenos Aires, Argentina). Photo by Ricardo Figueira