

## **EYE FOR FILM**

<http://www.eyeforfilm.co.uk/feature.php?id=834>

A few festival favourites, **Aita**, Beautiful Boy, Barney's Version and Sarah's Key

**by** Amber Wilkinson

AITA Jose M. De Orbe

On the final couple of days of the festival I was able to take in a handful more, including in competition film Aita (Father), which is the sort of film that is very hard to quantify in terms of a star rating. Those who like clear narrative dramas and story will be incredibly frustrated by this languorous look at the caretaking goings on in an elderly house. In fact, one critic behind me at the screening I attended spent most of the final 20 minutes whistling at the more slow-moving moments, until the icy stares from those around him finally registered. What is interesting about the film, though - aside from some very beautiful framing and cinematography (for which it was awarded a prize - is its mixture of this incredibly naturalistic snapshot with much more avant garde techniques. At points during the film, what appears to be found footage is seen to play out across the white internal walls of the house. It's pictures are hard to discern but involve people and evoke the idea of ancient history stretching back within the confines of the building. Not for the casual cinema-goer and, if I'm honest, I'm not sure I would race to sit through it again, but there are definitely charms to José María de Orbe's debut, if you are prepared to give yourself up to its rhythms.