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SLEEPER HIT OF THE YEAR! NEW 35MM PRINT!

ANTONIO GAUDI

Director: Hiroshi Teshigahara Japan 1985 72 minutes

One of the more improbable art house hits of the past year has been the revival of Teshigahara's enchanting "documentary" about the architecture of Catalan fabulist Antonio Gaudi, which has sold out screenings across the United States, drawing a diverse audience of cinephiles, architecture and design enthusiasts, not to mention new agers attracted by Gaudi's credo, "Anything created by human beings is already in the great book of Nature."

Teshigahara's awe in the face of Gaudi's extravagant, "organic" architecture is evident in his every image, which renew the meaning of that banal phrase "visual poetry." The Japanese director was overwhelmed by his encounter with Gaudi's Casa Millà, whose flamboyance he felt was the embodiment of his life-long dream to break the artificial boundaries between the arts. This virtually wordless film captures the sweep and strangeness of Gaudi's work in Barcelona, his hivelike buildings with their elaborate frescoes, fantastic towers, ornate lattices and undulating turrets, and takes us to a village in the Pyrenees with houses that look like stone igloos, before ending at the Temple of Sagrada Familia, considered Gaudi's masterpiece. Accompanying the eye-filling images is a music score by Toru Takemitsu, which transmutes Catalonian folk pieces into sounds as eccentric as Gaudi's architecture. "An exquisite celebration of the bizarre brilliance of Spain's greatest architect" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*).

Friday, April 24 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 25 6:30 p.m.