



## ***Under the Same Moon:***

Unrealistic Tear-Jerker

By Alma Garcia

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***Under the Same Moon***  
**Directed by Patricia Rikken**  
**Original Screenplay by Ligiah Villalobos**

***La Misma Luna (Under the Same Moon)*** follows the journey of "Carlitos" (Adrian Alonso), a little boy whose mother left Mexico to work in the United States. After life's events hit, Carlitos decides to rid himself of all nostalgia by going north to find his mother.

Patricia Rikken's movie gives us a complete picture of the risks people take day-after-day in order to make it across the USA/Mexico border. The story-line of ***Under the Same Moon*** is designed to introduce all the "common" aspects of illegal immigration. Obviously this film was intended to raise awareness on the dangers of illegal immigration but perhaps a documentary would've been a better approach. ***Under the Same Moon*** is a tele-novela type film, and not just because the cast includes two famous Mexican tele-novela actresses (including Kate del Castillo as Carlito's mother "Rosario"). It is full of clichés and melodrama.

Choosing the separation (and reunion) of a mother and child as the main conflict makes this film a tear-jerker. Illegal immigration has always been a controversial topic but even more so today when illegal parents are being deported, leaving their American-born children behind to fend for themselves. What brings tears to one's eyes during ***Under the Same Moon*** is not the story line, not the acting, but the facts.

Throughout the film we're always wishing that Carlitos will make it back into Rosario's arms, but we know that in the end he'll probably make it. In reality, most little boys in Carlitos' situation don't.

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