



# THE WHITE TREASURE AND THE SALT WORKERS FROM CAQUENA

by Eva Katharina Bühler



## SYNOPSIS

White Treasure shows that even green technologies have their social and organic costs. The film opens with a car show, presenting electric cars and hybrid vehicles- the future of transportation. They will not need oil or emit greenhouse gasses, but their new, more powerful batteries, require different raw materials, such as lithium. In the next shot, the director takes us to Bolivia, where the world's largest deposits of this element are found in a huge salt lake – the white treasure of the Salar de Uyuni. Beautiful, otherworldly landscape over 3600 m above sea level, blinding brightness, white salt, and water are separated from the azure sky by a band of mountains visible in the distance. In the salt lake the indigenous residents of nearby villages, the Aymara Indians, toil to extract salt as they have for generations. They do alright without the new lithium battery technology – or computers, cell phones and cars. They have their own customs, traditions, church, school and...

## FESTIVALS

2011 International Women's Filmfestival Dortmund/ Cologne - Best Cinematography Award  
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2011 DOK Leipzig  
2012 Watch DOCS Poland

## CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Eva Katharina Bühler · DOP Eva Katharina Bühler

Germany 2011

52 min

### ORIGINAL TITLE

DER WEISSE SCHATZ und die Salzarbeiter von Caquena

### FORMAL CATEGORIES

Current Affairs, Conflicts, Human Rights, Sustainability, Ecology/Environment, Economy, Politics, Social issues

### PREMIERE

Germany (2011)

### LINKS / REFERENCE

<http://www.katharinabuehler...>

<http://www.reisezumsalar.bl...>

<http://www.facebook.com/The...>

<http://www.filmakademie.de>