



MOVING JOURNEY: The documentary "La Americana" follows the story of Maria, a Bolivian woman who immigrates illegally into the United States to help pay for her daughter's medical expenses. Submitted photo

ing his country and living with a godfather (Rade Serbedzija), "Fugitive Pieces" displays a remarkable depth and understanding of how the past affects the present and how frightening memories must be confronted before it's too late. The film is the first theatrical feature in eight years from Canadian director Jeremy Podeswa, and it's just as spellbinding as his 1999 effort "The Five Senses." Jakob remembers and experiences life in sensorial sensations, which find a poetic complement in Podeswa's lyrical images. This is a movie worth seeing more than once.

"Fugitive Pieces" screens at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Mizner Park.

La Americana:

★★★ ½

Prepare to weep within minutes – and to not stop weeping – at "La Americana," director Nicholas Bruckman's devastating documentary about Maria, a Bolivian woman whose daughter, Carla, loses the

function of her legs in a bus accident. Working on slave wages in the poorest country in South America, Maria has no choice but to immigrate illegally into the United States to earn enough money to cover her daughter's medical expenses. This involves not seeing Carla for her entire adolescence, not to mention the rest of her family back home. Bruckman smartly contextualizes Maria's plight with the larger issue of immigration reform in the United States, showing first-hand how the political effects the personal. "La Americana" is a sob story that will induce anger at our government's callousness as much as empathy for its protagonist's tragic and sadly representative tale.

"La Americana" screens at 3 p.m. Friday at Mizner Park.

The Little Traitor:

★★★

This tender message movie follows a paint-by-numbers plot but is so charming and is carried by such heart-