

3rd Sydney Latin American Film Festival



CHAUVEL CINEMA 6th-10th March 2008

EASTSIDE ARTS 11th-12th March 2008

CLUB MARCONI 14th-16th March 2008

www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org

3rd sydney
Latin American ★
Film Festival ★

Saludos Sydney and welcome to a third year of film, culture, and community engagement in celebration of Latin America.

The *Sydney Latin American Film Festival* continues to gain ground, expanding its program and attracting both Australian and international filmmakers to present their films and participate in audience Q&As and events. We invite you to come along and gain insight into their fascinating worlds of film and documentary making.

This year we present a spectrum of Australian premieres including our Festival opening night Colombian feature *Looking for Miguel (Buscando a Miguel)*; our Western Sydney opening night Mexican/Bolivian feature *American Visa*, numerous award winning documentaries and short films along with a selection of local filmmaker submissions.

Once again the festival will be shared across three locations: *Chauvel Cinema*, *Club Marconi* and our new venue, *Eastside Arts*, which will host the *Microcinema* sessions and the *Mid Festival Fiesta*.

This year the Festival will introduce a series of free screenings open to the broader community, presenting stories that resonate within local Sydney communities.

For the second year we are giving you the opportunity to vote for your favourite film in the Audience Award. In doing this, the Festival is giving one lucky audience member the chance to win the trip of a lifetime – a trip for two to South America courtesy of *Intrepid Travel*.

The unified efforts of this year's production crew are testament to the belief that this festival is a truly unique and unmissable event on Sydney's cultural calendar. Thank you to *LAN Airlines*, our principal sponsor and all our sponsors, supporters and volunteers, the Festival would not be possible without your passion and generous support. Nos vemos en el festival! See you at the Festival!





A volunteer based organisation since 2005

From its original crew of six people, the Sydney Latin American Film Festival has developed into a fully-fledged, not-for-profit, volunteer based organisation. The current production team, plus countless behind-the-scenes volunteers and supporters, all share a great passion for Latin America, film culture and community development. Many of these talented collaborators have spent a good part of a year constructing the Festival alongside numerous cultural events through the year.

This year the Festival focused on strengthening volunteering principles with an open invitation to become part of the core organising committee. The Festival received an overwhelming response which has given way to broader community ownership of the Festival and is cultivating stronger cultural links in Sydney.

For further information about the projects we are supporting in 2008 please visit the Community Support Program information stall at the Festival or head to the Project Links page on our website.

Community Support Program 2008 – What's in it for the Community?

As a patron of the Sydney Latin American Film Festival not only do you get a chance to experience unique Latin American cinema and culture, but by purchasing a ticket you are automatically contributing to the Festival's Community Support Program. As a not-for-profit organisation, the majority of funds raised from ticket sales at the Sydney Latin American Film Festival are injected back into community development projects across Latin America.

In 2007, we proudly supported three organisations whose works are based in building strong, healthy communities through their community development activities. Last year, over \$10 000 was raised through ticket sales and donated equally amongst: *The Tropical Rainforest Coalition* (Ecuador), *A Roof for My Country* (Uruguay), *Sydney-Latin American Social Assistance Organisation* (Sydney).

This year, the Sydney Latin American Film Festival is proud to continue its contribution to a variety of pioneering, grassroots organisations who are progressing in the realms of social justice, the environment and education.



LAN 
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OPENING NIGHT FIESTAS



Join us on Thursday 6 March at the Chauvel Cinema as we launch the Festival in spectacular style. Following the Australian Premier of *Looking for Miguel* (*Buscando a Miguel*) presented by the film's director Juan Fischer, the cinema foyer will come alive to the sounds of *Descarga*, featuring some of the most exciting and eclectic musicians from Sydney's Latin music scene. Feast on a delicious selection of food provided by *El Barrio* and enjoy drinks provided by *Corona*, [yellow tail] wines and *Sauza Tequila*. The LAN Airlines Opening Night Fiesta is a must-see event on the Sydney cultural calendar!

And we do it all again the following Friday 14 March at Club Marconi, when we present *American Visa*. Our LAN Airlines Opening Night Fiesta will feature the talents of *Bolivia Mia*, *DJ Don Juan* and other local performers, plus an array of fantastic food and drinks.



GUEST FILMMAKERS

We are very pleased to announce that many of the films selected for this year's program will be presented by their creators. Throughout the Festival, visiting and local directors and crew will participate in Q+A sessions and panel discussions. Check our website for details.

MID-FESTIVAL FIESTA

Watussi has exploded onto the Sydney music scene through their energetic live performances and charismatic lead singer Oscar Jimenez. For the second year, the Festival and *Watussi* present the Mid-Festival Fiesta. *Thursday 13 March at Eastside Arts, Paddington from 830pm*. Get your tickets early as this event is sure to sell out; through Moshtix \$12/\$10 concession+BF and at the door. *Watussi's* new album 'Tequila, Sangre y Fuego' is in stores now!





MICROCINEMA @ EASTSIDE ARTS

*This year the Microcinema will host a special series of documentaries and Filmmaker presentations at the Eastside Arts in Paddington. Sessions include an insight into a **Grassroots Argentina** - 7 years post 'Argentinazo'; award winning documentary **Fruits of War** exploring the gang culture spilling into Central America with Filmmaker Q+A; and a collection of short documentaries highlighting indigenous politics and environmental struggles in the **Amazon** basin.*

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO SOUTH AMERICA!

Intrepid Travel & the Sydney Latin American Film Festival are giving one extremely lucky audience member the chance to win a trip for two to South America! In order to be in the draw to win this incredible prize simply enter the draw by filling in the audience award form handed out following each film session. The Audience Award gives you the chance to have your say on films screened & gives filmmakers the opportunity to be crowned Audience Award Winner for each of the three categories – short, documentary & feature.

Additionally, Panavision is offering \$2,000 in prizes to one local filmmaker. Have your say by voting for a 'local short' in the Audience Award.

HECTOR LAVOE TRIBUTE

To celebrate the eagerly anticipated premiere screening of 'El Cantante', Man About Town Productions presents a special tribute to Hector Lavoe. The Oxford Art Factory will see an awesome live band line-up featuring musicians from Watussi, Mucho Mambo and Reyes de la Onda performing some of the best salsa ever written! Come dressed in your best 70's gear - prizes for the best dressed. From 8pm on Wednesday 27 February. Visit our website for details.

SHORTS AND SOUNDS

*Catch a taste of what's in store for you at the Festival with another installment of our highly successful "Shorts and Sounds" series. A massive night of entertainment awaits you at the Uruguayan Club, Hinchinbrook on Saturday 23 February, with a showcase of short films curated for the Festival and the magical sounds and inspirational visuals of the **Monasterio Bros**. With performances by **Murga Es lo que hay, Son de Tagua & DJ JC**. Tickets \$12/\$8 from 7pm on the night.*

Chauvel Cinema Opening Night Film



LOOKING FOR MIGUEL

(Buscando a Miguel)

Juan Fischer, 2007, Colombia,

107mins, Feature/Drama /

Comedy

Spanish w/ English subtitles



Thursday 6 March 7pm, Chauvel Cinema
Based on a true story, *Looking for Miguel* is a stark comedy that illuminates many extraordinary facets of Colombian society.

Miguel is a young and very ambitious Colombian politician with a brilliant career ahead of him. Born into money, he sees the world from a position of privilege and is blind to the reality of those around him. Miguel has set the wheels in motion to run for office, but fate, it seems has other plans. After falling victim to a violent attack; a naked, unidentified and unconscious Miguel is laid out before a doctor and his medical students – as a John Doe. A surprise revival leaves those standing before him in shock, but no more shocked than Miguel himself, empty of memories, a name, a destination, a family.

In a dream state, this utter unawareness of himself, Miguel is thrown into the harsh reality of the streets, a world inhabited by the very people he once refused to acknowledge. To his rescue, a cast of colourful indigents, petty thieves and a pious and promiscuous drag queen; with them he experiences the warmth of friendship, even when he is no one, a stranger even to himself.

Miguel, the politician, has ceased to exist. Bubbling to the surface is the raw and essential Miguel – a man struggling to find redemption.

We have the great pleasure in welcoming Juan Fischer, director of Looking for Miguel, to our Sydney shores. Fischer will join us on opening night to present his film and open the Festival.



TURTLE FAMILY

(Familia Tortuga)
Rubén Imaz Castro, 2006,
Mexico, 139mins, Feature
Drama, Spanish w/ English
subtitles

Friday 7 March 915pm, Chauvel Cinema
A remarkable directorial debut and one of the most pleasant surprises of contemporary Mexican cinema

First-time Mexican writer/director Ruben Imaz Castro skillfully teases out the selfishness, vulnerability and ultimately quiet self-discovery, of the various members of a family on the eve of a special family day in this multi-award winning drama.

Uncle Manuel is determined to help his adolescent niece and nephew and support his brother-in-law, an unemployed union member. On the eve of the first anniversary of the death of their sister/mother/wife, the family home is now a place where the family, amid lost dreams, is in danger of disintegration.

*Best Film, 3º Festival Int. de Cine, Santiago
Best 1st Work, Festival Int. de Cine Mexico 2007
Best Film, Toulouse Latin American Film Fest*



ROOTS TIME

*Silvestre Jacobi, 2006,
Jamaica / Argentina, 77mins,
Feature, English*

Friday 7 March 9pm, Chauvel Cinema
Rich Jamaican colours provide the perfect backdrop for this Caribbean road adventure that will make you smile

Roots Time is the story of Jah Bull and Baboo, two Rastafarians that sell LP records in an old colorful car through the countryside towns of Jamaica. While on the road they pick up well known radio broadcaster, Farmer Roots, who is trying to get his sick girlfriend to hospital. Jah Bull and Baboo do not believe in traditional medicine because of their Rastafarian principles and convince Farmer Roots to take his girlfriend to a well-known herbal doctor called Bongo-Hu. Getting to the herbal doctor turns out to be much trickier than they could ever have expected and all kind of adventures ensue.

Screening with Boletos Por Favor (Spain)





Saturday 8 March 9pm, Chauvel Cinema
Saturday 15 March 9pm, Club Marconi

El Cantante celebrates the life and music of the legendary Puerto Rican salsa singer Héctor Lavoe, a pioneer of the sound and sensibility that redefined Latin music in the 1960's and 1970's. Charting Héctor Lavoe's rapid rise to success and fame, it reveals the singer not only as an architect of salsa but as its soul; the kind of artist who forges an uncanny emotional bond with his audience. Love, pain, joy, pride, sorrow, endurance: Héctor Lavoe's singing contained the raw stuff of life as ordinary people.

EL CANTANTE

Leon Ichaso, 2007, USA,
110mins, Feature, English

Available to rent on DVD from
16 April 2008

Dont miss the Héctor Lavoe
tribute night party at Oxford
Arts Factory 27 February

A labour of love for its stars, Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez (both New Yorkers of Puerto Rican descent) El Cantante portrays an era when a new sense of national identity and pride took root in Puerto Rican communities across the U.S. Héctor Lavoe's music provided a soundtrack to that rousing awakening.

With thanks to Force Entertainment.

Screening with *Pain of the Macho* (Australia)



MAURICIO'S DIARY

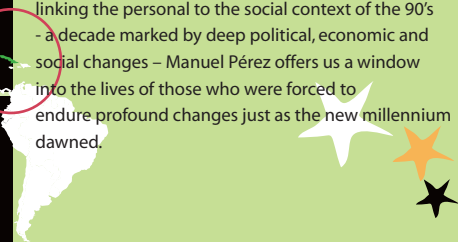
(Páginas del Diario de Mauricio)
Manuel Pérez Paredes, 2006,
Cuba, 134mins, Feature, Spanish
w/ English subtitles

Sunday 9 March 630pm, Chauvel Cinema

A moving story that takes place in the 90's, during the Special Period in Cuba.

It's September 2000, the Olympic Games are being held in Sydney and Mauricio spends his 60th birthday in Havana: a man alone and devastated by the unexpected death of his wife.

The last 12 years of Mauricio's life are recounted through a series of passages, in which the present and the past are skilfully intertwined to present the diverse and defining moments in Mauricio's life. By linking the personal to the social context of the 90's - a decade marked by deep political, economic and social changes - Manuel Pérez offers us a window into the lives of those who were forced to endure profound changes just as the new millennium dawned.





APOCALIPSUR

Javier Mejía, 2006, Colombia,
101mins, Feature, Spanish w/
English subtitles



Monday 10 March 830pm, Chauvel
Cinema

In 1991, Medellin is a dangerous place to live - the rules have changed and even the police force has a price on its head. Flaco has fled to London because of the death threats received by his mother. When he returns a few months later, nothing has changed. The war continues and bombs still explode. Charlie and Malala collect Flaco in a pickup van from the airport along with friends Pipe - a handicapped drug addict - and The Weasel (La Comadreja) - a loser without scruples. The pick up van becomes a refuge for them all as they start a fascinating journey from city to city. Will the road deter the travellers from the dreadful pleasures of Medellin, in their attempt to experience the Apocalipsur.

Screening with *Sin decir nada* (Colombia)

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Club Marconi Opening Night Film



AMERICAN VISA

*Juan Carlos Valdivia, 2005,
Mexico/Bolivia, 92mins, Feature/
Drama, Spanish w/ English
subtitles*

Friday 14 March 7pm, Club Marconi

Simple, honest and earthy, *American Visa* is the story of a Bolivian English teacher trying to get a visa to the US, in post-9/11 Bolivia.

Mario Alvarez plans to travel to Miami to reunite with his son and start a new life in the US, but first he must secure a visa. Mario soon finds out that this is no small task, and that he may have to resort to slightly unorthodox methods to get what he needs. Matters are further complicated when Mario meets Blanca, a nightclub dancer who is looking for a change in her life. Shot entirely in Bolivia, *American Visa* is an adaptation of a popular Bolivian novel and features strong dialogue and a contemporary visual and editorial style. It's clear that director Valdivia has set out not just to make a statement on the current political climate, but all importantly to entertain. His timely narrative presents takes on love, family, crime, government policy and corruption and the irony of looking outside for what can only be found within.

Witness Mario's journey at the Festival's opening night at Club Marconi, our LAN Airlines Opening Night Fiesta will feature the talents of Bolivia Mia, DJ Don Juan and other local performers, plus an array of fantastic food and drinks.





THE RIND

(La Cáscara)

Carlos Ameglio, 2007, Uruguay/
Argentina/Spain, 105mins,
Feature, Spanish w/ English
subtitles

Saturday 15 March 7pm, Club Marconi
"Ameglio's mixed black comedy, social satire, hinted supernatural content and delusional psychology keep this slick multinational production intriguing." - Variety

An Advertising Agency Creative dies unexpectedly while working on an idea for the launch of an anti-cold pill. Pedro, one of his old colleagues, begins an intricate search in order to discover the departed's idea, taking over his place and making use of his original notes and thoughts. Along the way Pedro meets an orphan street child who unconsciously leads him to a new and singular idea.

Screening with *Es lo que hay* (Australia)



New York International
Independent Film Festival
Best Photography Award



FIESTAPATRIA

Luis R. Vera, 2007, Chile/Peru,
102min, Feature, Spanish w/
English subtitles

Sunday 16 March 4pm, Club Marconi
A dark secret is set to tear a family apart ...

FiestaPatria is a metaphor for the social and moral state of Chile, and provides a provocative testimony of a period that ranges from the Pinochet dictatorship to the present day. The film makes use of a gallery of representative characters from Chilean society to tell the story of two families that get together in a country house to celebrate the National Holiday and the engagement of their children, Macarena and Álvaro. Just before the event comes to an eagerly-awaited happy end, young Macarena discovers the family's best kept secret.

Screening with *Onda Corta* (Venezuela)



Special Jury Mention,
Habana Film Festival, 2007





Sunday 16 March 8pm, Club Marconi
You can't pick your neighbours....

672 Chile Street revolves around the lives of four neighbours living in an apartment block in Buenos Aires. A troubled driver who befriends a young girl he takes to school each morning. A once famous actress who desperately seeks a comeback to her glory days. A devout young woman who listens to disquieting moans that come from the neighboring apartment. A liberal Italian who has inspired such anger in her neighbours that they are petitioning to have her expelled from the building. A storm is about to break over 672 Chile Street!

CHILE 672

Pablo Bardauil & Franco

Verdoia, 2006, Argentina,

102mins, Feature, Spanish w/

English subtitles



Screening with *Constitución (Argentina)*

Gender
Spanish
Academy



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A PAPER TIGER

(Un Tigre de Papel)

Luis Ospina, 2007, Colombia,
114mins, Documentary,
Spanish w/ English subtitles



Friday 7 March 7pm, Chauvel Cinema
Itself a visual masterpiece, a collage of the great Colombian artist's life that traverses the globe and spans momentous periods of time

Pedro Manrique Figueroa, pioneer of collage in Colombia, has never had a biographer. For a very simple reason: his life is like an adventure novel that is both incomplete and contradictory, constantly linked to the sparkling uncertainties of oral tradition. Taking Manrique Figueroa's life and work as a pretext, *A Paper Tiger* takes the viewer on a journey through history over the period from 1934 to 1981, when the artist mysteriously disappeared from view. *A Paper Tiger* is itself a collage, where art and politics rub shoulders, where truth and lies are placed side by side, where documentary and fiction intermingle.

Screening with *Una Muerte Menor* (Mexico)

Documenta Kassel 2007

Festival Internacional de Morelia 2007

Festival de Cine de Bogotá 2007



TAMBOGRANDE

Ernesto Cabellos &

Stephanie Boyd, 2007, Peru,
85mins, Documentary,
Spanish w/ English subtitles



Saturday 8 March 430pm, Chauvel Cinema
A triumphant and engaging story of truth, struggle and victory, setting a blueprint for rural Latin America and unsettling boardrooms.

Adventurous pioneers transform Peru's harsh northern desert into a fertile valley of mango and lime orchards. But all they've worked for is threatened when gold is discovered under their land. Fear, violence and murder rock their once quiet community. In the midst of chaos, a martyr's vision unites the farmers and leads them down a revolutionary path of non-violent resistance. These brave men and women take on corrupt politicians and the global mining industry in an epic tale of ordinary people rising to heroic deeds in times of great crisis.

Screening with *A China el Golpe* (Peru)

Jan Vrijman Fund - International
Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

CHAUVEL CINEMA

THURSDAY 6 MARCH

7pm **OPENING NIGHT FILM + FIESTA** (*Filmmaker intro*)
Looking for Miguel (*Buscando a Miguel*) Colombia

FRIDAY 7 MARCH

7pm **A Paper Tiger** (*Un Tigre de Papel*) Colombia
+ *Una Muerte Menor* Mexico
915pm **Turtle Family** (*Familia Tortuga*) Mexico
9pm **Roots Time** (*Filmmaker intro**) Argentina
+ *Boletos por favor* (*Guest intro**) Spain

SATURDAY 8 MARCH

430pm **Tambogrande** Peru
+ *A China el golpe* Peru
630pm **My Life Inside** (*Mi vida dentro*) Mexico
+ *Hiyab* Spain
9pm **El Cantante** USA
+ *Pain of the Macho* (*Guest intro*) Australia

SUNDAY 9 MARCH

5pm **Galindo** (*Galindo, la otra cara de la moneda*) Chile
+ *Joyce* Brazil
630pm **Mauricio's Diary** (*Páginas del Diario de Mauricio*) Cuba
7pm **The Heart** (*El Corazon*) (*Guest intro*) Colombia
+ *Fighting Cholitas* Bolivia

MONDAY 10 MARCH

630pm **The Price of Sugar** US/Dominican Rep.
+ *My Father, My Master* (*Filmmaker intro*) Australia
830pm **Apocalipsur** Colombia
+ *Sin decir nada* (*Filmmaker intro**) Colombia

*TBC

AS ALL FILMS ARE UNCLASSIFIED, AGE RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

EASTSIDE ARTS - MICROCINEMA

TUESDAY 11 MARCH

FOCUS ON AMAZON

3pm **Our Land** (*Terra Nossa*) Brazil
Os Guarani Mbya Brazil
Noshinto Shamporo (*Mi Hija Shamporo*) Peru
15 min break
5pm **Your Blood** (*Tu Sangre*) Ecuador

SPECIAL FILMMAKER PRESENTATION

7pm **The Fruits of War** USA/El Salvador
Film followed by panel discussion and Q+A

CLUB MARCONI

FRIDAY 14 MARCH

7pm **OPENING NIGHT FILM + FIESTA**

American Visa

Bolivia/Mexico

SATURDAY 15 MARCH

3pm **Send a Bullet** (*Manda Bala*)

Brazil

+ *Oficina Perdiz*

Brazil

5pm **Fruits of War** (*Filmmaker Q+A*)

USA/El Salvador

7pm **The Rind** (*La Cascara*)

Uruguay/Arg/Spain

+ *Es lo que hay (Filmmaker intro)*

Australia

9pm **El Cantante**

USA

+ *Ay Caramba (Filmmaker intro)*

Australia

SUNDAY 16 MARCH

2pm **Burnt Oranges** (*Naranjos*)

Argentina

+ *Cuando Carajo*

Argentina

+ *Conversations II*

Peru/ USA

4pm **FiestaPatria**

Chile

+ *Onda Corta*

Venezuela

6pm **Secrets of Struggle** (*Secretos de lucha*)

Uruguay

(*Filmmaker Q+A*)

8pm **Chile 672** (*Guest intro*)

Argentina

+ *Constitución*

Argentina

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.SYDNEYLATINOFILMFESTIVAL.ORG

WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH

3pm **Chronicles of the Great Snake** (*Crónicas de la Gran Serpiente*)
Argentina

GRASSROOTS ARGENTINA TODAY

530pm **The Second Conquest** (*La Segunda Conquista*) *Argentina*
(*Filmmaker intro*)

7pm **Dreaming the Future** (*Soñando el Futuro*) *Argentina*
(*Filmmaker intro*)

830pm **Discussion**

Please note: single session tickets are valid for Microcinema sessions and entry is permitted during films.



MY LIFE INSIDE

(Mi Vida Dentro)

Lucía Gajá, 2007, Mexico, 122 mins, Documentary, English & Spanish w/ English subtitles



Saturday 8 March 630pm, Chauvel Cinema
“one of the most talked about Mexican documentary films of the year”

This standout documentary portrays the imprisonment and prosecution of a young Mexican woman in Texas following the death of a child under her care. Rosa migrated illegally to Austin, Texas, in 1999 at the age of 17. In January 2003, she was imprisoned on suspicion of murder and then tried in August of 2005.

As the legal process unfolds we discover a chilling example of a judicial system entrenched with injustice and witness the risks involved in pursuing the American dream.

Screening with *Hiyab (Spain)*



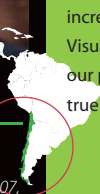
*Best Mexican Documentary,
Morelia International Film Festival
2007*



GALINDO, THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

(Galindo, la otra cara de la moneda)

Miguel Cuevas Riquelme, 2007, Chile, 55mins, Documentary, Spanish w/ English subtitles



Sunday 9 March 5pm, Chauvel Cinema

A unique, real and tremendously human story, which will leave you truly touched

After 13 years of incarceration, 13 years of loss and of frustration, Ricardo Galindo walks free from the jail gates into the confrontation of social reintegration and the problems and discriminations it carries. This beautifully produced film intimately follows an extra-ordinary man through his release and his incredible journey to meet his only son.

Visually impressive, Galindo teaches us to question our prejudice of released prisoners and the power of true human emotion.

Screening with *Joyce (Brazil)*

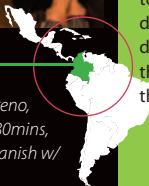




THE HEART

(El Corazon)

Diego García Moreno,
2006, Colombia, 80mins,
Documentary, Spanish w/
English subtitles



Sunday 9 March 7pm, Chauvel Cinema

An extraordinary documentary; one the Festival's gems

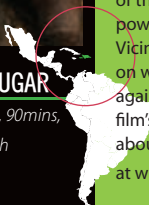
The symbol of the heart lies at the heart of the world of symbols. Based on this idea, "The Heart" is a year in the life of two couples living in a society whose most vital organ has been seriously wounded: a soldier's heart is torn apart by shrapnel from a land mine. His life is saved by a cardiovascular surgeon from a medical team holding the world record for number of open-heart operations. The soldier is forced to retire from the army but, inspired by his love for his new wife and the child they are expecting, he battles to earn a living. Meanwhile, the surgeon's wife is diagnosed with cardiac arrhythmia. The pulse of these different characters draws an electrocardiogram of the nation, Colombia, consecrated a century ago to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in an attempt to save it.

Screening with *Fighting Cholitas (Bolivia)*



THE PRICE OF SUGAR

Bill Haney, 2006, USA, 90mins,
Documentary, English



Monday 10 March 630pm, Chauvel Cinema

Just a few miles inland from the tourist filled beaches of the Dominican Republic, hidden from view, thousands of dispossessed Haitians have toiled under armed guard harvesting sugarcane, much of which ends up in U.S. kitchens. They work gruelling hours and frequently lack decent housing, clean water, electricity, education or healthcare. "The Price of Sugar" follows Father Christopher Hartley, a charismatic Spanish priest, as he organises some of this hemisphere's poorest people, challenging powerful interests profiting from their work. The Vicini family, who own some of the sugar plantations on which the film was shot, have filed a lawsuit against the filmmakers in an attempt to block the film's release. The Price of Sugar raises key questions about where the products we consume originate and at what human cost they are produced.

Screening with *My Father, My Master (Australia)*

MICROCINEMA SESSION 01 - FOCUS ON AMAZON

Tuesday 11 March 3pm - 6pm, Eastside Arts

Often referred to as the Earth's lung, the Amazon is a region of superlatives: it spans the borders of eight countries; it is the world's largest river basin and the source of one-fifth of the Earth's river water; it has the world's highest diversity of birds and freshwater fish; it is the planet's largest and most luxuriant rainforest in which live more than one third of all species in the world.



OUR LAND

(Terra Nossa)

Bill Day, Caito Martins, 2007,
USA/Brazil, 19mins, Documentary
Portuguese w/ English subtitles

**For more information go to
www.chicomendes.com**

In this short video, Waldemir Kaapor, the chief of the small Kaapor tribe takes us to a camp that has just been re-captured from loggers who have devastated the local forest. The camp was illegally built on Kaapor land. The tribe intends to build a new village in this camp and reforest the land around it.

To show us why the Kaapor must fight for the forest, Waldemir takes the camera into the forest to reveal the bountiful supply of food and drink that is within arm's reach just about anywhere the Indians care to go. This is a unique look inside a federally designated "conflict zone" deep in the Amazon. The filmmakers had to travel far into the jungle to capture this portrait of a community with renewed hope in the regeneration of their forest.



OS GUARANI MBYA

Marcia Gomes, 2007, Brazil,
21mins, Documentary
Guarani w/ English subtitles

The film speaks of the wishes of the Guarani Mbya people in the indigenous village of Sapukai, south of Rio de Janeiro. After building two nuclear reactors on their native lands, the Brazilian government now wants to build a third reactor with the help of European multinational Framatom/Siemens. The film's narrator is 94 year old village chief Vera Mirim, his knowledge of the land and its spiritual significance runs deep, as are his ominous visions for a world employing nuclear power.

Despite its natural richness, the Amazon ecosystem is fragile and in peril. In Brazil, for instance, illegal logging, slash-and-burn agriculture and other human impacts are consuming the forest at the rate of over 9,000 square miles per year. Below are 4 stories from different regions within the Amazon Basin, looking at various issues affecting forest communities as their lives become increasingly entwined with a capitalised world.

After the films there will be a general discussion about the issues raised in the films and about the current campaigns focusing on region at the moment.

Elias, native Peruvian jungle Ashaninka Chief, concerned about his daughter Shamporo's future, decides to return to his birthplace, Quempiri, in search of the 'Healer with the Vapour of Medicinal Plants', to learn about plants, their use and their rituals.

They start a journey following the Ene river all the way to Quempiri and beyond, to remote lands, always following the trail of the best healer he has ever known. Throughout their passage Shamporo discovers the landscape and customs of the Ashaninka Quempi people, the natural space where her ancestors have lived in harmony for generations, until the arrival of the social violence of the Shining Path.

They travel by boat, air, car, through the city until they finally reach Maria's house, who listens and reflects upon their journey of rediscovery.

In the Ecuadorian rainforest, members of the native Shuar community are competing with the Mestizo settlers in the elections for the mayor of the town. In canoes over plentiful rivers and on foot across the jungle, political campaigning is rife. From commune to commune and from family to family, some carrying their messages in Spanish, others in Shuar. In every speech the issues of race, language, customs and territories are approached. Inside the Amazon Forest the key issues addressed are those of cultural identity, not politics or ideology.

Online resources

<http://www.amazonwatch.org>
<http://www.socioambiental.org/e/a>
<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/>



NOSHINTO SHAMPORO

(Mi Hija Shamporo)
Tita Portela, 2007, Spain / Peru,
52mins, Documentary,
Ashaninka w/ English subtitles



YOUR OWN BLOOD

(Tu Sangre)
Julian Larrea Arias, 2005,
Ecuador, 71mins, Spanish w/
English subtitles



CHRONICLES OF THE GREAT SNAKE

(Crónicas de la Gran Serpiente)
Darío Arcella, 2007, Argentina,
82mins, Documentary, Spanish
w/ English subtitles

Wednesday 12 March 3pm, Eastside Arts

A portrait of the cultures threatened by an impersonal and economy-focused globalization.

The documentary is presented as an updated vision of the social and cultural situation of the indigenous people of America, facing the new millennium. Growing marginalization and displacement imposed by the centers of power place all cultures a situation of precarious survival.

From the millenary philosophy of the older cultures arise answers to problems suffered by all of us, matters related to ecology, sustainable development and the survival as a species itself. This film is timely chronicle of a world in danger of eradicating the vast living libraries of knowledge passed through generations of indigenous culture.

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*Equipment and installation fees may apply.

MICROCINEMA SESSION 02 - GRASSROOTS ARGENTINA

Wednesday 12 March 530pm - 8pm, Eastside Arts

Drawing on two films, this session takes a glimpse at Argentina seven years post 'Corralito' when banks froze bank accounts, unfurling a tumultuous series of events that set Argentina onto a new course. Guest filmmakers will introduce their films and discuss their approaches in documenting grassroots and indigenous movements in Argentina today.



DREAMING THE FUTURE

(Soñando el Futuro)

Marta N. Bautis, Argentina / USA, 56mins, Documentary, Spanish w/ English subtitles

A journey to the south of Buenos Aires, to grassroots communities where daily life is part of a new culture of resistance. Marginalised neighbourhoods where the communities organise art classes, sewing workshops and musical groups; popular assemblies where new social structures are being developed; road blockades where unemployed workers demand their rights. A journey to places where daily life is part of the struggle, and the struggle becomes a dream of the future.

Session includes introduction and Q&A with Director Marta N. Bautis



THE SECOND CONQUEST

(La Segunda Conquista)

Denali DeGraf & Joao Dujon Pereira, 2007, Argentina, 71mins Documentary, Spanish w/ English subtitles

At the end of the 19th century, the Argentine Government sent the army to clear Patagonia of its indigenous population for white settlement. A hundred and twenty years later, a similar situation unfolds. A real-estate boom and a growing thirst for extractable resources are forcing the land out of the hands of those who inhabit it and work it, and into the hands of large corporations and wealthy individuals. In the face of massive tourism development and multi-billion dollar mining exploration, small communities in Patagonia renew their struggle to defend and reclaim their land. This resistance is sustained by nothing more and nothing less than a fundamental relationship to the land, compelling us to examine the concepts of power, ownership, and relationships in our own lives, land and society.

Session includes introduction and Q&A with Director Joao Dujon Pereira



FRUITS OF WAR

*Josiah Hooper, 2007,
USA/El Salvador, 60mins,
Documentary, Spanish w/
English subtitles*



*Tuesday 11 March 7pm, Eastside Arts
Saturday 15 March 5pm, Club Marconi*

Four young El Salvadorean men struggle to survive in their homeland, as deportees, after spending most of their lives as members of street gangs in the US. These men have seen enough violence to fill a lifetime and find themselves in a most unusual position – undergoing a transformation from gang members to deportees and finally into peacemakers. Their evolution is set in motion as they gain an understanding of US policy during the El Salvadorean civil war and how it has shaped their lives, and continues to shape the future of others like them. This is a personal journey filled with both hope and regret as these four men tread the winding path of self discovery.

**Session includes introduction and Q&A with Director
Josiah Hooper**



*Audience Award,
SXSW Film Festival*



SEND A BULLET

(Manda Bala)
*Jason Kohn, 2007, Brazil / USA,
Documentary, 85mins, English /
Portuguese*



Saturday 15 March 3pm, Club Marconi

When the rich steal from the poor... the poor steal from the rich. An examination of corruption and class warfare in Brazil as told through the stories of a wealthy businessman, a plastic surgeon who assists kidnapping victims and a politician whose income relies on a frog farm.

Manda Bala artfully connects these seemingly disparate elements and conducts a dazzling, yet harrowing, examination of the tragic domino effect that has reshaped the face of the country and created an entire industry built on corruption.

"One of the best and most powerful films I have seen in years" - Errol Morris

Screening with *Oficina Perdiz* (Brazil)



BURNT ORANGES

(Naranjas)

*Silvia Malagrino, 2005,
90mins, USA, Experimental
Documentary, English &
Spanish w/ subtitles*



Sunday 16 March 2pm, Club Marconi

Burnt Oranges is an experimental documentary by Chicago filmmaker Silvia Malagrino that explores the history of political violence in her native Argentina. Malagrino examines the long-term effects and repercussions of Argentina's 1970's state terrorism through a combination of intimate witness narration, interviews, and re-created footage. The film is a personal and artistic portrayal of a country's struggles to confront its painful past and a reminder of the ongoing necessity to defend human rights and democratic values.

*Screening with
Conversations II (Peru) &
Cuando Carajo (Argentina)*



SECRETS OF STRUGGLE

(Secretos de Lucha)

*Maiana Bidegain, 2007,
France/Spain/Uruguay, 85mins,
Documentary, Spanish w/
English subtitles*



Sunday 16 March 6pm, Club Marconi

Secretos de Lucha. The journey of a young woman, who travels to Uruguay in search of what really happened to her family during the darkest years of the Uruguayan dictatorship. Through her father's eyes and the confessions of her seven aunts and uncles, she tries to understand why they kept their memories silent for so long. She follows every step and explores their individual struggles, uncovering a silence that has left so many wounds yet to be healed.

This documentary invites the audience to share in an intimate perspective of a family's struggle against oppression, and gives a voice to those who were both witnesses and pawns in a story that was stolen from them. A documentary to confront the innermost fears, and open the way for the new generation.

*Session includes introduction and Q&A with Director
Maiana Bidegain*



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SLAFF international crew: Vanessa Morillo (Paris), Adrian Arce (Mexico), Nestor Granda (Argentina) and Mariella Stuart Pando (Peru).

Thank you to the many amazing artists & performers who have kindly donated their time: Son de Tagua, Monasterio Brothers, Ukamau, Hosana Heinrich & Alvaro Gonzales, Oscar Jimenez, Watussi, Mucho Mambo, Reyes de le Onda, Descarga, Vincent Sebastian, Michael Correa, Murga Es lo que hay, Sky @ Picante Latin Dance, Carlos Barrios, DJ JC, DJ Don Juan, Fernando Llort, Bolivia Mia, Jeanne Bastos and Alma.

Antonio Morón Nava, Consul for the Republic of Bolivia, Ministry of Culture Colombia - Cinema Department, Marcelo Salas of Pro-Chile, Alejandro Díaz San Vicente, Instituto Mexicano de Cinematografía (Mexican Film Institute), Adriana Castillo, Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica (CCC), Jessy Vega Eslava, Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica (CCC), Jennifer @ Force Entertainment, Sony DADC Australia, Guillermo Lunardi of Marta's Vinyard, Amanda Jarvis @ Lonely Planet, Lourdes Garcia @ Ocean Press, Enrique De Nicola @ Music Front, Allan Anchislavsky @ Calima Coffee, Chris Fischer & the staff @ Eastside Arts, Anthony Yeo & Chauvel Cinema, Stella Tripodi @ Club Marconi, Uruguayan Club, Fairfield Forum, Natalia Padgen @ Avant Card, Ngumo, Fernando Andres, Walter Rojas and Terry Benitez.

An enormous thank you to the many volunteers who have injected their time, energy and passion into producing the Festival. To our families and friends and to those who have offered advice and assistance along the way ... muchas gracias.

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Chauvel Cinema

Cnr Oxford St & Oatley Rd, Paddington, 9361 5398
www.chauvelcinema.net.au

Opening Night

Filmmaker presentation, Australian premiere + fiesta

Adult \$35

Concession \$28

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Microcinema @ Eastside Arts

395 Oxford St, Paddington, 9331 2646
www.paddingtonuca.org.au

All sessions \$5

Online: moshtix.com or www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org

Phone: Moshtix: 1300 438 849

Club Marconi: 9822 3333

In Person: Through venue box office – check venues for opening times. Cash only at Eastside Arts Centre - tickets available from the venue half an hour before sessions.

Session passes: Available only in person from the venues and are not transferable across venues. Films must be selected at time of purchase.

Eligible concessions: Palace Movie Club members, full time students (photo ID required), senior citizens, pensioners, health care card holders and children under 16 years of age.

General Ticketing Information

- Payment using all major credit cards and booking fees apply
- For Club Marconi patrons, all persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
- All venues are wheel chair accessible
- Festival tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable
- Lost or stolen tickets cannot be replaced or refunded
- All seating is unreserved (except where otherwise stated)
- All films are unclassified, age restrictions apply. Check website for details.

We urge patrons to purchase tickets in advance to avoid disappointment. Program information is correct at the time of publication and the Festival regretfully reserves the right to withdraw, change and replace program information without notice. Please check www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org prior to event for up to date information.

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Prairie vale Rd, Bossley Park, 9822 3333
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