

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
4<sup>TH</sup> February, 2008



**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE TO OPEN SYDNEY'S LATIN FILM FESTIVAL**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sydney Latin American Film Festival  
6<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2008

In its third year, the Sydney Latin American Film Festival announces an explosive ten-day film Festival including the Australian premiere of the Colombian feature, ***Buscando a Miguel (Looking for Miguel)***. 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. The premiere will be followed by the launch party featuring a live performance by energetic Latin band *Descarga* and food provided by the fashionable Latin restaurant/bar *El Barrio*.

***Buscando a Miguel***, which is set in Colombia, will make its Australian premier at the Sydney Latin American Film Festival and kick starts an exciting program of feature films, documentaries, shorts and animations and live fiestas, all whilst raising funds for community development projects in Latin American and Australia. The screening will be followed by the Opening Night Fiesta with free drinks, food and live music.

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. He searches for himself in an unknown city among people he doesn't know, living through fragmentary images of his past and dreams he can't understand.

In this sort of 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.

“*Looking for Miguel* is a reflection on tolerance and respect - essential qualities required to live in a society that is so lacking in such attributes, yet desperately needs them.”

Other events featured as part of the Festival include a tribute to Hector Lavoe anticipating the premiere of the screening of 'El Cantante' in the Oxford Art Factory (27 Feb) with an awesome line-up of musicians from Watussi, Mucho Mambo and many more, and the famous Mid-Festival Fiesta presenting an energetic live performance of one of Sydney's most celebrated Latin bands Watussi at the East Side Arts Centre on 13 March.

Fill out our Audience Award Form to vote for your favourite film at the Festival and win a 3 – week trip to South America for two persons worth over \$8000!

Full program details are available at [www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org](http://www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org) and tickets are available online from Mid-February.

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Please phone or email to arrange an interview with Juan Fischer.  
Juan will be in Sydney from Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March – 11th March.