

MEDIA RELEASE
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A BEAT FROM COLOMBIA
3rd Sydney Latin American Film Festival
6th – 16th of March 2008

The 3rd Latin American Film Festival is set to excite and inspire audiences with award-winning films, raw and revealing documentaries and innovative shorts including outstanding Colombian features and documentaries, that offer first hand perspectives of the many different lives and stories that make up Colombia.

Colombian director Juan Fischer will present his feature film '**Buscando a Miguel**' which kicks starts the Festival at the Opening Night Fiesta on Thursday 6th March, 7pm at Chauvel Cinema. Based on a true story, *Buscando a Miguel* is a dark comedy that illuminates many extraordinary facets of Colombian society. '**Apocalipsur**' looks at a fascinating journey of a group of friends travelling from city to city to escape war in Medellin and will be screened with the Colombian short film '**Sin Decir Nada**'. Furthermore, the Festival proudly presents two excellent documentaries under which the award-winning documentary '**A Paper Tiger**'. *Paper Tiger* features the great Colombian pioneer of collage, Pedro Manrique Figueroa. The documentary is a collage in itself, where art and politics rub shoulders, where truth and lies are placed side by side, where documentary and fiction intermingle. One of the Festival's gems is the documentary '**El Corazon**'. The symbol of the heart (El Corazon) 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 organs have been seriously wounded. 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. To complete the diversity of stories coming from Colombia we are also presenting the documentaries 'Somos Alzados en Bastones de Mando' and the puppetry 'Juti-cia for All' at our Microcinema sessions at the East Side Arts Centre in Paddington(12-13 March).

Other highlights of the festival include award-winning documentaries *Fruits of war*, *The Rind*, *Fiesta Patria*, *Tambogrande and My Life Inside*. Events being part of the Festival include a tribute to Hector Lavoe anticipating the premiere of the screening of 'El Cantante' in the Oxford Art Factory (27th Feb) 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 13th 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 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 1st March – 11th March.