



**Media Release**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2008**

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sydney Latin American Film Festival**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sydney Latin American Film Festival opens on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March at the Chauvel Cinema and for 11 days will give Sydney audiences a chance to sample a wide array of the latest films, documentaries and shorts coming out of Latin America and the local Latin film scene.

The Sydney Latin American Film Festival is a unique festival run by a dedicated group of volunteers who work collectively to not only showcase some of the best contemporary cinema coming out of Latin America but also less commercial productions highlighting social and economic issues prevalent in Latin America today. In addition it raises much needed funding for small under-funded charities working at a grass roots level in Latin America.

This year's screenings will take place at the Chauvel Cinema (6th -10th March), the Microcinema at Eastside Arts (11th - 12th March) and Club Marconi (14th – 16th March).

Some of the festival highlights this year include:

#### **Opening night**

The festival will open with the Australian premiere of the Colombian Film *Looking for Miguel (Buscando a Miguel, Colombia)* – a black comedy that illuminates the many extraordinary facets of Colombian society. Director Juan Fischer will travel to Australia 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*.

#### **Award-winning films**

We are proud to include in our program a wide selection of award-winning features and documentaries. Among them: *Turtle Family (Familia Tortuga, Mexico)*, *Fruits of War (USA/El Salvador)*, *The Rind (La Cáscara, Uruguay/Argentina/Spain)*, *Fiesta Patria (Chile/Peru)*, *A Paper Tiger (Un Tigre de Papel, Colombia)* *Tambogrande (Peru)*, *My Life Inside (Mi Vida Dentro, Mexico)*.

#### **Guest-film makers**

Many of the films selected for this year's program will be presented by their creators. This year we have 5 visiting film-makers from Latin America plus surprise guests.

Throughout the Festival, visiting and local directors and crew will participate in Q+A sessions and panel discussions. Check our website for details.

### **The Microcinema**

The Microcinema - which showcases political, social and environmental documentaries - will be held at the Eastside Arts Centre and is offering \$5 tickets for all sessions. This year's highlights are the award winning documentary *Fruits of War* exploring the gang culture spilling into Central America with Filmmaker Q+A; a collection of short documentaries on indigenous politics and environmental struggles in the Amazon basin and a dedicated session on grassroots movements in Argentina today.

### **Special Events**

To celebrate the premiere screening of *El Cantante* based on the life of Hector Lavoe, Man About Town productions presents a special tribute to the Puerto Rican salsa singer at the Oxford Arts Factoring on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February. There will be an exciting band line-up which includes musicians from *Watussi*, *Mucho Mambo* and *Reyes de La Onda*.

There will also be another installment of the successful "Shorts and Sounds" series on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February at the Uruguayan Club which will showcase short films curated for the festival, inspirational sounds and visuals by *Monasterio Bros.* and performances by *Murga es lo que hay*, *Son de Tagua* & *DJJC*

### **Fiestas**

The Festival is renowned for its upbeat fiestas, music and performances as well as its Audience Award prize that offers two tickets to Latin America. This year's mid-festival fiesta will feature one of Sydney's most exciting Latin fusion bands *Watussi* that are a regular on the music festival circuit.

### **Exhibitions**

An exhibition of local and international Latin American artists will be held in two locations running concurrently for the duration of the festival. Full details will be available on our website shortly.

### **Community Sponsorship Program**

The Sydney Latin American Film Festival Community Sponsorship Program aims to recognise and support the ongoing work of social justice, environmental and community development organizations across Latin America. Details of organizations we will be supporting this year will be available on our website.

Full Festival program available at [www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org](http://www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org)

For press images or to organize an interview with international guests please contact  
**Fieke Geerts Mobile: 0432 635642 email: [fieke.geerts@gmail.com](mailto:fieke.geerts@gmail.com)**