



4th DLA FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Making the spirit of Latin America available through film

Discovering Latin America Film Festival

24 November - 4 December 2005 - London - UK

In aid of Project Peru - UK Reg Charity No 1049413

Welcome to the 4th DLA Film Festival, making the spirit of Latin America available to all through film. This is the raison-d'etre of our festival: we use film as a powerful means to show Latin America to the world. Not only do we believe in the cultural richness and potential of this region, we also believe in its cinematographic talent and want to show it to the world. What a better place to start than London through an annual film festival.

The DLA Film Festival has grown enormously in the four years I have been involved with it. There are many reasons why this has been the case, but the secret of its success relies on one thing: the quality of latin cinema. Film has been present in Latin America since the late 19th century and has a rich history of its own, with ups and downs just like all other film industries elsewhere. The sections of our festival aim to capture both the old and the new, the history and the new tendencies, the realities and different political points of view. Our programme is divided into Features & Short films, Documentaries and Film & Cultural events, creating diversity and balance. In all of them we show as many sides as possible, with no constraints, all with a common ground: it's Latin and it's good.

The audience remains the main barometer of our success so I hope you enjoy the show. Unlike other festivals, we channel all excess proceeds to a charity every year. This year this is a children charity in Lima (through Project Peru, a UK registered charity). Of course we remain indebted to our sponsors and supporters, and above all... to you, the audience. Lights out. Let the festival begin.

Jorge Garayo

Festival Director

DLA Film Festival

FEATURE FILMS & SHORTS PROGRAMME

Discovering Latin America Film Festival Programme includes over 40 films from 13 different Latin American nations. We are very proud to welcome in this year's edition Chile, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela as first-time participants and supporters.

During the last year we have searched for the most beautiful, touching and interesting films and documentaries that project the versatility and richness of the continent. To accomplish this we have visited different film festivals around the world, contacted filmmakers, producers and distributors. Films were carefully selected to offer the best of Latin American films.

The diverse and dynamic programme goes from high profile international premieres and quirky independent features to socially and culturally illuminating documentaries and Special Events not leaving aside a wealth of short films.



In addition to the impressive roster of films, the extensive schedule of the Feature Films Section includes the prestigious Opening Night at Chelsea Cinema with 'Viva Cuba!' by Juan Carlos Cremata and 'Secuestro Express' by Jonathan Jakubowicz and the UK Premieres of the Closing Night at Ritzy Cinema with 'Nordeste' by Juan Diego Solanas and 'Monobloc' by Luis Ortega. Not forgetting the 'red carpet' Gala Nights at Odeon Covent Garden and Ritzy Cinema's main screening rooms with the presentation of 'Caribe' by Esteban Ramirez and 'Days of Santiago' by Josué Mendez.

We are also delighted to welcome our special guests to introduce their award-winning films and stimulate discussion among the audience: Ignacio Prieto, lead actor of 'La Sombra del Caminante' by Ciro Guerra -the film which is representing Colombia at the Academy Awards 2006, director Esteban Ramirez, whose film 'Caribe' is representing Costa Rica for the first time ever at the Academy Awards 2006, director Josué Mendez whose film 'Días de Santiago' is representing Peru at the Academy Awards 2006, Juan Diego Solanas from Argentina, director of 'Nordeste' one of Cannes' favourite this year at the Un Certain Regard program, and Andre Semenza, director of 'Ashes of God', the first Brazilian contemporary feature-length dance film.

Thank you to all those who collaborated to allow us make this exciting opportunity a reality for cinema and film lovers both in our community and the western hemisphere.

Alexa Dean
Artistic Director
DLA Film Festival

VIVA CUBA

Juan Carlos Cremata (Cuba, 2005) 80' Electronic subtitles
THU 24 NOV 18:30 Chelsea Cinema OPENING GALA NIGHT
Event sponsored by Sub-Ti

Malú (Malú Tarrau) and Jorgito (Jorgito Miló) are friends who fight every now and then. It's part of the territory when you're ten and trying to make your mark on the world. Only their families don't see it that way. Her mother is a devout Catholic with strict ideas of who she should associate with. His family are die-hard Castrofans, card-carrying communists with a deep sense of party loyalty. Both families are too absorbed in their own travails to take much notice of the children. Her mother is trying to leave Cuba to join her partner and when Malú finds out that her mother is about to take her away, she escapes with Jorgito armed with the savings from her piggy bank. Their search for Malú's father involves an extensive (and enterprising) tour across the Cuban landscape with plenty of adventures along the way. Soon enough, however, the two realise that life on the run is not all they thought it would be and a kind of homesickness begins to set in. Rooted in two charming central performances, Viva Cuba is a quirky coming-of-age road movie that will appeal to both children and adults alike.

WHISKY

Pablo Stoll / Juan P. Rebella (Uruguay, 2004) 99' Subtitles
THU 24 NOV 21:00 Chelsea Cinema
THU 01 DEC 20:30 Odeon Covent Garden
+Short film: El Espino by Théo Court Bustamante (Cuba, 2004) 19' Subtitles

WHISKY, is a delightful deadpan comedy about the accidental couple Jacobo and Marta, who work in the sock factory owned by Jacobo. Day in, day out, they work together and follow the same gloomy routine, not mentioning their private lives. But one day, Jacobo's routine is threatened by an unexpected visit from his estranged brother Herman, who has been living abroad for years. The two brothers have not had much contact, but now Herman feels the urge to get involved with placing a gravestone for their mother. Preferring to lie rather than admit his bachelorhood to his married brother, Jacobo asks his mousy assistant Marta to act as his wife.

She agrees and poses with Jacobo for photos ('whisky' is the Uruguayan equivalent of 'say cheese') to decorate the walls of his bachelor apartment, and the three relative strangers try to overcome the awkward situation. Fun-loving Herman suggests a seaside trip for the quirky trio, but the good times are minimal, until Marta starts to express herself and develops a will of her own. In the meantime, Jacobo comes out of his shell to gamble his future on the roulette table.

THE ART OF LOSING (PERDER ES CUESTION DE METODO)

Sergio Cabrera (Colombia, 2004) 105 ' Subtitles
 FRI 25 NOV 16:30 Odeon Panton St
 SAT 26 NOV 23:15 Odeon Covent Garden
 WED 30 NOV 20:30 Ritzy

One morning, the police discover a terrible crime: a body impaled on a pointed stick by the banks of a beautiful lake near Bogotá. To solve the case, journalist Victor Silampa and his occasional companion, office worker Emir Estupiñán, must explore the intricacies of a story that is macabre but very human and entertaining. With the help of Quica, a young prostitute, and after doing a few favours for the Colonel in charge of the case, our protagonists have to risk their lives but manage to get to the bottom of a huge real estate speculation scheme. Corrupt politicians and entrepreneurs, prostitutes, *esmeralderos*, enthusiastic nudists and journalists of every stripe make up the mosaic of characters, with Bogotá as their setting.

MAROA

Solveig Hoogesteijn (Venezuela, 2005) 102 ' Subtitles
 +Short film: Velodrome by Snir Wein (Brazil) 8' Subtitles
 FRI 25 NOV 18:30 Odeon Panton St
 TUE 29 NOV 16:00 Ritzy

Can an eleven years old girl, a bold survivor of the asphalt jungle, be struck by Mozart while committing an act of delinquency? Impossible, or at least, highly improbable. Her daily intake of culture is reduced to kitsch soap operas, hip hops and raps about life in shanty towns, and at night, the gnarling sound of bullets, the shots that leave dozens of corpses on the streets every week. Brígida, her grandmother, a deceitful fortune-teller who sells lottery tickets, treats her badly but is her only family. Of impetuous and decisive character, Maroa can see no future in her life until she hears the sound of a clarinet. The connection is magical and deep. Days now turn around the classes that Joaquín, the shy and unconditional teacher, gives her. He is immediately interested in this talented young girl, who lacks all notion of discipline. Joaquín, the only person to offer hope in the midst of her rejection, finds that through Maroa, his world has also changed forever.

MACHUCA

Andrés Wood (Chile, 2004) 121 ' Subtitles
 FRI 25 NOV 20:45 Odeon Panton St
 MON 28 NOV 16:00 Ritzy

Chile, 1973. The film is set during the last days of President Allende and the first days of Pinochet. Gonzalo Infante and Pedro Machuca are two eleven-year-old boys who live in Santiago, the former in a wealthy neighbourhood and the latter in a recently created, illegal shantytown just a few blocks away. There is a huge invisible wall dividing these two separate worlds, a wall that some people, caught up in the revolutionary fervour of the times, want to break down.

One of these hopeful dreamers is the headmaster at a private parochial school, Father McEnroe. With support from the parents of his students, he admits children from the poor shantytown families into his elitist school. He is determined they will learn to respect each other. That is why Pedro Machuca is in the same class as Gonzalo Infante. The friendship between them is full of discoveries and surprises. In



addition to the practical difficulties involved in this attempt at integration, there are others caused by the open social confrontation taking place in Chilean society between the supporters of President Allende and the army looking to reintroduce “order”...

SECUESTRO EXPRESS

Jonathan Jakubowicz (Venezuela, 2004) 86 ' Subtitles
FRI 25 NOV 23:15 Odeon Covent Garden
THU 01 DEC 16:45 Ritzy

“Secuestro Express” describes quick kidnappings perpetrated by small groups of organized thugs who randomly choose their victims from among the upper class. The abduction usually lasts several hours, or as long as it takes for the kidnappers to extort money from the victims’ family. The ransom is “reasonable,” money the family is most likely to pay without ever involving the authorities. The success of the secuestro kidnapping express in recent years has made it a thriving and profitable business in Latin America. SECUESTRO EXPRESS is the frightening story of one young couple’s nightmare as they careen through the underbelly of Caracas, Venezuela, in the hands of three thugs who’ve made them their latest payday. Carla (Mia Maestro) and Martin (Jean Paul Leroux), are a young upper-class couple fresh off of a night of dancing and partying when they cross paths with Trece (Carlos Molina), Budu (Pedro Perez) and Niga (Carlos Madera), three men who make their living by kidnapping unwitting young adults to extort quick money from their wealthy parents.

THE HOLY GIRL (LA NIÑA SANTA)

Lucrecia Martel (Argentina, 2004) 106 ' Subtitles
+Short film: Ensalmo (Colombia) 23' Subtitles
SAT 26 NOV 13:00 Odeon Panton St
TUE 29 NOV 16:15 Odeon Panton St

After choir rehearsals, the girls get together in the parish church to discuss faith and vocation. Amalia and Josefina (María Alché and Julieta Zylberberg) are sixteen. In between the discussions, they whisper secretly about kissing. Josefina is from a conservative family. Not far from Josefina’s house is the now run-down Hotel Termas, owned by Amalia’s family, where she lives with her mother, Helena (Mercedes Morán), a divorcée, and the rest of her family. A chance encounter between Amalia and Dr. Jano (Carlos Belloso), who is attending a medical conference at the hotel, allows the young girl to at last find her vocation- to save a man from sin. Dr. Jano will be caught up in a web of good intentions. The respected provincial doctor’s world is on the brink of collapse.

THE WANDERING SHADOWS (LA SOMBRA DEL CAMINANTE)

Ciro Guerra (Colombia, 2004) 90 ' electronic Subtitles
SAT 26 NOV 16:00 Odeon Panton St
SUN 27 NOV 20:30 Odeon Panton St
TUE 29 NOV 20:15 Odeon Panton St
Q&A with lead actor for each screening
Subtitling courtesy of Sub-Ti

Mañe has serious financial problems. He has lost a leg and can’t find a job, hence can’t pay his rent and is the laughing stock of his peers. While wandering the streets trying to get by, he meets an unusual character, a man who carries people on his back through the centre of Bogota for 500 pesos. A “silleteo”. Given their mutual ability to help one another, they strike up a friendship making their lives more bearable and affording them the chance of redemption. But both share a past, the violent past with which Colombians have lived their whole lives. This past unites and separates them, showing them to be people who have lost everything, except the hope of starting over.

B HAPPY

Gonzalo Justiniano (Chile, 2003) 90 ' Subtitles

SAT 26 NOV 18:30 Odeon Panton St

SUN 27 NOV 18:30 Odeon Panton St

Kathy (Manuela Martelli) is 14 years old and lives with her mother, Mercedes (Dark Lorene), and her older brother, Danilo (Felipe Rivers), in a small locality in the coast of Chile. The home is modest and family life goes on in the absence of the father, Radomir Mardovich (Eduardo Barrel), who is in Valparaiso's penitentiary because of several robberies. Kathy has not seen her father since she was a little girl and, indeed, her life begins to change the day that Mercedes brings her to Valparaiso and takes her to the jail. There Kathy, after being checked up and pushed, meets her father. The encounter hardly lasts minutes, but it produces an enormous impression on the young girl. After a few days, Kathy lives another important change. A new student arrives at her class, Chemo (Ricardo Fernandez), a young dreaming boy with whom she begins to have an intense relation. But life will not be simple for Kathy. And before she realises, she will have to face several unexpected events, including the secrets that her brother hides, the rigors of a feminine boarding school, her dangerous friendship with a transvestite (Juan Pablo Saez) and the awakening of love and sex.

ALMA MATER

Alvaro Buela (Uruguay, 2004) 100 ' Subtitles

+Short film: Trapped (Entre paredes) by Eric Laurence (Brazil) 15' Subtitles

SAT 26 NOV 20:45 Odeon Panton St

MON 28 NOV 16:30 Odeon Panton St

34-year-old Pamela is a small and shy woman. She works at the cash register of a supermarket. She attends a religious temple led by a Brazilian minister. She periodically visits her autistic mother. She is an anonymous character, leading a meaningless life. Suddenly, a miracle occurs. Messages of a marvellous destiny start to reach Pamela in unusual ways: a client, a gentle and charismatic transvestite, her own mother, dreams, bar codes, real and imaginary signals. The Savior of the Next Millennium is apparently on his way and everything indicates that she, being a virgin, is carrying him in her womb. Impelled to face herself, Pamela undertakes an inner voyage. A paradoxical voyage: the more mystic she grows to be, the more human she becomes.

ASHES OF GOD (AS CINZAS DE DEUS)

Andre Semenza (Brazil, 2003) 67 ' Subtitles

+Short film: Patuá by Snir Wein (Brazil, 2002) 14' Subtitles

SUN 27 NOV 13:00 Odeon Panton St

MON 28 NOV 20:10 Odeon Panton St

Q&A with Director for each screening

Set in the ruins of an abandoned, once grandiose 19th century city in Brazil, the film follows a woman, Helo, returning to a world of memory and feeling, where characters - perhaps 'trapped souls' - are living and re-living moments from an unspecified past. In search for answers and completion, Helo penetrates their dream-like reality, absorbs them, challenges them, releases them. Their memory bank gradually erased, they disappear into the ether. In a climactic finale she confronts her own personal nemesis. She survives the life-and-death confrontation, and, left behind, she dances alone, immersed in dust and eternity.

DUCK SEASON (TEMPORADA DE PATOS)

Fernando Eimbcke (Mexico, 2004) 90 ' Subtitles

+Short film: Of Guts, Heart (De Tripas Corazón) by Antonio Urrutia (Mexico, 1996) 18' Subtitles

SUN 27 NOV 16:00 Odeon Panton St

TUE 29 NOV 18:30 Odeon Covent Garden

Sponsored by Corona

Flama and Moko are fourteen years old; they have been best friends since they were kids. They have everything they need to survive yet another boring Sunday: an apartment without parents, videogames, porn magazines, soft drinks and pizza delivery. The electricity company, Rita, the neighbour, Ulises, a pizza deliveryman, eleven seconds, the Real Madrid-Manchester game, some chocolate brownies and a horrible painting of ducks, all combine to break the harmony of what promised to be a placid Sunday, and reveal issues such as the parents' divorce, loneliness, the confusion between adolescent love and friendship, as well as frustration in adult life. "Temporada de Patos" is a movie that shows that, when the lights go off, we can see the stars.

BATTLE IN HEAVEN (BATALLA EN EL CIELO)

Carlos Reygadas (Mexico, 2005) 98' Subtitles

MON 28 NOV 19:00 Tate Modern

Q&A with Director

TUE 29 NOV 18:30 Odeon Panton St

Event sponsored by Corona

Marcos is a driver for the family of an army general. He and his wife, who sells cakes and alarm clocks in a Mexico City underpass, have kidnapped a baby, but the child accidentally dies that morning. The child's death shakes Marcos to the core and he tries to cope with his inner struggle to come to terms with his conscience.

SISTERS (HERMANAS)

Julia Solomonoff (Argentina, 2005) 88' Subtitles

+Short film: Eclipse by Martín Subira (Argentina, 2004) 15' Subtitles

WED 30 NOV 16:30 Odeon Panton St

THU 01 DEC 18:30 Odeon Covent Garden

Texas 1984. A quiet dawn is altered by the sudden gasp of Elena, awakening from a nightmare. Her sister Natalia, whom she has not seen in eight years, is arriving today: it will be a long awaited encounter between them, once very close and later separated by dreadful circumstances. They both left their native Argentina, but for different reasons. Natalia fled the country the night her boyfriend Martin was kidnapped by a paramilitary squad. Still a teenager, she went into exile in Spain and over the years became a journalist, Elena lived in Argentina during the dictatorship and has recently moved to the US with her husband Sebastian and their son Tomas. The sisters are now reunited and the phantoms of the past have to be faced.

CARIBE (CARIBE)

Esteban Ramirez (Costa Rica, 2004) 90' Subtitles

WED 30 NOV 18:30 Odeon Covent Garden: DESTINO GALA NIGHT

Q&A with Director

+Short film: Elixir (Colombia) 12' Subtitles

FRI 02 DEC 23:15 Odeon Covent Garden

Vicente Vallejo, a 42-year-old biologist, chose the exuberant and multicultural Costa Rican Caribbean to fulfil his dream of living with his wife Abigail next to the sea. His only client, a transnational banana company, unexpectedly decides to terminate his contract as a result of market fluctuations. His situation becomes even more complicated with the sudden arrival of young Irene, his wife's half sister, and the establishment of an American oil company in the area, which divides the community between the need for new jobs and the fear of environmental damage. Pain and frustration lead Vicente to an extreme situation. Jackson, an old black fisherman, and neighbour of the Vallejos, watches everything. In the depth of a crisis, Vicente will do anything he can to keep his dreams alive ...



MONOBLOCK (MONOBLOC)

Luis Ortega (Argentina, 2005) 83 ' Subtitles
WED 30 NOV 16:00 Ritzy
SUN 04 DEC 20:45 Ritzy

Perla has a daily appointment at the hospital to clean her blood and delay the arrival of her death. She works at an amusement park that's always empty and from which she's fired by her friend and boss. Perla shares a dark, humid apartment with her daughter Nena, who feels boundless love towards her mother and works as a prostitute in their shared bed and space. On the other side of the wall, in an identical yet bright and airy apartment, lives their constant companion, Madrina, who devotes her days to bursting into the next door flat with joy and alcohol, sometimes succeeding for short periods in making all three forget their destinies. One day, Madrina pretends to have won a free trip to Brazil, which she has in fact bought, and takes off. The emptiness she leaves makes life unbearable for mother and daughter.

MY BEST ENEMY (MI MEJOR ENEMIGO)

Alex Bowen (Chile, 2005) 100 ' Subtitles
THU 01 DEC 21:05 Odeon Panton St

December 1978. Chile and Argentina are about to engage on an armed confrontation on their Southern Border. In Patagonia, a Chilean platoon accidentally breaks the compass and they are lost on the immensity of the Pampas. They dig their trenches somewhere without knowing whether they are in Chile or Argentina. A long waiting begins that will be interrupted by an Argentinean platoon deployed in front of them. Both platoons now await the war to start but the tense wait will allow friendship that can grow between human beings that are enemies. Confused by the solitude of the pampas, the characters straddle the fragile line between duty and sentiment, telling a deep human story.

DAYS OF SANTIAGO (DÍAS DE SANTIAGO)

Josué Mendez (Peru, 2004) 83 ' Subtitles
FRI 02 DEC 18:30 Ritzy: PERU GALA NIGHT
Q&A with Director
+Short film: The millennium objectives, a lost opportunity? (Peru) 21' Subtitles

Santiago Roman, a rugged, 23-year-old soldier of the Peruvian Navy, returns home to Lima after years of fighting in the jungle. Combat-weary and searching for hope, Santiago is a member of a lost Peruvian generation - his spirit scarred by futile wars with Ecuador and constant fighting against terrorists and drug traffickers. He quickly finds his native Lima an unwelcoming place - his army buddies have taken to bank robbing; the decadent club scene offers only noise and lights; prospective employers won't hire him; his applications for credit are refused. But worst of all, Santiago learns that his friends, family, and young, professional wife have become decadent or distant—and that they are, each in unique ways, unable to understand him. As his troubles converge in the film's riveting climax, Dias de Santiago asks the question, what escape for a discharged soldier, who returns home full of hope, but finds only disappointment and inner turmoil?

NORTHEAST (NORDESTE)

Juan Diego Solanas (Argentina, 2005) 104 ' Subtitles
+Short film: A Country Doctor (El Médico Rural) by Leandro Ipiña (Argentina, 2000) 5' Subtitles
SAT 03 DEC 23:15 Odeon Covent Garden
SUN 04 DEC 18:00 Ritzy
Q&A with Director

At age 43, after sacrificing nearly everything to achieve her career ambitions, Helene, a beautiful and strong French woman, decides to stop letting life pass her by. Her desire to be a mother takes her to the



most removed part of Argentina, searching for a child to adopt. There she discovers the Northeast, a wild region where the astonishing beauty of the countryside violently contrasts with such a misery that any kind of corruption, dealing or compromise becomes possible. As she meets people and gets closer to them, Helene faces her own doubts, finally walking the razor's edge.

DOCUMENTARIES SECTION

Within the artistic production of the moving image, the documentary presents a more intimate approach to reality and an opening on to the adventure of multicultural discovery. From the south to the northern most point of the Latin American continent, a careful selection of documentaries establishes a dialogue through close-ups of the different visions of identity.

With more than fifteen international prizes, 'Raymundo' brings us a 'metafilmic' experience of artistic and cinematographic identity. Powerful Rhythms occupy the screen as 'Santo Domingo Blues' documents musical identity. The context of anthropologic and ethnographic identity seen from two different viewpoints is represented in 'The Plunder' (Üxüf Xipay) and in 'Liza...Like Her'.

The new identity of urban conflict and the problem of the displaced is dealt with painfully and beautifully in 'An Empty House Falls' (Una Casa Sola se Vence). While Central America speaks out concerning its social condition, violence and the armed conflict in 'The Weapons of Violence' (Las Armas de la Violencia) and 'Along the Pathways' (Por los Caminos). Finally, a subject of much sensitivity for the Latin Diaspora, clandestine emigration, is aesthetically and authentically treated in 'Wetback'.

Now it only remains for the lights to dim and the projectors to be turned on, for us to become aware of the state of humanity throughout Latin America.

Sandra Tabares
Documentaries Director
DLA Film Festival

SANTO DOMINGO BLUES (SANTO DOMINGO BLUES: LOS TIGUERES DE LA BACHATA)

Alex Wolfe (Dominican Republic, 2003) 75' Subtitles
MON 28 NOV 18:30 Odeon Panton St
SAT 03 DEC 20:00 Ritzy
Q&A with Director

A feature-length documentary that tells the story of the guitar playing, singer songwriter Luis Vargas and Bachata, the guitar blues of Santo Domingo. Born in the bars and brothels of the Dominican Republic, Bachata is now eclipsing rap as the music of choice for Latino youth on the streets of New York and has become an emblem of national pride for Dominican immigrants. Today Bachata is heard on the radio throughout the Americas from New York to Buenos Aires and rivals Merengue and Salsa as the preferred music of the Latin American world.

AN EMPTY HOUSE CRACKS (UNA CASA SOLA SE VENCE)

Marta Rodríguez (Colombia, 2004) 50' Subtitles
+Short film: La cerca (Colombia) 21' Subtitles
MON 28 NOV 18:30 Ritzy



The war produces about a thousand displaced Colombians every day. This is generating a new geography, new territories where the paramilitary, guerrilleros and narcotraficantes prevail. The geography of violence is affecting ethnic groups, afro-colombian communities, native and farmers that are transformed into a military force. The Terror makes that the names of the villages after the massacres are pronounced with the Memory of Fear. The farmers are then forced to exodus, leaving their native land to be damned and condemned to death: The Massacres of Mapiripan, La Mejor Esquina in the Urabá, Apartado and Chende add to the names of the desolation and of their displaced communities identified under these names. Testimonies from some of the families of these displaced communities, natives of the regions of Choco and Urabá Antioqueño (part of peaceful Colombia), make the elements to the making of this documentary. They are the voice of those who live the war in this country; specially the women.

LIZA... LIKE HER (LIZA... SU VIDA)

Annie Cannavaggio (Panama, 2005) 32 ' Subtitles

MON 28 NOV 20:45 Ritzy as double bill with *Along the Pathways*

Q&A with Director

Liza lives in Kuna Yala, at least that is how Liza calls the land where she lives. We call it San Blas. San Blas is an indigenous reserve comprised of 365 islands. The main attraction of the islands is its inhabitants and the craftsmanship that they sew: Molas. Liza is a master mola maker and her name appears on tourist books as one of the best artists in San Blas. Liza sells molas to the tourists that come to the islands. She sustains her entire family of 8 brothers and sisters. But there is more that meets the eye, for Liza is a man who was raised as a woman. Liza is apparently accepted by her community, yet she is constantly struggling with her womanhood. Liza wants to keep her traditions, and tries to keep a facade. She explains to us her views, her opinions and how she copes with her two words: Kuna Yala and Panama as LIZA the master molamaker of San Blas.

ALONG THE PATHWAYS (POR LOS CAMINOS)

Gabriel Traversari (Nicaragua, 2004) 56 ' Subtitles

MON 28 NOV 20:45 Ritzy as double bill with *Liza... like her*

Gabriel Traversari returned to his native Nicaragua with only a digital video camera and a mission: to capture the heartbeat of his countrymen in one 24-hour period. The snapshot he takes of homeless children and TV stars, businessmen and socialists, deportees and taxi drivers- shows a proud people struggling with a troubling past and an uncertain future. As Traversari walks the streets of his native Managua, he turns his camera on anyone with a story to tell, which turns out to be everyone. For a nation that has endured endless adversity and continues to confront innumerable challenges, where poverty is a serious threat and political corruption is still a force to be reckoned with, Traversari finds a guarded optimism, a realization that the pride of a people can overcome the national problems. It's never too late for a change, they seem to call out to a nation they hope will listen.

WETBACK THE UNDOCUMENTED DOCUMENTARY (MOJADO EL DOCUMENTAL INDOCUMENTADO)

Arturo Pérez Torres (Mexico, 2005) 90 ' Subtitles

TUE 29 NOV 20:45 Ritzy

Feature length documentary that follows several immigrants from Central America and Mexico on an extraordinary and extremely dangerous journey to North America. More than 3,000 Latin Americans a day embark upon this journey. Less than 300 make it to their destination. Nayo, Milton, Luis, Oscar and Ana are just some of the thousands of people that will join one of the largest migration movements in history. Their motivation is a life with dignity. Their disadvantage is that neither of them have legal travelling documents.



THE PLUNDER (ÜXÜF XIPAY / EL DESPOJO)

Dauno Tótoro Taulis (Chile, 2004) 73 ' Subtitles

+Short film: 1526 metros sobre el Nivel del Mar by Carlos Bernal (Colombia, 2004) 29' Subtitles

WED 30 NOV 18:30 Ritzy

Subtitling of *1526 metros...* courtesy of Sub-Ti

This documentary tells of the multiple dimensions in the resistance process for the Mapuche people over the past one hundred and twenty years. It is an exploration in the capacity to resist, as well as an analysis of the consequences that the unbalanced relationship with the Chilean State and business world have had on this people. It is a people who, that lacking Homogeneity, has undergone various stages and arrangements in its struggle to fight back against the plundering, the assimilation, and digestion on the part of the national government.

METAL WORKERS (PEOES)

Eduardo Coutinho (Brazil, 2004) 85 ' Subtitles

THU 01 DEC 18:30 Ritzy

'Metalworkers' is a documentary about the stories of blue-collar workers from São Paulo who took part in the historic strikes of 1979 and 1980 but remain in relative anonymity today. In interviews they talk about their origins, their participation in the union movement and the paths their lives have taken since. They show keepsakes from the strikes, remember the suffering and reward of their hard work in the factories, comment on the effect their union involvement had on their family life and reveal their views on current President Lula and the path Brazil has taken during the past twenty years. 'Metalworkers' was shot during the final moments of the 2002 presidential elections.

RAYMUNDO

Ernesto Ardito / Virna Molina (Argentina, 2002) 127 ' Subtitles

THU 01 DEC 20:15 Ritzy

FRI 02 DEC 16:00 Ritzy

This is a documentary film about the life and work of Raymundo Gleyzer, Argentine filmmaker, kidnapped and murdered by that country's military dictatorship in 1976. Through Raymundo's life, we follow the story of Latin American revolutionary cinema and the liberation struggles of the 60's and 70's. Raymundo was one of the major architects of the militant cinema, yet after his "disappearance", he fell into oblivion. It is essential that the new generation rediscovers his life and works which are a source of inspiration today more than ever. This documentary will bring back what the CIA and the Latin American dictatorships couldn't destroy: the memory, the ideals and the courage to tell the truth.

THE WEAPONS OF VIOLENCE (LAS ARMAS DE LA VIOLENCIA)

Rodrigo Soto (Costa Rica, 2004) 60 ' Subtitles

+Short film: La vuelta de hoja (Colombia) 11' Subtitles

FRI 02 DEC 20:45 Ritzy

Having moved beyond the devastating region-wide political violence of the 1970s and 1980s, Central America now confronts other forms of violence equally destructive. Today, at the beginning of the 21st century, these forms of violence include organized crime, gangs, poverty and marginality. Ironically, the firearms that entered the region during the "war" years continue to cause death and bring pain to Central American families. Other issues contribute to this volatile crisis, such as the illegal drug trade and commercial gun market. The Weapons of Violence explores the dimensions, effects, human and economic costs, and responses of Central American societies to this disturbing reality.



FILM & CULTURE EVENTS

The moving image reached Latin America not long after Lumiere's first projection took place in the Grand Café, Paris on 28 December 1895. In Mexico (1896), Argentina (1897) and Brazil (1898). These early projections marked the birth of some of the most interesting film industries, as seen mainly but not exclusively in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and much later after the revolution, in Cuba.

The Film & Culture section exists to promote greater understanding and appreciation of film history and contemporary cinematic culture from Latin America.

Films screened within this section of the festival present a rare chance in London to view an eclectic range of work from Latin American film history. Each year we will research the archives of film organisations such as IMCINE, ICAIC, INCAA, ANCINE and national film institutes from each Latin American country to present a varied programme to suit the interest of all audiences.

We aim to raise awareness of the richness of our film culture through special events such as retrospectives, lectures, master classes and Q & A sessions. These bring together Latin American film critics, renowned film directors, historians and members of the industry to educate and raise debate on key topics of the Latin American film history and contemporary trends.

*This 4th edition of the festival will introduce the first of a series of annual events entitled Latin America through the Lens of European Directors, making a tribute to directors that have found inspiration in Latin America to shoot films that have become international cinema classics. We have dedicated this year to Mikhail Kalatozov with his film *I am Cuba* (1964)*

*Latin American women filmmakers have now long challenged cultural and gender stereotypes contributing further to the wealth of our film history. We are very proud to dedicate this year to some of these great women. The programme will include films from Sara Gomez (Cuba), Maria Luisa Bemberg (Argentina), Susana Amaral (Brazil) and Maria Novaro (Mexico). We are delighted to have Maria Novaro representing this group of women directors and present an inspirational retrospective of her four feature films: *Lola* (1989), *The Garden of Eden* (1994) *Danzon* (1991) and *Without a Trace* (2000).*

Yos Rivas

*Film & Culture Director
DLA Film Festival*

LATIN AMERICA THROUGH THE LENS OF EUROPEAN DIRECTORS

Latin America has long been a source of inspiration for European directors. This event addresses this transatlantic exchange through screenings of *Soy Cuba*, *O Mamute Siberiano (I Am Cuba, the Siberian Mammoth)* and its inspiration, Mikhail Kalatozov's *I Am Cuba*. Rediscovered by Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola ten years ago, *I Am Cuba's* fascinating collision of political beliefs and art is expertly reconstructed in Ferraz's documentary.

Sunday 27 November 2005, 11.00
Tate Modern Starr Auditorium
£10 (£8 concessions) For bookings call 020 7887 8888.

Programme:

11.00

Discovering Latin America Film Festival welcome

Introduction by Professor **Stephen Hart**, Professor of Hispanic Studies at University College London



11.30

Screening of *I Am Cuba*

Mikhail Kalatozov, Cuba/USSR 1964, 141', Subtitles

Begun only one week after the Cuban missile crisis, *I Am Cuba* was designed to be Cuba's answer to both Sergei Eisenstein's propaganda masterpiece *Battleship Potemkin* (1925) and Jean-Luc Godard's freewheeling romance, *Breathless* (1960). The film was not well received by either the Soviet or the Cuban audiences and was almost completely forgotten until it was re-discovered by the directors Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola thirty years later. The film's acrobatic long shots and rather poetic plot prompted Scorsese and Coppola to begin a small campaign to restore it to the screen during the early 1990s.

13.40

Break

15.00

Screening of *Soy Cuba, O Mamute Siberiano (I Am Cuba, the Siberian Mammoth)*

Vicente Ferraz, Brazil 2005, 90', Subtitles

Ferraz's documentary explores the making of *I Am Cuba*, the first Cuban-Soviet co-production, unknown in the West until the 1990s. Using clips from the original film and interviews with surviving participants, Ferraz expertly reconstructs Kalatozov's collision of deep-set political beliefs and art.

16.30

Panel discussion with **Vicente Ferraz** (director of *Soy Cuba, O Mamute Siberiano [I Am Cuba, the Siberian Mammoth]*), **Enrique Pineda Barnet** (co-scriptwriter for *I Am Cuba*), and Professor Stephen Hart

With support from Mr Bongo

Second screenings of *I am Cuba* and *I'm Cuba, the Siberian Mammoth* will take place during the DLA Film Festival as follows:

I AM CUBA (SOY CUBA)

Mikhail Kalatozov (Cuba / Soviet Union, 1964) 141' Subtitles

MON 28 NOV 14:00 Odeon Panton Street

£4.00 For bookings call 0871 224 4007

With support from Mr Bongo

I'M CUBA THE SIBERIAN MAMMOTH (SOY CUBA, O MAMUTE SIBERIANO)

Vicente Ferraz (Brazil, 2004) 90' Subtitles

TUE 29 NOV 18:15 Ritz

Q & A with director



STRATEGIES FOR DOCUMENTARY IN LATIN AMERICA

Talk & Discussion by Professor and documentary filmmaker Michael Chanan

WED 30 NOV 19:00-20.30

Tate Modern, Starr Auditorium, 90'

£5 (£3 concessions). For bookings call 020 7887 8888.

In contrast to the relatively high international visibility of a number of recent Latin American movies - you can even watch *The Motorcycle Diaries* on transatlantic flights - Latin American documentary film of the last ten to fifteen years is almost unknown beyond its native shores. Documentary is thriving nonetheless, which has been the surprise development in cinema worldwide over the past decade. At this event Michael Chanan looks at recent films in relation to the contexts and countries in which they were made, including Cuba, Brazil and especially Argentina, where documentary of every kind is enjoying a veritable renaissance.

Michael Chanan is a documentary maker, writer and teacher, who filmed in Latin America several times during the 1980s. A new edition of his book, *Cuban Cinema* (University of Minnesota Press) appeared in 2004, and he finished his latest film, *Detroit: Ruin of a City* (co-directed with George Steinmetz), in 2005.

A HOMAGE TO LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN FILMMAKERS

Retrospective: Maria Novaro (Mexico)

With special thanks to the Embassy of Mexico

WITHOUT A TRACE (SIN DEJAR HUELLA)

María Novaro (Mexico, 1994) 109' Subtitles

WED 30 NOV 18:30 Odeon Panton St

Q&A with Director

£8.50 (Concs £5.50) For bookings call 0871 224 4007

Sponsored by Mexico Tourism Board

Sin Dejar Huella is a road movie with a difference: both of the protagonists are female. Aurelia works in a sweatshop and has stolen money from her drug-dealer boyfriend to finance her escape. Ana is an art historian and who smuggles fake Mayan artefacts. The women are very different but both are on the run. An encounter by chance results in them joining forces to outrun their hunters and endeavour to change their lives.

THE GARDEN OF EDEN (EL JARDIN DEL EDEN)

María Novaro (Mexico, 1994) 104' Subtitles

WED 30 NOV 21:00 Odeon Panton St

£8.50 (Concs £5.50) For bookings call 0871 224 4007

In Tijuana, the border is a 15-mile long wall that separates Mexico from the United States. Serena, Jane and Elizabeth are three women in this hot, dusty border town each looking for meaning in their lives. Serena, a young Mexican widow, arrives with her three children to build a new life; Jane, an American, is looking for her brother and Elizabeth, a Mexican-American artist is in search of her roots. Each one of

them finds more than they had expected in this place that is both a refuge for some and prison for others, a garden and a desert.

LOLA

María Novaro (Mexico, 1994) 92 ' Subtitles
THU 01 DEC 16:45 Odeon Panton St
£5.50 For bookings call 0871 224 4007

Lola is a single mother living in Mexico City who earns her living as a street vendor. She and the other unlicensed vendors like her must keep an eagle eye out for the police. On a lonely Christmas night, Lola and her five-year old daughter wait for Omar. He does not arrive; a break-up is imminent, and the love-hate relationship deepens. As a result Lola will go on a journey in which she will learn that she is not as weak as she thought.

DANZON

María Novaro (Mexico, 1991) 120 ' Subtitles
THU 01 DEC 18:15 Odeon Panton St
Q&A with Director
£8.50 (Concs £5.50) For bookings call 0871 224 4007

Julia (Rojo) is a phone operator in Mexico City who divides her time between her job, her daughter and the danzon: a Cuban dance very popular in Mexico and Central America. Every Wednesday Julia does the danzon with Carmelo (Rergis) in the old "Salon Colonia". They've danced for years but barely know each other. One night Carmelo disappears without a trace. Feeling lonely and sad, Julia takes a train to Veracruz, where she knows Carmelo has a brother. That sudden trip will change Julia's life forever.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER (DE CIERTA MANERA)

Sara Gómez (Cuba, 1977) 78 ' Subtitles
SAT 03 DEC 14:30 Ritzy
£5.50 (Concs £4.50) For bookings call 0870 755 0062

Taking place in 1962, early in the Cuban revolution, and set in a new housing district built and inhabited by former residents of a shanty-town just outside Havana, Sara Gomez' perceptive portrait of a Cuba in transition focuses on the subject of human relations, especially relations between the sexes.

WE DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT (DE ESO NO SE HABLA)

María Luisa Bemberg (Argentina, 1993) 105 ' Subtitles
SAT 03 DEC 16:00 Ritzy
£5.50 (Concs £4.50) For bookings call 0870 755 0062

Leonor, a widow in a small South American town, gives birth to Charlotte, a dwarf. The mother not only provides a rich childhood for her daughter, she erases any clues her daughter might see that would lead her to think she is different (mother burns books such as "Snow White" and destroys lawn statues of gnomes). In short, she doesn't want to talk about it. The mother succeeds in creating a modern-day Rapunzel: Charlotte becomes an accomplished young woman who captures the heart of Ludovico (Marcelo Mastroianni). But then, the circus comes to town.



THE HOUR OF THE STAR (A HORA DA ESTRELA)

Suzana Amaral (Brazil, 1985) 96 ' Subtitles

SUN 04 DEC 16:00 Ritzy

£5.50 (Concs £4.50) For bookings call 0870 755 0062

With support from Contemporary Films and Raiz Produções

Macabéa is an ugly young woman who became an orphan and was left alone in the world at 19. Illiterate, naive and virgin, she comes from the Northeast to try to make a living in São Paulo. The film features the story of the pathetic encounter between this human being and the artifices of the big city. She is so clumsy, that she aches inside all the time and unlike others, does not know this pain has to be disguised under the social masks. She takes an aspirin to see if it goes away and finally tries on the masks - but they do not suit her well. Finally, she sees a fortune teller who hypnotizes her with promises of a bright future. The crystal ball reveals a handsome, wealthy, foreign young man who comes to take Macabéa in his Mercedes Benz.

Discovering Latin America is unable to guarantee that there will be no changes to the programme due to unforeseen events. For an updated schedule & programme visit the film festival website

www.discoveringlatinamerica.org

DAILY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FEATURE FILMS

FILM & CULTURE EVENTS

DOCUMENTARIES

(#) Short film preceding feature film

THU 24 NOV

18:30 Chelsea OPENING GALA NIGHT: VIVA CUBA
21:00 Chelsea WHISKY

FRI 25 NOV

16:30 Odeon PS THE ART OF LOSING (PERDER ES CUESTION DE METODO)
18:30(S2) Odeon PS MAROA
20:45 Odeon PS MACHUCA
23:15 Odeon CG SECUESTRO EXPRESS

SAT 26 NOV

13:00(S9) Odeon PS THE HOLY GIRL (LA NIÑA SANTA)
16:00+ Q&A Odeon PS THE WANDERING SHADOWS (LA SOMBRA DEL CAMINANTE)
18:30 Odeon PS B-HAPPY
20:45(S8) Odeon PS ALMA MATER
23:15 Odeon CG THE ART OF LOSING (PERDER ES CUESTION DE METODO)

SUN 27 NOV

11:00 + Panel Tate Modern Latin America through the lens of European directors
I AM CUBA (SOY CUBA)
I'M CUBA THE SIBERIAN MAMMOTH (SOY CUBA, O MAMUTE SIBERIANO)
13:00+ Q&A(S3) Odeon PS THE ASHES OF GOD (AS CINZAS DE DEUS)
16:00(S4) Odeon PS DUCK SEASON (TEMPORADA DE PATOS)
18:30 Odeon PS B-HAPPY
20:30 + Q&A Odeon PS THE WANDERING SHADOWS (LA SOMBRA DEL CAMINANTE)

MON 28 NOV

14:00 Odeon PS I AM CUBA (SOY CUBA)
16:00 Ritzy MACHUCA
16:30(S8) Odeon PS ALMA MATER
18:30 Odeon PS SANTO DOMINGO BLUES (SANTO DOMINGO BLUES: LOS TIGUERES DE LA BACHATA)
18:30(S11) Ritzy AN EMPTY HOUSE CRACKS (UNA CASA SOLA SE VENCE)
20:10+ Q&A(S3) Odeon PS THE ASHES OF GOD (AS CINZAS DE DEUS)
20:45+ Q&A(S7) Ritzy DOUBLE BILL: LIZA... LIKE HER (LIZA... SU VIDA) & ALONG THE PATHWAYS (POR LOS CAMINOS)
19:00+ Q&A Tate Modern BATTLE IN HEAVEN (BATALLA EN EL CIELO)

TUE 29 NOV

16:00(S2) Ritzy MAROA
16:15 Odeon PS THE HOLY GIRL (LA NIÑA SANTA)
18:15+ Q&A Ritzy I'M CUBA THE SIBERIAN MAMMOTH (SOY CUBA, O MAMUTE SIBERIANO)
18:30 Odeon PS BATTLE IN HEAVEN (BATALLA EN EL CIELO)
18:30(S4) Odeon CG DUCK SEASON (TEMPORADA DE PATOS)
20:15+ Q&A Odeon PS THE WANDERING SHADOWS (LA SOMBRA DEL CAMINANTE)
20:45(S12) Ritzy WETBACK THE UNDOCUMENTED DOCUMENTARY

WED 30 NOV

16:00 Ritzy MONOBLOCK (MONOBLOC)
16:30(S5) Odeon PS SISTERS (HERMANAS)
18:30+ Q&A(S10) Odeon PS CARIBE (DESTINO GALA NIGHT)
18:30+ Q&A Odeon PS WITHOUT A TRACE (SIN DEJAR HUELLA)
18:30 Ritzy THE PLUNDER (ÜXÜF XIPAY (EL DESPOJO))
19:00 Tate Modern STRATEGIES FOR DOCUMENTARIES IN LATIN AMERICA
20:30 Ritzy THE ART OF LOSING (PERDER ES CUESTION DE METODO)
21:00 Odeon PS THE GARDEN OF EDEN (EL JARDIN DEL EDEN)

THU 01 DEC

16:45 Odeon PS LOLA
16:45 Ritzy SECUESTRO EXPRESS
18:15+ Q&A Odeon PS DANZON



18:30(S5)	Odeon CG	SISTERS (HERMANAS)
18:30	Ritzy	METAL WORKERS (PEOES)
20:15	Ritzy	RAYMUNDO
20:30(S1)	Odeon CG	WHISKY
21:05	Odeon PS	MY BEST ENEMY (MI MEJOR ENEMIGO)

FRI 02 DEC

16:00	Ritzy	RAYMUNDO
18:30+ Q&A(S13)	Ritzy	DAYS OF SANTIAGO (DÍAS DE SANTIAGO) (PERU GALA NIGHT)
20:45+ Q&A	Ritzy	THE WEAPONS OF VIOLENCE (LAS ARMAS DE LA VIOLENCIA)
23:15	Odeon CG	CARIBE

SAT 03 DEC

14:30	Ritzy	ONE WAY OR ANOTHER (DE CIERTA MANERA)
16:00	Ritzy	WE DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT (DE ESO NO SE HABLA)
20:00+ Q&A	Ritzy	SANTO DOMINGO BLUES (SANTO DOMINGO BLUES: LOS TIGUERES DE LA BACHATA)
23:15(S6)	Odeon CG	NORTHEAST (NORDESTE)

SUN 04 DEC

16:00	Ritzy	THE HOUR OF THE STAR (A HORA DA ESTRELA)
18:00+ Q&A(S6)	Ritzy	NORTHEAST (NORDESTE)
20:45	Ritzy	MONOBLOCK (MONOBLOC)

SHORT FILMS

- (S1) EL ESPINO
- (S2) VELODROME
- (S3) PATUA
- (S4) DE TRIPAS CORAZON
- (S5) ECLIPSE
- (S6) EL MEDICO RURAL
- (S7) 1526 METRES... (1526 METROS)
- (S8) TRAPPED (ENTRE PAREDES)
- (S9) ENSALMO
- (S10) ELIXIR
- (S11) LA CERCA
- (S12) LA VUELTA DE HOJA
- (S13) THE MILLENIUM OBJECTIVES, A LOST OPPORTUNITY?

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Online & Telephone Bookings

Odeon Covent Garden / Panton St	0871 224 4007	www.odeon.co.uk
Ritzy	0870 755 0062	www.picturehouses.co.uk
Tate Modern	0207 887 8888	www.tate.org.uk/modern/
Chelsea Cinema	0207 351 3742	

Ticket prices

	Weekday before 5pm & Late night show	Evening shows & weekends	Special Screenings
Odeon Covent Garden	£5.50	£8.50 (£5.50 concs)	DESTINO gala night WED 30NOV £15 (£12 concs)
Odeon Panton St	£5.50 (£4.00 before 3pm)	£8.50 (£5.50 concs)	
Ritzy	£5.50 (£4.50 concs)	£7.50 (£5.50 concs) Shows before 5pm £5.50 (£4.50 concs)	PERU gala night FRI 2 DEC £10 (£7.50 concs)
Tate Modern		See individual events	
Chelsea Cinema		£7.50 (£8.50 pullman seats)	Opening night NOV 24 18:30 £15

Tate Modern ticket prices

27 NOV 11:00
Latin America through the lens of European Directors
 £10 (£8 concessions)

28 NOV 19:00
Battle in Heaven
 £4

30 NOV 19:00
Strategies for Documentaries in Latin America
 £5 (£3 concessions)

For bookings call 020 7887 8888