

For immediate release: December 21, 2009

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## CINEMA LATINO SPOTLIGHTS BEST NEW AND CLASSIC LATIN FILMS

**Cinema Latino**—the popular film series now in its fourth year, organized and hosted again by the Wexner Center **January 8-30**—offers the Columbus community a survey of recent and classic films from Latin America. The series includes a variety of genres from animation to documentary, drama to comedy. The films this year are influential (as many are international award winners) or explore the influence of Latin culture itself (seen in *Walt & El Grupo*, which documents the effects that a southern excursion had on Walt Disney's creative pursuits). Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela are represented in the series.



**I'm Gonna Explode (*Voy a explotar*)**  
(from Mexico, directed by Gerardo Naranjo, 2008).  
Image courtesy of IFC Films

Notes Chris Stults, organizer of the series and assistant curator in Wexner Center's film department, "This series showcases the breadth and diversity of films coming out of Latin America, and features some of the most acclaimed films being produced anywhere in the world. At a time when foreign films rarely get widely distributed in the US, we think it's important to bring these films to local audiences and celebrate the remarkable movies being produced throughout Latin America."

Tickets for all screenings, including double features are \$7 for general public; \$5 for members, students, and senior citizens; \$3 for children under 12. Most films are in Spanish and include English subtitles, and screened in the Wexner Center's Film/Video Theater, at 1871 N. High St. inside the Wexner Center. **A public reception hosted by the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus precedes the final night of screenings.** More Info: (614)-292-3535 or [www.wexarts.org](http://www.wexarts.org).

### **CINEMA LATINO SCHEDULE**

#### **DOUBLE FEATURE**

**Friday, January 8 and Saturday, January 9**

**7 pm: 9-11/9-11** (Mel Chin, 2007) 24 mins., video

**7:30 pm: Liverpool** (Lisandro Alonso, 2008) 84 mins., 35mm

Opening night begins with a short animated film by conceptual artists Mel Chin. *9-11/9-11* tells a tale of two cities 23 years apart: New York City on September 11, 2001, and Santiago, Chile, on September 11, 1978, when the Chilean president Salvador Allende was overthrown.

With *Liverpool*, Argentine director Lisandro Alonso enters "into the first rank of contemporary filmmakers," according to Toronto's *Eye Weekly*. The film follows a sailor on leave in snowy Ushuaia, the southernmost city on Earth, as he travels to visit his estranged mother. Alonso weaves together small details and expressive settings throughout the film to create an evocative portrait, named the best films of 2008 by *CinemaScope*.

## DOUBLE FEATURE

**Thursday, January 21**

**7 pm: *Walt & El Grupo*** (Theodore Thomas, 2007) 106 mins., 35mm

**9 pm: *The Maid*** (Sebastián Silva, 2009) 95 mins., 35mm

*Walt & El Grupo* is a documentary about a 1941 trip through Latin America that changed the course of Disney Studios. In 1941, Walt Disney, his wife, and 16 of the studio's most creative artists toured Latin America on a trip orchestrated by Franklin D. Roosevelt. The tour, which influenced Disney films and ride attractions for decades to come, is retraced by Theodore Thomas through home movies, rare newsreels, photographs, and interviews.

Winner of World Cinema Jury Prizes and a Golden Globe nominee this year for Best Foreign Film, *The Maid* is a black comedy about Raquel, a housemaid for an upper class family in Santiago, Chile. Raquel is so devoted to her work that the family decides to assist her by hiring more help. Threatened Raquel unleashes mind games on the family she serves.

**Friday, January 22 and Saturday, January 23 at 7 pm**

***Araya*** (Margot Benacerraf, 1959) 90 mins., 35mm

While it was never released in the US, the fantastic Venezuelan film *Araya* shared the International Critics Prize with *Hiroshima mon amour* at the 1959 Cannes Film Festival. *Araya* shows the routines, profound joys, and agonies of the salt harvesters working (as they have for hundreds of years) in the arid marshes of the Araya peninsula in Venezuela. This classic was rescued from obscurity by Milestone Films, the company that has also restored and rereleased Mikhail Kalatozov's *I Am Cuba*, Charles Burnett's *Killer of Sheep*, and Kent Mackenzie's *The Exiles*.

## DOUBLE FEATURE

**Thursday, January 28 and Saturday, January 30**

**7 pm - *Lake Tahoe*** (Fernando Eimbcke, 2008) 89 mins., 35mm

**8 pm - *I'm Gonna Explode*** (Gerardo Naranjo, 2008) 106 mins., 35mm

**Public reception preceding Thursday's films**

*Lake Tahoe*, a winner of three prizes at last year's Ariel Awards (the Mexican Oscars), tracks the absurd encounters of a teenage boy as he searches for someone to help him fix the car he's crashed. Eimbcke's *Duck Season* was a favorite of the 2008 Cinema Latino series, and his highly acclaimed follow-up *Lake Tahoe* does not disappoint.

A sleeper hit of the 2008 New York Film Festival, the Mexican film *I'm Gonna Explode* is a stylish, sexy meta-movie in the vein of early French New Wave classics. Two disaffected suburban high-school kids become pretend outlaws—without leaving home. *I'm Gonna Explode* is a thoroughly entertaining couple-on-the-run movie in the tradition of *Bonnie and Clyde* and *Pierrot le fou*.

Come early Thursday for a **public reception** at 5:30 pm with members of the **Hispanic Chamber of Columbus** with light snacks and a cash bar.

## EVENT SUPPORT

The Cinema Latino reception sponsor is the **Hispanic Chamber of Columbus**. Significant contributions are also made by the **Rohauer Collection Foundation**. Additional funding is provided by the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation** and **Wexner Center members**.