

## CINEMA LATINO RETURNS

December 20, 2012—The Wexner Center's monthlong **Cinema Latino** series returns for its sixth year in **January 2012**, with a vibrant and diverse sampling of Latin American cinema. Featuring films made in seven countries, the series includes animation, comedy, documentary, sci-fi, and drama. A talk, discussion, and reception are also planned (details in the schedule below).



**Chico & Rita**  
(Fernando Trueba & Javier Mariscal, 2010)  
Image courtesy of gKids

Chris Stults, associate curator in the Wexner Center's film department, notes, "This series showcases memorable and award-winning films from throughout Latin America. While we screen global films year-round, it's a treat to focus on the rich cinema coming out of Latin America in this monthlong series."

Most films are in Spanish with English subtitles.

**Tickets** for each screening are \$7 for general public; \$5 for Wexner Center members, students, and senior citizens; \$3 for children under 12. The films will be screened in the Wexner Center's Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St. Tickets available at the door or in advance at [tickets.wexarts.org](http://tickets.wexarts.org) (general public can purchase online beginning January 1), or at (614) 292-3535. **For movie trailers and more information, visit [wexarts.org/fv](http://wexarts.org/fv).**

Cinema Latino is **organized by the Wexner Center for the Arts** and cosponsored by the **Hispanic Chamber of Columbus** and **Ohio State's Center for Latin American Studies** and **Department of Spanish and Portuguese**.

## CINEMA LATINO SCHEDULE

**Thursday, January 5 at 7 pm**

***El Norte*** (Gregory Nava, 1983, United States/Guatemala) –139 mins., 35mm

Opening night features a key film of the American independent movement, following a Guatemalan brother and sister on their journey to North America. The struggles and optimistic attitudes of the characters make for a humorous and touching film that Roger Ebert calls "a *Grapes of Wrath* for our time."

*El Norte* is part of two Wexner Center film series, *New Worlds: Immigration on Film*, which explores the contemporary immigrant experience, and *Cinema Latino*.

**Friday, January 6 at 7 pm**

***Medianeras*** (Gustavo Taretto, 2011, Argentina) – 96 mins., 35mm

A **public reception** hosted by the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus precedes this film, **5:30–7 pm**).

A love letter to Buenos Aires, *Medianeras* (also known as *Sidewalls*) is a delightful and clever romantic comedy about modern living. A man and a woman, with much in common, both live on the same block but have somehow never met. The striking photography is mixed with animation and graphic art to show how urban chaos and new technologies can unite people but also keep them apart. The resulting film has been hailed as an homage to Woody Allen's *Manhattan* merged with the charming visual stylishness of Michel Gondry.

**Saturday, January 7 at 7 pm**

***Octubre*** (Diego and Daniel Vega, 2010, Peru) – 83 mins., 35mm

The winner of the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival, *Octubre* is a rich character study of Clemente, a friendless man, and the community surrounding him. The film follows Clemente as he enlists his neighbors to help him care for a child left on his doorstep.

**Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 14 at 7 pm**

***A Useful Life*** (Federico Veiroj, 2010, Uruguay) – 63 mins., 35mm

preceded by ***As Follows*** (Federico Veiroj, 2004, Uruguay) – 13 mins., 35mm

A film that will surely hit close to home for any cinema lover, *A Useful Life* follows Jorge (played by a real film critic) who has been running an art-house movie theater in Uruguay for 25 years. But when costly repairs, dwindling audiences, and diminishing support force him to close down the theater, Jorge is forced to find a life outside of his daily routine at the movie theater. A loving homage to the soul of cinema, *A Useful Life* is a charming and droll look at life after the movies.

*As Follows* precedes the feature film. This delightful short about a boy preparing for his bar mitzvah in a Jewish enclave of Montevideo, Uruguay won Best Spanish Short Film at Cinema Jove–Valencia International Film Festival in 2005.

**David Filipi**, the Wex's director of film/video, and associate curator **Chris Stults** will hold a **discussion following the films on Friday** about the ups and downs of organizing a film program much like the one featured in *A Useful Life*.

**Thursday, January 19 at 4 pm**

**OSU Film Studies Lecture with Laura Podalsky – Free**

Laura Podalsky, an associate professor in Ohio State's Department of Spanish and Portuguese, presents a lecture inspired by her new book, ***The Politics of Affect and Emotion in Contemporary Latin American Cinema***, and discusses the way in which we conceptualize current and past films from the region.

**Friday, January 20 at 7 pm and Saturday, January 21 at 4 pm**

***Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*** (Pamela Yates, 2011, U.S.) – 103 mins., video

Sometimes a film makes history, rather than just documenting it. Director Pamela Yates's 1982 documentary *When the Mountains Tremble* introduced the world to the genocide of the Mayan people by the Guatemalan government and contained the only known footage of the army as it carried out this tragedy. Yates's original film and its outtakes became

evidence in an international war-crimes case against the former army commander 25 years later, and *Granito* captures the arc of history as it bends towards justice.

**Wednesday January 25 at 7 pm**

***The Invisible Eye*** (Diego Lerman, 2010, Argentina) – 95 mins., 35mm

María Teresa is a lonely and deeply repressed assistant teacher at an elite Buenos Aires private school. Set against the backdrop of Argentina's military regime of the 1980s, *The Invisible Eye* examines this obedient and willing woman as she unquestioningly accepts the school's rigid code and identifies with the totalitarian nation state. This third film from director Diego Lerman, one of the founders of the Argentine New Wave, features a knockout performance from Julieta Zylberberg (*The Holy Girl*) as the sexually repressed martinet.

**Wednesday, January 25 and Saturday, January 28 at 8:45 pm**

***Santo, the Silver Mask vs. the Martian Invasion*** (Alberto B. Crevenna, 1966, Mexico) – 85 mins., 35mm

As an epilogue to the popular Cinema Latino presentations of 1950s Mexican sci-fi B-movies last year, this movie is an archival print of one of the adventures of El Santo, Mexican cinema's most famous wrestling superhero. Santo must do battle with macho Martian invaders (and the scantily clad women that always seem to accompany mid-century Martian invaders). However, the Martians are trying to save the earth from itself and get its citizens to live in peace. The fate of the planet depends on the outcome of this interstellar wrestling match! **Special pricing: Show ticket stub for *Chico & Rita* or *The Invisible Eye* and see this film for only \$3.**

**Saturday, January 28 at 7 pm**

***Chico & Rita*** (Fernando Trueba & Javier Mariscal, 2010, Spain) – 94 mins., 35mm

(Note: ***Santo, the Silver Mask vs. the Martian Invasion*** will screen at **8:45 pm**; see above listing for description and **ticket package information**.)

*Chico & Rita* is one of the most extraordinary animated films of the year. It combines the passionate music and culture of Cuba with an epic story of love and heartbreak set against the color and bustle of the late 1940s and early 1950s. Chico is a young piano player with big dreams; Rita is a beautiful singer with a powerful voice. United by music and romantic desire, they travel around the globe but their journey—in the tradition of the Latin ballad, the bolero—brings heartache and torment. *Chico & Rita* features an original soundtrack by multi-Grammy-winning Cuban legend Bebo Valdés, as well as music by Thelonious Monk, Cole Porter, Dizzy Gillespie, and others.

**EVENT SUPPORT**

*Cinema Latino* is cosponsored by the **Hispanic Chamber of Columbus** and **Ohio State's Center for Latin American Studies** and **Department of Spanish and Portuguese**.

Promotional support is provided by **alive!**

Significant contributions for the Wexner Center's 2011–12 film/video season are made by the **Rohauer Collection Foundation**.

The Wexner Center also receives generous support from the **Greater Columbus Arts Council**, **The Columbus Foundation**, **Nationwide Foundation**, and the **Ohio Arts Council**, as well as from the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation** and **Wexner Center members**.

The preferred airline of the film/video program is **American Airlines/American Eagle**.

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