Celebrating the New Wave of Ibero-American Cinema

Hosted by Dartmouth College

WHEN January 13-February 17, 2016
7:00 PM
WHERE Loew Auditorium
Black Family Visual Arts Center
22 Lebanon Street
Hanover, NH 03755

In collaboration with the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Department of Film & Media Studies, Department of Environmental Studies.

BAD HAIR (PELO MALO)
Mariana Rondón / Venezuela / 93 min / 2013 / Spanish with English subtitles
Wednesday, January 13, 2016
7:00 PM

A nine-year-old boy’s preening obsession with straightening his hair elicits a tidal wave of homophobic panic in his hard-working mother, in this tender but clear-eyed coming-of-age tale. Junior is a beautiful boy, with big brown eyes, a delicate frame, and a head of luxurious dark curls. But Junior aches to straighten those curls to acquire a whole new look befitting his emerging fantasy image of himself as a long-haired singer. As the opportunity approaches to have his photo taken for the new school year, that ache turns into a fiery longing. Junior’s mother, Marta, is barely hanging on. The father of her children has died, she recently lost her job as a security guard, and she now struggles to put a few arepas on the table for Junior and his baby brother. Junior doesn’t even know yet what it means to be gay, but the very notion prompts Marta to set out to “correct” Junior’s condition before it fully takes hold. This is a story of people doing what they feel they have to, partly out of fear, but also out of love.” - Diana Vargas, Toronto International Film Festival.

THE LIBERATOR (EL LIBERTADOR)
Alberto Arvelo / Venezuela, Spain / 119 min / 2014 / Spanish with English subtitles
Wednesday, January 20, 2016
7:00 PM

Rising Venezuelan actor Edgar Ramirez stars in this biopic of one of Latin America’s greatest figures. Simón Bolívar fought over 100 battles against the Spanish Empire in South America. He rode over 70,000 miles on horseback. His military campaigns covered twice the territory of those of Alexander the Great. But his army never conquered – it liberated. The most expensive Latin American film ever produced, The Liberator is a riveting portrayal of the man
who led Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Peru, and Ecuador toward independence. *The Liberator* was shortlisted with other eight titles for the Best Foreign Academy Award and was the favorite Venezuelan film at the local box office. The film was seen by 697,000 spectators in Venezuela.

**ASIER AND I (ASIER ETA BIOK)**
Amaia Merino, Aitor Merino / Spain / 93 min / 2013 / Spanish and Basque with English subtitles

**Wednesday, January 27, 2016**
7:00 PM

*Asier and I* tells the story of the friendship between Aitor and Asier Aranguren from their time growing up together in the conflict-affected and politicized eighties of Pamplona. Eventually, Aitor moved to Madrid to pursue his dream of becoming an actor and Asier joined the terrorist group ETA. Years later, Asier was arrested and interned in a French prison, where he was detained for eight years. When Asier was released in 2010, Aitor wanted to recover his relationship with his childhood friend and try to understand what could have led to him to join ETA, so he went to his release in France with a camera in order to tell this story. Beyond the story of Asier, Aitor, and the Basque conflict, the film raises universal questions: can we justify blood crimes on the name of an ideal? Can friendship transcend ideology and political extremism? Narrated with humor and cinematographic devises such as direct address, *Asier and I* does an excellent job at keeping the spectator engaged throughout the film. The documentary remained in Spanish theaters for an impressive four months.

**COWS WEARING GLASSES (LAS VACAS CON GAFAS)**
Alex Santiago Pérez / Puerto Rico / 90 min / 2014 / Spanish with English subtitles

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016**
7:00 PM

By one of the most talented emerging filmmakers coming out of the new wave of Puerto Rican cinema, *Cows Wearing Glasses* uses a subtle sense of humor to touch upon issues of aging. Marso, a lonely, eccentric painter and art professor, is losing his sight. As the world as he knows it comes to an end, he is now forced to re-examine an existence filled with professional successes, but unsatisfying personal relationships. He tries to reestablish a relationship with his only daughter while his thoughts are filled with longing for simpler times. The fear and uncertainty of what lies ahead have left an imprint on his psyche, and maybe even on his morals. With an impeccable performance by Daniel Lugo as Marso, *Cows Wearing Glasses* is a reflexive tale of a man facing the inevitable.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A PARTY (PENSE QUE IBA A HABER UNA FIESTA)
Victoria Galardi / Argentina, Spain / 84 min / 2014 / Spanish with English subtitles
Wednesday, February 10, 2014
7:00 PM
Divorced and living with her teenage daughter, Lucía asks her close friend Ana to house-sit and look after her daughter while she goes away with her new partner. Ana spends her days lazing by the pool, afflicted by a deep loneliness until Ricki, Lucía’s ex-husband comes to pick up his daughter and an affair that will have profound implications on her friendship with Lucía begins. Ana and Ricki throw themselves into an intense romance that lasts until the day Lucía comes back… An honest and poignant commentary on friendship, I Thought it was a Party is also a film about the search for love, loneliness, fear, guilt, and the world of women.

ETERNAL AMAZON (AMAZONIA ETERNA)
Belisario Franca / Brazil / 88 min / 2013 / Portuguese with English subtitles
Wednesday, February 17, 2016
7:00 PM
The Amazon is a vast laboratory for sustainable experiments that are unveiling new relationships among human beings, corporations, and this natural heritage that is crucial for life on the planet. This is where the guidelines are being drawn up for a new global economic model: the green economy. With astonishing cinematography and soundtrack, Eternal Amazon presents a critical analysis of how the world’s largest tropical rainforest is understood and utilized. Exploring the Amazon’s five million square kilometers—home to 20% of the world’s freshwater reserves—the film asks whether it is possible for humans to make sustainable use of the rainforest, featuring nine successful projects for sustainable forest use that directly benefits the local population and fosters good economic partnerships. Activities such as agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry and extraction are unraveled under the support of experts, including economist Sergio Besserman, ecologists Bertha Becker and Virgilio Viana, as well as testimony of Amazonians. It portrays the daily lives of the forest people as the guardians of this great natural heritage that could last into eternity, if properly managed.

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