

Film Festival at LASA2012

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This new edition of the Festival offers three intensive days of documentary and fiction cinema, which range from important recent historical drama productions to experimental cinema. An important innovation for this edition is the work we are inaugurating with specialists in Latin American cinema, whose special curatorship for the festival features recent cinema from Colombia and Uruguay: Pedro Adrián Zuluaga and Juana Suárez (Colombia); and Gustavo Remedi (Uruguay). In addition to these two Festival foci and in keeping with the theme of the Congress, “Towards the Third Century of Independence,” the Festival presents a series on the *Libertadores*, the national heroes of American Independence, four films made in connection with the Bicentennials focusing on the figures of José Artigas, Manuel Belgrano, José Martí, and José de San Martín.

This edition of the Festival also includes documentaries on Liberation Theology, with a film about Bishop Oscar Romero, and another on *comunidades de base* in El Salvador (*La palabra en el bosque*).

The violence of the 1970s and 80s is revisited from new perspectives, with testimonial documentaries by and about the children of Chilean militants (*The Chilean Building* and *Generation Exile*). Also, the Festival is presenting a film exploring the less-known question of children abducted in El Salvador during the armed confrontation (*Children of Memory*). Other themes explored in the festival are: Labor and the Environment, Puerto Rican Studies, Staged Dance, Memory, and Trials of the Paramilitary.¹

The festival will also pay deserved homage to the commitment of filmmakers and lovers of Latin American cinema. There will be an impeccable documentary on the filmmaker Jorge Prelorán, and two films on “cinematographic activism”: a fictional and comic evocation of the work of the Uruguayan Cinematheque (*A Useful Life*), and a documentary on the Cinematheque of the Third World (C3M).

A group of directors and producers will attend the festival: from Colombia, directors Samuel Córdoba (*Tumaco*

Pacífico), and Manuel Ruiz (*Meanders*); and from the USA, director Maria Teresa Rodríguez and producer Kathryn Smith Pyle (*Children of Memory*); Professor Jeff Gould (*La palabra en el bosque*); and scholar, author, filmmaker, and recipient of multiple awards Saul Landau (*Will the Terrorists Please Stand Up*). Santhosh Daniel, Director of Programs for The Global Film Initiative, will introduce the work of the organization.

I would like to extend special thanks for the support and collaboration offered to the LASA Festival by the ICAU (Uruguayan Film and Audiovisual Institute), INCAA (National Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual Arts, Argentina), and the producer and distributor Wanda Vision.

Hope to see you all in San Francisco.

¹ Due to space constraints we are including here only film titles. For a complete record, please glance at the festival program. ■

