



**Latinbeat 2008, Sept. 5–25**

Detailed Program and Schedule Information

OPENING NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPT. 5, 6:30 p.m.

**Kill Them All / Matar a todos**

Esteban Schroeder, Uruguay/Chile/Argentina/Germany, 2007; 97m

An Uruguayan human rights prosecutor in post-junta Montevideo must investigate her own family's role in the country's military past after the covered-up kidnapping of a notorious Chilean biochemical engineer. Based on real events, Esteban Schroeder's second film captures the vulnerability of young Latin American democracies to the legacy and dark histories they are trying to leave behind, while finding ample reason for hope. Starring the extraordinary Roxana Blanco, who won Best Actress at the Havana Film Festival.

**Fri Sep 5: 6:30pm**

**Encore Screenings:**

**Sat Sep 6: 8:45pm**

**Sun Sep 7: 1:00pm**

**Wed Sep 24: 8:45pm**

**El cayo de la muerte**

Wolney Oliveira, Cuba/Brazil, 2007; 88m

Cuba, 1958. After Rodolfo's family is forced to flee Havana, Rodolfo's ambition to become a Hollywood director finds a surprising release in a group of film aficionados with whom he develops his first project, *El cayo de la muerte*. In this debut feature, Wolney Oliveira crafts both a story of love and a tender look at a boy's passage from innocence to awareness in a groundbreaking historical moment. A charming dramatic comedy that is great fun to watch.

**Thu Sep 11: 8:30pm**

**Fri Sep 12: 1:00pm**

**Sat Sep 13: 7:30pm**

**Cochochi**

Laura Amelia Guzmán and Israel Cárdenas, Mexico/UK/Canada, 2007; 87m

The lush Sierra Tarahumara in northwest Mexico sets the stage for this artful fable about two indigenous Raramuri brothers, Tony and Evaristo, who are sent across the mountains by their grandfather to deliver medicine to a remote community. Winner of the Discovery

Award at 2007 Toronto International Film Festival, the Grand Jury Prize at the 2008 Miami International Film Festival, and featured in *Ambulante 2008*, a traveling series of Mexican documentaries founded by Gael García Bernal, Diego Luna and Pablo Cruz.

**Fri Sep 5: 1:00pm**

**Sat Sep 6: 2:45pm**

### **Dog Eat Dog / Perro come perro**

Carlos Moreno, Colombia, 2008; 106m

With a nod to Tarantino in its form and style, *Dog Eat Dog* follows two hitmen in Cali, Colombia, whose paths cross after they both break the rules of the drug traffickers for which they work. Music-video veteran Carlos Moreno's breakneck debut feature is part thriller and a whole lot of action film, with sparks of very black humor. Hugely entertaining until the very (bloody) end.

**Sun Sep 7: 8:00pm**

**Sun Sep 14: 9:00pm**

### **Encarnación**

Anahí Berneri, Argentina, 2007; 93m

With disarming tenderness and care, Anahí Berneri's second feature explores the transition into maturity of a once glamorized starlet of B-movies, commercials and television, Encarnación Levier (beautifully portrayed by Sylvia Pérez, herself a famous former model, Miss Argentina and B-movie actress). The splendid camerawork gently explores her fragility, allowing Berneri to reflect on the work of all actors who are exposed to the public eye. Winner of the Innovation Award at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival.

**Sat Sep 13: 5:30pm**

**Tue Sep 16: 5:00pm**

**Wed Sep 17: 9:30pm**

### **Estômago: A Gastronomic Story**

Marcos Jorge, Brazil/Italy, 2007; 100m

Raimundo Nonato (João Miguel) discovers his surprising talents as a chef. Yet the story of his rise into Brazil's gastronomic elite is intercut with scenes from his troubling future, as he serves out a jail sentence. Best picture, director and actor winner at the 2007 Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival, *Estômago* "is one of the most arresting foodie films to come along in some time," writes Laura Kern in *Film Comment*. "Jorge's first solo directorial effort, which he also co-wrote, is swift and crowd-pleasing."

**Mon Sep 8: 9:15pm**

**Wed Sep 10: 3:00pm**

**Thu Sep 11: 6:30pm**

### **Lamb of God / Cordero de Dios**

Lucía Cedrón, Argentina/France, 2008; 90m

In the midst of Argentina's worst economic breakdown, 30-year-old Guillermina (Leonora Balcarce) must negotiate the release of her kidnapped grandfather, Arturo (Jorge Marrale), while her mother Teresa's (Mercedes Morán) reluctance to help reveals a troubling family history. Lucía Cedrón's debut feature moves seamlessly between 2002 and 1978, creating

a poignant and suspenseful story of Argentina's darkest years of repression that features amazing performances by Morán and Marrale.

**Fri Sep 12: 9:30pm**

**Sat Sep 13: 1:00pm**

**Sun Sep 14: 7:00pm**

### **Little Country / Paisito**

Ana Díez, Uruguay/Argentina/Spain, 2008; 88m

With much fanfare, Xavi arrives in Spain, his parents' home country, to play soccer for Osasuna de Pamplona. He welcomes the unexpected celebration that accompanies his first trip outside Uruguay. But his stay has other, spectacular revelations in store: a surprise visit from his childhood sweetheart Rosana, who he has not seen for 20 years, and the disturbing truth behind the circumstances that led to her family's departure for Spain.

**Fri Sep 12: 5:00pm**

**Mon Sep 15: 7:00pm**

### **Man of Two Havanas**

Vivien Lesnik Weisman, US, 2007; 93m

Max Lesnik, once a prominent revolutionary who fought alongside his friend Fidel Castro, has become the main target of anti-Castro terrorists and the most controversial figure in the Cuban exile community since he left Havana for Miami after the revolution. This personal and engaging documentary by his daughter is a dynamic portrait of a complex man, who seeks to remain faithful to his beliefs even in the context of such a dramatically polarized conflict.

**Sun Sep 7: 3:30pm**

**Thu Sep 11: 3:00pm**

### **Ó Paí, Ó**

Monique Gardenberg, Brazil, 2007; 96m

This hilarious tale of creativity, resourcefulness and survival travels through the colorful streets of Pelourinho, a small town in the historic district of Salvador, on the last day of Carnival. The tenement houses teem with riotous conversation. Residents conspire against each other as they mix Orishas and Jesus, preparing for a celebration that they hope will erase their fears, worries and dark secrets—at least momentarily. Featuring lyrical, soulful rhythms in a fabulous soundtrack by Davi Moraes and Caetano Veloso.

**Fri Sep 12: 3:00pm**

**Sat Sep 13: 9:30pm**

**Sun Sep 14: 2:30pm**

### **The Old Thieves: The Legends of Artegio / Los ladrones viejos: las leyendas del Artegio**

Everardo González, Mexico, 2007; 97m

Everardo González (*Pulque Song*, Latinbeat 2003) turns the real-life story of the legendary El Carrizos and other famous outlaws of 1960s Mexico into a chilling yet humorous portrait of the Mexican criminal underworld. The thieves recount their story from prison, recalling both the glorified era in which they were virtually unstoppable and the

price they eventually had to pay. Featured in *Ambulante* 2008 and nominated for two Ariels, Mexico's national awards, for best picture and director.

**Sun Sep 7: 5:45pm**

**Tue Sep 9: 3:30pm**

### **The Path / El Camino**

Ishtar Yasin Gutierrez, Costa Rica, 2007; 91m

Twelve-year old Saslaya and her brother Darío (newcomers Sherlin Paola Velásquez and Marcos Ulises Jiménez) run away from their home in a poor Nicaraguan village to search for their mother across the border in Costa Rica. As they traverse the well-worn path from Managua to Granada, they discover a Nicaragua they never knew. Screened in the 2008 Berlin Film Festival, *The Path* is an engaging mix of drama and documentary. An impressive debut for director Ishtar Yasin Gutierrez.

**Fri Sep 5: 2:50pm**

**Mon Sep 8: 5:00pm**

### **The Pope's Toilet / El Baño del Papa**

César Charlone and Enrique Fernández, Uruguay/Brazil/France, 2007; 90m

This hilarious dramatic comedy is also an affectionate portrait of a people struggling to survive on the edge of two cultures. Beto, a perfect anti-hero, smuggles goods across the border between Uruguay and Brazil to ease the burdens of his long-suffering wife and their adolescent daughter. When news arrives that Pope John Paul II will visit Beto's town, most of its residents plan to milk money out of the historical event. Yet Beto's scheme is far and away the most original.

**Fri Sep 5: 9:00pm**

**Sat Sep 6: 6:45pm**

**Mon Sep 8: 3:00pm**

### **Postcards from Leningrad / Postales de Leningrado**

Mariana Rondón, Venezuela, 2007; 90m

Superhero revolutionaries and fantastic labyrinths are the staples of Marcela's daydreams in this charming and funny vision of innocence set during the revolts of 1960s Venezuela. However, her and her cousin Teo's games cannot shield them from the horrors of guerrilla warfare. Rondón, who studied animation in France and film in Cuba, brings the children's' fantasies to life through a vibrant collage of inventive visual resources, alongside a vivid depiction of the era's violence.

**Sat Sep 6: 4:30pm**

**Mon Sep 8: 7:00pm**

### **Still Orangutans / Ainda Orangotangos**

Gustavo Spolidoro, Brazil, 2007; 85m

Gustavo Spolidoro's debut feature takes place on a single sweltering day in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul's bustling capital. Six stories by gaucho author Paulo Scott are adapted into two uninterrupted 40-minute takes that explores a city and the lives of several strange characters. Precisely choreographed from beginning to end, *Still Orangutans* takes giddy pleasure in its free flowing movement. An exhilarating and imaginative cinematic ride.

**Fri Sep 5: 4:40pm**

**Sat Sep 6: 1:00pm**

**Wed Sep 10: 8:45pm**

**Wadley**

Matias Meyer, Mexico, 2008; 60m

Pure cinema in the long-take tradition of Lisandro Alonso or Abbas Kiarostami, Matias Meyer's **Wadley** confronts solitude and nature in their most overpowering forms. A young man with a backpack walks steadily into the unending Mexican desert. His few diversions include unearthing peyote, the legendary cactus known for its hallucinogenic effect and for providing deep spiritual insight. Completely without dialogue, the film's stunning images of flowing desert landscapes create a mysterious spiritual experience, drug-induced or not.

**Thu Sep 11: 5:00pm**

**Sun Sep 14: 1:00pm**

**Wed Sep 17: 5:30pm**

**LATINBEAT: SPOTLIGHT ON CHILE**

SEPT. 19--25

Expanding on the strong tradition of political cinema in Chile, a new generation of young filmmakers has developed an accomplished blend of cinematic technique and style in a wide range of genres. This spotlight looks at six original and powerful works from this group, the newest force in Latin American filmmaking. Special thanks to ProChile and Carlos Gutierrez of Cinema Tropical.

**Chile puede**

Ricardo Larraín, Chile, 2008; 80m

Guillermo, a schoolteacher, wins the contest to become Chile's first astronaut. But soon after he is launched into orbit, mission control closes down, the technicians make off with the equipment and the United States mobilizes its military, fearing a rogue element is launching missiles against it. Ricardo Larraín's outrageously entertaining satire makes light fun of the contradictions of a country in which aspirations of modernity co-exist with substantial poverty in areas like the Atacama desert, where most of the film takes place.

**Fri Sep 19: 6:30pm**

**Sat Sep 20: 9:00pm**

**Sun Sep 21: 7:00pm**

**The Girls / Las Niñas**

Rodrigo Marín, Chile, 2007; 65m

Rodrigo Marín's first feature was shot in 24 hours in one location with two actresses who had never met before. The result is a perceptive and deeply affecting look at relationship dynamics, as Antonia and Sofia's emerging love for each other becomes palpable in a continual and subtly observed power struggle. Straddling the boundaries between documentary and fiction, this daring portrayal of friendship delves into complex and intimate areas of the female soul.

SCREENING WITH

**Women Workers Leaving the Factory / Obreras saliendo de la fábrica**

José Luis Torres Leiva, Chile, 2005; 21m

Finding freedom from the monotony of a day in the factory where they work, four women bond over a shared cigarette and a trip to the beach. The rhythmic cadence of machines, wind, ocean and laughs capture the women's emotions with a quiet, understated beauty.

**Fri Sep 19: 4:30pm**

**Sat Sep 20: 2:00pm**

**Thu Sep 25: 6:30pm**

### **Play**

Alicia Scherson, Chile/Argentina, 2005; 106m

It's summer in Santiago, and Cristina spends her free days playing arcade games and roaming the bustling city streets. She crosses paths with Tristan, who is trying to recover the love of his adored Irene. Enter Manuel, who falls in love with Cristina, and an entanglement of unrequited loves ensues. Richly textured and imbued with a modern poetic sensibility, Alicia Scherson's very personal first feature is a delicate urban drama, examined through the lens of heartbreak and passion.

**Sat Sep 20: 6:30pm**

**Sun Sep 21: 4:30pm**

**Wed Sep 24: 6:30pm**

### **Scrambled Beer / Malta con huevo**

Cristobal Valderrama, Chile, 2007; 88m

Malta con huevo is no more than a vigorous blend of raw eggs and beer. The popular Chilean beverage turns out to be a mind-altering pleasure for Vladimir, but he is shocked when he wakes up one day to realize that he has been traveling back and forth in time. Merrily blending plot lines, time sequences and even genres, Cristobal Valderrama's box-office hit is an entertaining tale spiked with Chilean cumbia and rock that has a surprisingly dark final twist.

**Sat Sep 20: 4:15pm**

**Sun Sep 21: 9:00pm**

**Thu Sep 25: 8:30pm**

### **The Sky, the Earth and the Rain / El cielo, la tierra, y la lluvia**

José Luis Torres Leiva, Chile, 2008; 110m

This gorgeous first feature captures the hypnotic everyday rhythms of three women and a man living on a remote southern Chilean island in what director José Luis Torres Leiva describes as, "A film of 'strolls': mental, virtual, on foot, in automobiles, aboard ferries." The breathtaking camerawork, almost akin to painting, and perfectly calibrated sound have established him as one of Chile's most promising emerging filmmakers. Winner of the FIPRESCI Award at 2008 Rotterdam Film Festival.

**Fri Sep 19: 8:30pm**

**Sun Sep 21: 2:00pm**

### **LATINBEAT & FILM COMMENT SELECTS**

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17, 7:00 p.m.

Director Ariel Rotter will join Gavin Smith onstage following a screening of *The Other*.

### **The Other / El otro**

Ariel Rotter, Argentina/France/Germany, 2007; 83m

"I don't know how they do it, but Argentinean filmmakers continue to conjure surprise, invention, and substance out of thin air. The memorably named Ariel Rotter's **The Other**, unheralded despite picking up the Grand Jury prize in Berlin last year, reaps a maximum impressionistic yield from the slimmest of ideas: a middle-aged man (Julio Chavez) travels to a backwater town on business, then on impulse stays on for a few nights, flirting with the possibility of assuming a new identity."—Gavin Smith, *Film Comment*

**Wed Sep 17: 7:00pm**

**Encore Screening**

**Thu Sep 18: 5:00pm**

### LATINBEAT CELEBRATES MACHADO DE ASSIS

Director Nelson Pereira dos Santos Onstage

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18, 2:30 and 7:15 p.m.

As part of "Machado 21," a citywide centennial celebration of writer Machado de Assis, Nelson Pereira dos Santos will present his screen adaptations of two de Assis works. He will join in an onstage conversation with Film Society program director Richard Peña following the 7:15 p.m. screening. Dos Santos's visit is sponsored by Yale University and Academia Brasileira de Letras with the support of Estação Botafogo. The celebration is organized by The Graduate Center / CUNY, The Americas Society, The Brazilian Endowment for the Arts, The Luso-Brazilian Studies Group, The Brazilian Consulate in New York and the Film Society of Lincoln Center. Please visit <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/hispanic/machado21/> for more information about these events.

### **The Alienist / Azylo Muito Louco**

Nelson Pereira dos Santos, Brazil, 1970; 100m

Adapted from a novella by Machado de Assis, **The Alienist** follows a priest and shrink who continually changes the criteria for determining who is crazy. Nelson Pereira dos Santos satirically casts his whole country as a madhouse, as his psychiatrist jails increasing numbers of townspeople until the concept of sanity becomes moot. Backed by disorienting electronic music, dos Santos spins a witty tale of a very real corner of the world gone totally wacky to demonstrate that any dogma, political or otherwise, becomes a complexity-killing machine.

SCREENING WITH

### **A Missa do Galo**

Nelson Pereira dos Santos, Brazil, 1982; 24m

On Christmas Eve, 17-year-old Nogueira's superficial conversation with his cousin's wife reveals an ambiguous game of seduction. Based on a short story by Machado de Assis.

**Thu Sep 18: 2:30pm and 7:15pm**

### LATINBEAT: A TRIBUTE TO JACOBO MORALES

SEPT. 12 – 16

Three films by the celebrated Puerto Rican auteur, whose indelible contributions to film helped develop of a cultural identity within and outside of Puerto Rico. Jacobo Morales will introduce several screenings. Please check our website [filmlinc.com](http://filmlinc.com) for more information.

### **Angel**

Jacobo Morales, Puerto Rico, 2007; 108m

The most recent film by Jacobo Morales follows a professor and student leader whose political beliefs landed him in prison for 15 years in the '80s, when people affiliated with Puerto Rico's independence movement were repressed and persecuted. This poignant tale of one man's will and determination to unveil the culprits who framed him and murdered his wife deftly interweaves intrigue, suspense and action while exploring the fine line that divides peace and violence, justice and injustice.

**Fri Sep 12: 6:45pm**

**Mon Sep 15: 9:00pm**

### **Linda Sara**

Jacobo Morales, Puerto Rico, 1995; 107m

José and Sara (popular Puerto Rican singer Chayanne and former Miss Universe Dayanara Torres) and their five children suffer the consequences of economic downfall as the sugarcane industry declines. Yet the family cannot let go of its old lifestyle. As Sara's sons come up with a plan that could salvage their fortune, events abruptly change course. Class conflict and a poetic exploration of memory are skillfully interwoven in two narrative tracks within this inventive love story.

**Sun Sep 14: 4:30pm**

**Tue Sep 16: 2:45pm**

### **What Happened to Santiago / Lo que le pasó a Santiago**

Jacobo Morales, Puerto Rico, 1989; 105m

Santiago Rodriguez, a 65-year-old widower, plunges into melancholy after he is forced to retire. He meets a younger woman (an extraordinary Gladys Rodriguez) who reawakens his love of life, but as his attachment grows, so does his puzzlement at her refusal to talk about her past. ***What Happened to Santiago*** marked a pivotal moment in Puerto Rican cinema: an overwhelming critical and box-office success that was nominated for an Oscar, it helped establish a unique Puerto Rican cultural identity and remains a favorite to this day.

**Sat Sep 13: 3:00pm**

**Mon Sep 15: 4:45pm**

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