

The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

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9th Annual LATINO FILM FESTIVAL

Worcester's 9th Annual Latino Film Festival will run from March 30 through April 4 at Clark's Cinema 320 and the Bijou Community Cinema (Worcester Center Boulevard, across from Medical City).

The four films shown in this year's festival reflect the diversity of film and cultural styles from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. As in previous editions of the Latino Festival, invited guest directors will present their films.

This year, two important Caribbean filmmakers will be on hand. On Saturday afternoon, April 4th at Clark's Cinema 320 (320 Jefferson Academic Center), native Puerto Rican documentary filmmaker Ivonne Belén will introduce her film, *Julia, toda en mí / Julia, All in Me* (2003) about the life of the beloved Puerto Rican poet Julia de Burgos. The film won the coveted audience award at last year's Montreal Iberoamerican Film Festival.

Later the same day, at the Bijou, Ángel Muñiz, the famed Dominican filmmaker, will present his latest political comedy, *Perico Ripiao* (2003). This film is the biggest box-office hit ever in the Dominican Republic. It has been widely shown at film festivals throughout Latin America. Worcester's screening of *Perico Ripiao* is the U.S. première of the film.

Each of these screenings will be followed by a conversation between the director and the audience. All films are in Spanish with English subtitles.

The full schedule of festival screening times and locations follows.

Extraños Viajes / Strange Journeys

Perico Ripiao

Dominican Republic (2004)

Director: Ángel Muñiz

Friday, April 2 through Sunday, April 4
Bijou Community Cinema

Saturday, April 3 at 5:00 pm: live presentation of the Perico Ripiao band followed by the film and discussion with the director Ángel Muñiz.

Three musicians, unjustly imprisoned for minor crimes, manage to escape from jail after ten years. Dressed as soldiers and armed only with their musical instruments, they begin a strange and entertaining journey to be reunited with their loved ones. Their madcap adventures lead them across the Dominican Republic as the three men seek their ultimate goal of freedom. Beneath the comic surface of this light-hearted story lies the harsh reality of political corruption during the 12 year dictatorship.

Luces de la noche / Night Trails

Mexico (1994)

Director: Sergio Muñoz

Sunday, April 4, 1:00 pm, Cinema 320

In this homage to 40s film noir, a recently retired judge finds a photo of the girl he loved in his youth. Overwhelmed by romantic nostalgia, he begins a search that leads him to confront a sordid past of political corruption, passion and violence.

Part of the intrigue of the film is the shifting time-planes of past and present. Two different actors play each partner. Events shift from past to present as the memories of the allure and mystery of Tina lead Eduardo to relive painful memories of his days with her.

Entre la tarde y la noche / The Magic Hour

Mexico (2000)

Director: Oscar Blancarte

Thursday, April 1, 7:30 pm; Sunday, April 4, 4:00 pm, Cinema 320

Minerva, a writer in the throes of personal and artistic crises, abandons her lover and goes in search of the happiness she once knew in the magical world of her childhood in the Mexican coastal town of Mazatlán where she grew up.

Julia, Toda en mí / Julia, All in Me

Puerto Rico (2003)

Director: Yvonne Belén

Tuesday, March 30, 7:30 pm; Saturday, April 3, 1:30 pm. at Cinema 320. The latter showing will be followed by a discussion with the director and preceded by poems and dance by Bohemian Latin Stand and Ritmos Academy.

A poetic journey that evokes the life and work of the beloved Puerto Rican poet, Julia de Burgos. This award-winning docudrama features Benicio del Toro, Jacobo Morales, Myriam Colón and Danny Rivera, among others, readings works by the great poet.

FACULTY NOTES

On April 1-3 Professor of Spanish MARVIN D'LUGO will participate as an invited speaker at an international symposium on "Memory and Identity: Borders and Nation in the Cultures of Spain" held at Ohio State University. His paper is entitled: "Cinematic Reencounters with the Hispanic Transnation" as part of a keynote panel on national identity and cinema. He will also participate in a roundtable conversation with Oscar-winning Spanish director, Fernando Trueba.

Associate Professor of Spanish MARÍA ACOSTA CRUZ will present a paper at a scholarly conference at Tufts University on May 1st. The general title is "A Gathering of Voices: Latino Studies and Pedagogies for Building Community"; María's panel is called "Exploring the Role of Language in Latino Studies."

As part of the Higgins School Lecture Series, Assistant Professor of French BETH GALE and Timothy Shary of Screen Studies will present a lecture, "Discussion of Youth Narratives in French and American Culture," based on their work in an interdisciplinary undergraduate seminar. The event will be held on April 6 at 7:30 p.m., Grace Conference Room, Higgins University Center.

Former colleague INGRID MATOS-NIN will offer a summer course in Intermediate Spanish at consortium's Worcester Polytechnic Institute twice weekly (Monday/Wednesday) from 6-8 p.m.

ALUMNI NEWS

LEAH VECCHIONE (German '02) is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Germanic Languages at Rutgers Univ. Last spring she coordinated "Chasing Fairy Tales," a major conference on the role of fairy tales in current research and teaching. She is the recipient of the Baden-Württemberg fellowship, which carries a stipend for a full year of study at the Universität Konstanz, with research support.

DAVID HAHN, a Teaching Assistant for Latin, who will graduate this year with Honors, has received a five-year fellowship to do his doctoral studies in English and Comparative Literature at University of Chicago.

SPRING from FRANCE

French Teaching Assistant from Dijon ÉLODIE GRÉGOIRE surprised us all with her marriage to Aaron Child, an electrical engineer in Iowa, on the last Friday of Spring break! Mrs. Child returned immediately to campus to continue her discussion groups, but will be joining her husband in Iowa after she finishes her work at Clark.

THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES NEWSLETTER is published by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Estabrook Hall 301, Clark University, Worcester, MA 01610. Please send news items and announcements of coming events to Newsletter Editor, care of the Department, or call us at (508) 793-7342, 793-7234.

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