

The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

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FROM THE CHAIR

As we approach the end of the academic year, we find our calendar filled with a range of exciting events that reflect the cultural diversity of the department and the Clark community. This issue will highlight some of these.

Besides the Worcester Latino Film Festival held on campus (April 4-9), I want to draw your attention to the talk by Prof. Ramón Grosfoguel, of UC Berkeley who will lecture on the political status of Puerto Rico on April 20. An exciting academic year will culminate with Academic Spree Day on April 26. We encourage you to attend as many of the screenings and talks as possible.

Michael Spingler, Chair

11th ANNUAL WORCESTER LATINO FILM FESTIVAL

April 4 thru April 9

This year's festival highlights the theme of "Ritmos Latinos." Musical *ritmos* are the perfect markers of the instability of borders, suggesting how music challenges the fixed limits of geography, culture and class as they cut across generations and reveal new affinities among peoples of diverse backgrounds. The five films that comprise this year's festival hail from five different Latino spaces and echo the often frenetic and fast-moving nature of musical rhythms. Screenings will be held at Cinema 320 and Razzo Hall. Check the festival web site for more detailed information about screening times and places: www.centrolasamericas.org/filmfestival

DIRECTOR'S SHOWCASE

On Saturday April 8 the director VICENTE JUARBE and PEDRITO MUÑIZ, editor, will be

present for a discussion of their film *Cayo* at the screening in Razzo Hall at 1:00 p.m.

Cayo

Three friends, two men and a woman, must deal with life's adversities. They bond, then, separated by circumstances they do not control, only meet again as three very different individuals who must try to reconcile their past with their present. The film is set in Culebra, a small island located near Puerto Rico's Eastern coast.

Director: Vicente Juarbe
Puerto Rico 2005

Te Busco / I'm Looking for You

William reconstructs his memories as a precocious five-year-old boy when he lived with his wildly imaginative uncle Gustavo. William becomes an accomplice in Gustavo's intricate mission to seduce Jazmín, a gorgeous singer who performs in a shopping mall in Bogotá. This hilarious film is filled with infectious Salsa music from Colombia.

Dir: Ricardo Coral Dorado. Colombia, 2002.

Taxi Para Tres / Taxi for Three

As Ulises' beat-up taxi breaks down in the slum district of Santiago de Chile, he is commendeered by two bandits to drive them around. He thus becomes their accomplice, making more in a few hours than he has made in months. With the lure of money, the victim becomes the perpetrator in no time at all. This spirited black comedy was a winner at the San Sebastián Film Festival.

Director: Orlando Lübbert. Chile, 2001.

Dirt

A moving portrait of the life of illegal, undocumented immigrants living a hand-to-mouth existence and working in contemporary Manhattan. Dolores (Julietta Ortiz) loses job after job as she tries hard to support her jobless husband and teenage son in pursuit of the American Dream.

Director: Nancy Savoca. USA, 2003.

Jóvenes Rebeldes / Young Rebels

Five Cuban hip-hop groups and two producers prepare for and perform in Havana's 9th Annual National Hip-Hop Festival. Battling onstage or at home, the characters' personal travails collide in a summer of explosive concerts, intense debate, unbearable heat and rising tension as government agencies begin to institutionalize hip-hop's street roots.

Directors: Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck
USA/Cuba, 2005

CARIBBEAN TALK

Ramón Grosfoguel, Associate Professor of Chicano Studies at the University of California at Berkeley will speak at Clark on the political status of Puerto Rico. His talk, "Colonization or Recolonization?: The Political Options in Puerto Rico from a Radical Statehood Perspective" will take place on Thursday 20 April, 7:30 p.m. in the Grace Conference Room, Higgins University Center. The event is free and open to the public. In addition to his lecture, Prof. Grosfoguel will make a class visit for the course "Islands in the Stream: Puerto Rico and the French Antilles" (CMLT 174) co-taught by Profs. Acosta Cruz and Ferly.

FACULTY NOTES

Professor BETH GALE will present a paper entitled "Two Worlds Colliding: Identity Conflict in Narratives of Female Adolescence by Annie Ernaux and Assia Djebar" at the Women in French conference at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, April 6-9, 2006.

MARVIN D'LUGO will be the invited speaker of Rutgers University Spanish Department on April

17th. He will be speaking on "Genealogies of Sound Technology, Aural Identity and the Formation of the Hispanic Transnation".

During the Latino Film Festival, Professor D'LUGO will present a talk "The Greater Caribbean Multiplex" at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

MICHAEL SPINGLER'S latest article for *la Revue des Deux Mondes*, "Du désarroi des démocrates américains" appears in this month's issue of the review.

Professor ODILE FERLY was invited to take part in a Mellon 8 Colloquium on "La Francophonie au XXI^e siècle," held at Smith College on April 8th. She will speak on "De-Centred Francophonie: Francophilia and Francophobia in the Fiction of Maryse Condé and Edwidge Danticat."

MAJORS MEETING

Meeting of majors, minors, and all those interested in continuing their studies in Foreign Languages. Wednesday April 5th, 5 p.m. in 303 Estabrook. All those interested in pursuing a major or minor in a department program are encouraged to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

ACADEMIC SPREE DAY

On April 26 seniors BARBARA RODRIGUES and HANNAH KNAFO working under the supervision of Prof. Beth Gale, will be presenting their honors theses at Academic Spree Day. LAUREL POLUMBAUM, who has been working with Professor Acosta Cruz, will present her Honors Thesis "Who's Got Class?: Gabriel García Márques and los McOndistas." Check Academic Spree Day calendar for times and locations.

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 (e-mail: jberg@clarku.edu). If you are not yet on our mailing list, please fill out this coupon and return it to us so that we can keep you fully informed of Foreign Languages Department activities.

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