



15TH LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL IN AUSTRALIA

FREE EVENT

ALL FILMS SCREENED WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

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FOREWORD

Dear cinema lovers,

With a history that turns 15 years old in 2019, the Latin American Film Festival has permanently marked its place in the cultural scene of Australia. This year the festival will take place in eleven cities throughout Australia along the second



part of the year. LAFF is the fruit of the concerted efforts of Latin American embassies and the Council on Australia Latin America Relations.

LAFF has brought together Latin American filmmakers and the Australian public in an important exchange of views that has opened a new window to observe the Latin American reality. The programme in 2019 is rich with several important highlights. The embassies of Latin American countries in Australia have selected 14 films that will point out the features of their peoples' contemporary and historical struggles as well as the refinement of their cinema production. We would like to share with you this exciting programme.

It is an opportunity to watch good films together and talk about Latin America once again. We will see you all at the cinemas!

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sérgio Eduardo Moreira Lima". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

H.E. Sérgio Eduardo Moreira Lima
Ambassador
Embassy of Brazil in Canberra



BRAZIL

Life is a Bitch

Como é Cruel Viver Assim

107 mins | 2018 | Dir: Julia Rezende



The latest film from Brazilian director Julia Rezende is a riveting and darkly comic tale of ordinary people pushed to extremes. In Rio de Janeiro, times are tough and life is expensive – especially when you're planning a wedding. Unable to do anything to make sense of their lives, four friends come up with an absurd scheme to turn their lives around: kidnap a millionaire. Will these amateurs abductors actually pull their plan off?



CHILE

Broken Panties

Calzones Rotos

101 mins | 2017 | Dir: Arnaldo Valsecchi



In 1950, the imminent death of matriarch Matilde forces her entire family – including her four adult daughters – to reunite at their hacienda in rural Chile. On her deathbed, Matilde confesses to the village priest that she killed her husband 40 years ago and buried him in the garage. The revelation shocks everyone in attendance and kicks off a chain of events that unearths even more long-buried secrets (and bodies) in this dark comedy.



COLOMBIA

Bad Lucky Goat

El Día De La Cabra

76 mins | 2017 | Dir: Samir Oliveros



After accidentally killing a bearded goat with their father's truck, two siblings set out to have it repaired in time to pick up the tourists that will be staying at their family's hotel – embarking on a 24-hour adventure around Port Paradise involving a butcher, Rastafarian drum-makers, a pawn shop and even a witch doctor. Funded by a Kickstarter campaign, director Samir Oliveros' first film is packed with the unique sights and sounds of Colombian Caribbean.



COSTA RICA

The Gazelle's Dance

El Baile De La Gacela

91 mins | 2018 | Dir: Ivan Porras



Former soccer star Eugenio used to be known as 'The Gazelle' for his speed and dexterity on the field, but he retired young after being unable to score a trophy. Now 72 years old and living in a retirement home, he decides to take another shot at stardom by entering a dance competition for the elderly. Moving to the rhythms of merengue and bolero, Ivan Porras Meléndez's feature debut is a nuanced and touching portrait of old age.



CUBA

Fallen Gods

Los Dioses Rotos

93 mins | 2008 | Dir: Ernesto Daranas



Laura is a university professor researching the legendary Cuban pimp, Yarini y Alberto Ponce de Leon, whose murder at the hands of French rivals in Havana in the early 1900s made him a folk hero. Delving into the city's underworld, Laura finds striking parallels between the Havana of today and the past. As her investigation deepens, she finds herself caught in the middle of a turf war between modern-day Havana pimps.



ECUADOR

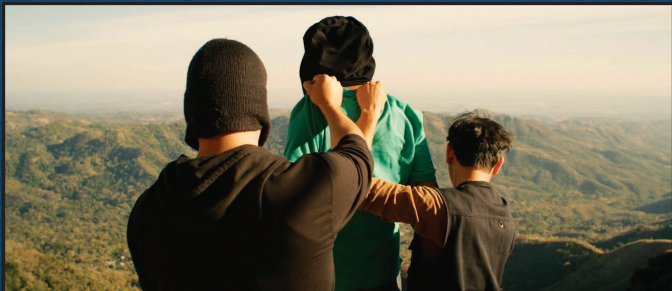
Quijotes Negros

Quijotes Negros

80 mins | 2016 | Dir: Sandino Burbano



Fantasy and reality collide in this unique take on the legend of Don Quixote that explores ethnic and social marginalisation in Latin America through the lens of comedy. In modern-day Ecuador, Don Quixote sets out to help his loyal companion Sancho Panza find a wife. Their misadventures lead them to inadvertently kidnapping the Queen and Princess of Spain, resulting in an unlikely meeting between citizens of two very different worlds.



EL SALVADOR

The Path of the Shadows

El Camino De Las Sombras

58 mins | 2018 | Dir: Baltazar Lopez



In the midst of El Salvador's civil war in the 1980s, University of San Salvador Professor Carlos Mauricio was abducted, persecuted and tortured by his own government. This riveting film depicts the ordeal by combining real-life testimony from Mauricio with archival footage and dramatic re-enactments of the bloody crackdown led by the country's repressive government regime against anyone suspected of supporting their left-leaning opponents.



GUATEMALA

Where All Roads End

Donde Acaban Los Caminos

85 mins | 2004 | Dir: Carlos Garcia Agraz



In the early 20th century, idealistic doctor Zamora arrives in a rural Guatemalan village with the hope of eradicating illness among the local Tz'utujil people. Zamora unexpectedly finds himself falling in love with a young native girl named Maria – but can their relationship transcend vast cultural differences and the threatening shadow of conflict with Guatemala's government?



MEXICO

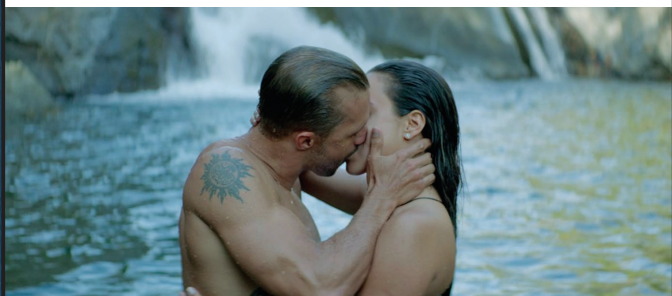
Mara'akame's Dream

El Sueño Del Mara'akame

90 mins | 2016 | Dir: Federico Cecchetti



Nieri is a young Huichol Indian caught between his traditional culture and his youthful ambitions. He dreams of running away with his rock band to make it big in Mexico City, but his father – a Huichol shaman, or Mara'akame – wishes to train him in the art of spiritual healing. A striking tale of the role of ancient tradition in modern life, this film paints an evocative portrait of Mexico and offers a rare glimpse into the magical world of the Huichol.



PANAMA

Grace & Splendour

Donaire Y Esplendor

96 mins | 2017 | Dir: Arturo Montenegro



This joyously irreverent romantic-comedy tells the Romeo and Juliet-like story of a young couple who fall hopelessly in love after an unexpected encounter at the airport. But they soon discover that their respective families have been embroiled in a bitter rivalry for years – ever since their mothers competed against each other at Panama's famed Carnival celebrations decades ago. And now the collective madness of Carnival is coming around again...



PARAGUAY

The Heiresses

Las Herederas

97 mins | 2018 | Dir: Marcelo Martinessi



Chela and Chiquita are two middle-aged women whose lives are thrown into disarray when mounting debt results in Chiquita being imprisoned for fraud – forcing them apart for the first time in over 30 years. Finding her privileged existence rapidly deteriorating, Chela is forced to make a new life for herself as a chauffeur. This award-winning drama takes a compelling look into the lives of the wealthy, through the tribulations of a woman in crisis.



PERU

Old Friends

Viejos Amigos

93 mins | 2014 | Dir: Fernando Villarán



Balo, Ricardo, Domingo and Kike have been friends since the day they were born – eight decades ago in Peru's El Callao neighbourhood. They have been waiting for as long as they can remember for their favourite soccer team to play in the league finals, but fate delivers a cruel blow when Kike dies on the eve of the match. Reuniting at his funeral, the remaining three friends decide to steal Kike's ashes and take them to the match for one final hurrah.



URUGUAY

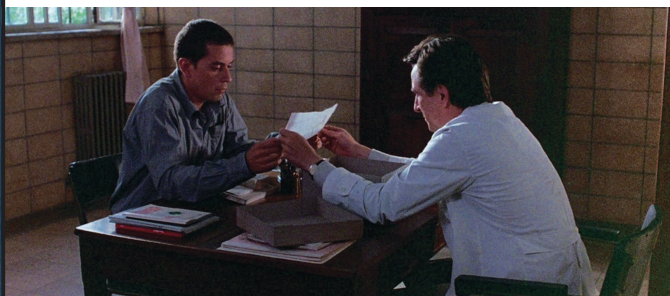
The Pope's Toilet

El Baño Del Papa

98 mins | 2007 | Dir: César Charlone



It's 1988 and the Uruguayan border town of Melo is excitedly awaiting the visit of Pope John Paul II on his tour of South America. Word begins to spread that thousands could be making the pilgrimage to see the holy leader, and the poverty-stricken citizens of Melo prepare for an unprecedented tourism boom. But petty smuggler Beto believes he has hatched the best plan of them all: to build a public toilet and then charge the pilgrims to use it.



ARGENTINA

Man Facing Southeast

Hombre Mirando al Sudeste

105 mins | 1986 | Dir: Eliseo Subiela



Dr Julio Denis is baffled by the unexplained arrival of a mysterious new patient at the Argentinian psychiatric hospital where he works. The newcomer tells Julio that he is an extra-terrestrial, sent to Earth to observe the behaviour of humans firsthand. Urged by hospital administrators to treat him like any other patient, Julio soon begins to wonder against his better judgement whether his new patient could indeed be from another planet.



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