

LASA2009 FILM FESTIVAL

DIRECTOR:

Claudia Ferman



IN FOCUS:

- ▶ BOLIVIA
- ▶ THE ENVIRONMENT
- ▶ INDIGENOUS COMMUNICATION



FESTIVAL CO-SPONSORS:

- ▶ LASA Environmental Studies Section
- ▶ LASA Film Studies Section
- ▶ Las Américas Film Network



BRAZIL / INTERNAL MIGRATION

🕒 9:00 AM

MIGRANTES
(MIGRANTS)

(Brazil, 2008) José Novaes, Francisco Alves & Claysson Vidal, dirs. 40'. Portuguese with English subtitles.

"Migrantes" retrata as condições de trabalho e vida dos trabalhadores do Nordeste nos canaviais das modernas usinas paulistas e os motivos que os levam a migrarem de suas terras para submeterem-se a um trabalho árduo, penoso, arriscado no corte da cana.

O Projeto "Educação através das Imagens" foi construído numa relação de parceria entre a Universidade com os movimentos sociais, sindicais, pastorais, ONGs, entidades governamentais. A produção de imagens fotográficas e fílmicas é vista como um recurso de investigação e - ao mesmo tempo - como um poderoso instrumento de sensibilização, de reflexão e de qualificação para intervenção social.

M Muestra / Exhibit

F Ficción / Fiction

A documentary if not otherwise indicated / Documental si no se indica

🕒 9:45 AM

EL CUENTO
DE LA DEMOCRACIA
(A TALE OF DEMOCRACY)

(Guatemala, 2008) Álvaro Revenga & Nora Murillo, dirs. 52'. Mam with English subtitles.

Every four years the tranquil pace in a Mam Mayan community is interrupted by an election process. The film is an approach to the life of a Mam community as well as a critical reflection on Guatemalan political party system.

GUATEMALA / ELECTIONS



BOLIVIA / INDIGENOUS COMMUNICATION

🕒 10:45 AM

SĚĚ TI ĚĚ.
(THIS IS MY LAND)

(Bolivia, 2004) Marcelino Pinto, CEFREC, dir. 40'. Yuracaré with Spanish subtitles.

This film is an extraordinary example of CEFREC (Centro de Formación y Realización Cinematográfica) goals and methods. Marcelino Pinto, a teacher in an indigenous community in the Chapare (Bolivia), after being trained by CEFREC as a "comunicador indígena", makes this outstanding piece on the Yuracaré, who live five days away from Pinto's community. The piece informs on the life of the Yuracaré, how they negotiate their land boundaries with the colonists' union, and their doubts and distrust over how much the colonists will respect the treaties.

RELATED EVENTS - FRIDAY

- Screening of *SUMA QAMAÑA* and Q&A with IVÁN SANJINÉS, CEFREC founder and director.
- Screening of *AFTER THE EGG, THE WAR & THE HANDLING OF THE CAMERA*
- Q&A with VINCENT CARELLI, founder and co-director of *Video nas Aldeias*.

**IBERMEDIA / FRANCISCO LOMBARDI
FILM STUDIES**

🕒 11:30 AM



LATIN AMERICA IN CO-PRODUCTION



(United Kingdom, Peru, 2007) Libia Villazana, dir. 46'. Spanish with English subtitles.

A journey through the conditions of international film production involving Latin American countries. It follows the case of the Spanish-Peruvian film *Mariposa Negra* (Francisco Lombardi, 2006) to unravel and expose what is behind the scenes in these types of co-productions. In so doing, it discloses some of the practices of Ibermedia, a leading institution that offers financial support to film production in Latin America.

CHILE / MEDIA

🕒 12:20 PM

**EL DIARIO DE AGUSTÍN
(AGUSTIN'S JOURNAL)**

(Chile, 2008) Ignacio Agüero, dir. 80'. Spanish with English subtitles.

The film follows a group of young journalists from Universidad de Chile, who research Chilean major newspaper, *El Mercurio*, and its involvement in human rights abuses during Pinochet's regime. The group investigates *Mercurio's* news manipulation to conceal the government applied terror from 1967, (year when students form the Catholic University in Santiago unravel the banner: "*El Mercurio miente*", "*El Mercurio lies*," at the university main building façade), until year 2000, when the newspaper celebrated its 100 years in business.



URUGUAY / MEMORIA

🕒 1.45 PM



**EL CÍRCULO
(THE CIRCLE)**

(Uruguay, 2008) José Pedro Charlo & Aldo Garay, dirs. 92'. Spanish with English subtitles.

Tupamaro leader and prisoner hostage for thirteen years during the Uruguayan dictatorship, Henry Engler endured prolonged torture and confinement, which led to mental disorder. Today he is a Swedish citizen renowned for his research into Alzheimer disease. The film brings together testimonies from a group of Engler's friends who shared this brutal captivity with him.

🕒 3.20 PM

MEXICO / INTERNAL MIGRATION

**PAYING THE PRICE: MIGRANT WORKERS
IN THE TOXIC FIELDS OF SINALOA**

(Mexico, 2008) Chiapas Media Project/Promedios. 35'. Spanish with English subtitles.

The film examines the impoverished lives of migrant workers from the town of Ayotzinapa, Guerrero. We follow them from their community to their lives as migrant workers in a large Sinaloa agribusiness camp, Buen Año, where they picked exotic Chinese vegetables for export to the US and Canada. We see the hardships faced by these workers in their community of origin, largely abandoned by the local and state governments, and the inhumane and slave-like working conditions they encounter in Buen Año.



BOLIVIA / EVO MORALES

🕒 4:00 PM



**HUMILLADOS Y OFENDIDOS
(HUMILIATED AND AFFRONTED)**

(Bolivia, 2008) Javier H. Álvarez, César Brie & Pablo Brie, dirs. 44'. Quechua with Spanish subtitles.

On May 24th 2008, in Sucre city, *Bolivia*, a group of indigenous peasants, who had come from their various communities to welcome president Evo Morales, were humiliated and affronted by violent organized government opponents. The film presents an outstanding document of the racist civil confrontation in contemporary Bolivia.

🕒 4:50 PM

ARGENTINA / LITERATURE / TANGO

**FERRER, TANGAMENTE
(FERRER, THE TANGO WAY)**

(Argentina, 2008) Juan Pablo Méndez, dir. 25'. Spanish with English subtitles.

For more than fifty years, this Uruguayan has been one of the most important protagonists in tango history. His life, his relationship with Astor Piazzola, his master interpretation in the Tango Opera "María de Buenos Aires", and his account of how he composed one of the most emblematic songs of contemporary tango "Balada para un loco," are some of the stories narrated by the tango master in this documentary produced by Telesur and Nocauf Films.



M Muestra / Exhibit

F Ficción / Fiction

A documentary if not otherwise indicated / Documental si no se indica

VENEZUELA / UTOPIA-POST-UTOPIA

🕒 5:20 PM



**POSTALES DE LENINGRADO
(POSTCARDS FROM LENINGRAD)**

F

(Venezuela, 2007) Mariana Rondon, dir. 90'. Spanish with English subtitles.

During the leftist uprising in the 1960s in Venezuela, a young guerrilla, living in secrecy, gives birth to her first daughter on Mother's Day. Due to that, her photos appear in the newspaper; from that moment they are forced to run away. Hidden places, false disguises and names are part of this young girl's daily life. Alongside with her cousin, they re-live the adventures of their guerrilla parents, building a labyrinth filled with superheroes and strategies, where no one knows where the reality or the madness began. However, this children's game does not hide the deaths, tortures, denunciations and treasons within the guerrillas. The kids want to convert themselves into The Invisible Man in order to escape from the danger. However, they know that their parents might never come back and therefore, they'll only receive Postcards from Leningrad.

SPECIAL EVENT

Q&A with director MARIANA RONDON

PERU / POPULAR ORGANIZATION

🕒 9:00 AM

TAMBOGRANDE: MANGOS, MURDER, MINING



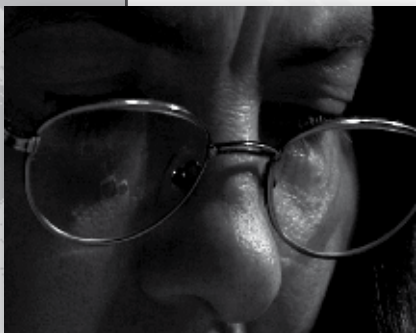
(USA/Canada, 2006) Ernesto Cabellos & Stephanie Boyd, dirs. 85'. Spanish with English subtitles.

In 1999, the residents of Tambogrande, in Northern Peru, learned that Fujimori's government had secretly granted mining concessions on their land to the North American corporation, Manhattan Mineral. The company's plans for an open-pit gold mine involved relocation of roughly half of the town's residents and contamination of the soil and ground water. The film traces the history of the region, including the pioneering efforts of mango farmer Godofredo García Baca.



🕒 10:30 AM

ARGENTINA / TESTIMONIO / MEMORIA



PALABRAS (WORDS)

(Argentina, 2008) Ana María Mohaded, dir. 21'. Spanish with English subtitles.

This is a testimonial piece by a victim of last military dictatorship in Argentina, who spent seven years in various concentration camps and prisons. After declaring against Luciano Bejámín Menéndez, who commanded the army's Third Corps during much of the military regime, Ana María Mohaded, filmed this testimony. She was motivated

by members of the support team, who accompanied witnesses, victims and complainants, to bring forward something personal that the group would be willing and could openly share in public. This is Mohaded's contribution to the exhibit organized by the support team.

BOLIVIA / POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

🕒 10:55 AM

SUMA QAMAÑA – SUMAK KAUSAY TEKÓ KAVI (FOR A BETTER LIFE)

(Bolivia, 2008) Colectivo CEFREC-CAIB. 55'. Spanish, Quechua & Aymara with Spanish subtitles.

This documentary traces back the "Proceso Constituyente" from its origins, in 2002, to the momentous national deliberation to reform the Bolivian Constitution in 2006-2007. It is an exceptional document on the goals and practice of Evo Morales' movement.

The film constitutes an excellent illustration of the work of CEFREC-CAIB (Centro de Formación y Realización Cinematográfica- Coordinadora Audiovisual Indígena de Bolivia). CEFREC trains representatives from various indigenous communities in Bolivia in film and TV, who in turn join the Indigenous filmmakers guild, CAIB.



SPECIAL EVENT

Q&A with IVÁN SANJINÉS, CEFREC founder and director, will present the project.

RELATED EVENTS

Screening of AFTER THE EGG, THE WAR & THE HANDLING OF THE CAMERA, and Q&A with VINCENT CARELLI, founder and co-director of Video nas Aldeias.

 12:15 PM

COLOMBIA / UTOPIA / POST-UTOPIA

UN TIGRE DE PAPEL
 (A PAPER TIGER)

(Colombia, 2007) Luis Ospina, dir. 114'. Spanish, Chinese & French with English subtitles.

Pedro Manrique Figueroa, pioneer of collage in Colombia, has never had a biographer for a very simple reason: his life's like an adventure novel that is both incomplete and contradictory. It's just based on fragmented reminiscences and anecdotes passed on by word of mouth. Taking Manrique Figueroa's life as a pretext, this film takes the viewer on a journey through history from the year 1934 up until 1981, when the artist mysteriously disappeared from view. The film is itself a collage, where art and politics rub shoulders, where truth and lies are placed side by side, where documentary and fiction intermingle.



ARGENTINA / WORKER'S SELF-MANAGEMENT

 2:15 PM

CORAZÓN DE FÁBRICA
 (HEART OF THE FACTORY)

(Argentina, 2008) Ernesto Ardito & Virna Molina, dirs. 52'. Spanish with English subtitles.

The film looks at a group of workers from Zanon Ceramics, in the Argentinean Patagonia, men and women, who take the factory in their own hands when the owner closes it. They re-start the factory and produce ceramics again, strictly under workers' control. During this process, the workers face a new

responsibility and enormous challenges to solve all the problems of production. In a country devastated by an economic debacle, the workers of Zanon Ceramics created two hundred new jobs. Together with 5,000 Neuquen's residents, who supported them, Zanon's workers resisted four attempts of eviction. This is the only factory in the world where the workers' self-management has been operating for more than four years.

AFRICA / MIGRATION

 3:15 PM

QUERIDA BAMAKÓ
 (DEAR BAMAKÓ)

(Burkina Faso/Spain, 2007) Omer Oke & Txali Llorente, dirs. 97'. French with English subtitles.

Moussa is a young man from Burkina Faso. He lives in the village of his birth with his parents, his family and his wife, Fatima, although he prefers to call her "Bamakó", after the capital of Mali, where the two first met. They have one baby boy, Mamadou. Driven by his duty to look after his family, and having sought advice from the elders of the village, Moussa decides to emigrate to Europe. The film accompanies him on this long journey, where he will meet up with other travellers who set out before him, and who now, at every stop and every bend in the road, will recount their own adventures and experiences, the causes of this exodus, the friends that have fallen by the wayside, the methods used to get to Spain and the life that awaits them when they reach their journey's end.



CUBA / CENSORSHIP

🕒 5:00 PM

ZONA DE SILENCIO
(ZONE OF SILENCE)

(Cuba, 2007) Karel Ducases Manzano, dir. 40'. Spanish with English subtitles.

Five important Cuban intellectuals who live in the island (Gustavo Arcos, university professor and film critic; writers Antón Arrufat and Pedro Juan Gutiérrez, writer; Fernando Pérez, film director; and Frank delgado, trovador) discuss the censorship as a social and historical occurrence, and the limitations that it has imposed on artistic creation throughout history. The subject of censorship is discussed not only in connection with Cuba, but also as a global predicament.



BRAZIL / INDIGENOUS FILM

- ▶ Two outstanding new productions from Video nas Aldeias. Established in 1987, Video nas Aldeias (VNA, Video in the Villages) is a pioneer project in the field of indigenous audiovisual production in Brazil. Since its beginnings, the project's goal has been to support indigenous peoples' struggles in order to strengthen identities and territorial and cultural heritages through audiovisual resources and a shared production with the indigenous peoples.



🕒 5:45 PM

DEPOIS DO OVO, A GUERRA
(AFTER THE EGG, THE WAR)

(Brazil, 2008) Prîara Jô, Video nas Aldeias. 15'. Panará with Spanish subtitles.

In this film, the Panará children present their universe in a play day in the village. Wartime is over, but it remains alive in the children's imagination



🕒 6:00 PM

KAHEHIJÜ ÜGÜHÜTU
(THE HANDLING OF THE CAMERA)

(Brazil, 2007) Kuikuro, Video nas Aldeias. 17', Portuguese & Kuikuro with English subtitles.

Afukaká, chief of the Kuikuro Indians from the Upper Xingu, tells how worried he is with his village's cultural changes, and explains his plan to register his people's traditions. The young Kuikuro filmmakers present their experience within this work.

SPECIAL EVENT

🕒 6:20 PM

Q&A with VINCENT CARELLI,
Video nas Aldeias founder and co-director.

 9:00 AM
BOLIVIA / INMIGRATION**LA AMERICANA**

(USA, 2008) Nicholas Bruckman, dir. 65'. Spanish with English subtitles.

The film is an intimate documentary following an undocumented immigrant's journey from Bolivia to New York City and back, as she struggles to save the life of her ailing daughter. Her unforgettable story is woven into the current immigration crisis in the United States, putting a human face on this timely and controversial issue. It is the story of a continent divided not by values, but by a physical and political barrier that separates families indefinitely, sometimes forever.

**PARAGUAY / THE CONTACT**
 10:10 AM

ENVIRONMENT

**FROM HONEY TO ASHES**
(DE LA MIEL A LAS CENIZAS)

(USA, 2008) Lucas Bessire, dir. 47'. Ayoreo & Spanish with English subtitles.

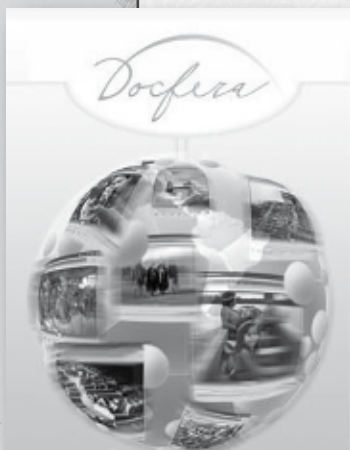
In March 2004, one of the world's last voluntarily isolated groups of hunter-gatherers walked out of the forest in northern Paraguay, fleeing ranchers' bulldozers. They formed a new village with their more settled

relatives, where they confronted the complexities of learning how to become "Ayoreo Indians" and more critically, how to survive in a rapidly changing world. This documentary portrays a divided community four months after this historical event, and their efforts to chart a collective future in a context shaped by deforestation, NGO activity, anthropologists and evangelical Christianity in the Gran Chaco.

SPECIAL EVENT
 11:00 AM
**PRESENTING
DOCFERA**

DOCFERA is a cultural and educational project aiming to become the first web platform and the largest digital archive for Latin American documentaries in the world.

Andrea Hirsch, the main ideologist behind Docfera, will explain the project (DOCFERA and DOCFERA2) and make a demonstration of the platform.


M Muestra / Exhibit

F Ficción / Fiction

A documentary if not otherwise indicated /
Documental si no se indica

PERU / MUSIC

🕒 11:25 AM


KUSISQA WAQASHAYKU
 (FROM GRIEF AND JOY WE SING)


(USA, 2008) Holly Wissler, dir. 53'. Quechua with English subtitles.

The Quechua community of Q'eros in the Andes of southeast Peru is renowned for their traditional music, weaving, and spiritual rituals that many other Andean communities no longer practice. Through personal accounts, this documentary shows the annual cycle of Q'eros musical rituals, how the Q'eros use music to express grief, and how an indigenous people adapt to urban society.

BRAZIL / CHICO MENDES

🕒 12:25 PM


CHILDREN OF THE AMAZON

(USA, 2008) Denise Zmekhol, dir. 72'. Portuguese & Indigenous language with English subtitles.

This film combines intimate interviews with a personal and poetic meditation on environmental devastation, resistance, and renewal. It follows Brazilian filmmaker Denise Zmekhol's journey to the heart of the Amazon in search of the indigenous children she photographed more than fifteen years before, among them the children of legendary rainforest activist Chico Mendes. As she travels deeper and deeper into what had once been lush forest

she encounters a world transformed by outsiders, by ranchers, and loggers. As she meets the now grown children she once photographed, Zmekhol learns what can be done to protect the Amazon, how the combined efforts of indigenous people and rubber tappers have begun to safeguard the largest rainforest on earth.

SPECIAL EVENT

*Q&A with director DENISE ZMEKHOL
& Chico Mendes' daughter, ELENIRA MENDES.*

CHILE / MEMORIA

🕒 2:00 PM


LA SOMBRA DE DON ROBERTO
 (DON ROBERTO'S SHADOW)

(Chile/Suecia, 2007) Håkan Engström & Juan Diego Spoerer, dirs. 27'. Spanish with English subtitles.

The film is a testimonial portrayal of a man who endured imprisonment under Pinochet's regime. In Chacabuco, an abandoned salt mine in Chile's Region II, Pinochet's regime set up a concentration camp. Roberto Zaldívar, who once was held captive in this camp, decides to go back to the site. Now an old man, he has laid his demons to rest and has chosen to live on his own in solitude at the camp. Stunning cinematography add to this beautiful and striking

portrait of a man in a self-imposed exile and a poignant meditation on freedom and the human condition.

MEXICO / CENTRAL AMERICA / LABOR ORGANIZING

🕒 2:35 PM



MADE IN L.A. (HECHO EN LOS ANGELES)

M

(USA, 2007) Almudena Carracedo, dir. 70'. Spanish with English subtitles.

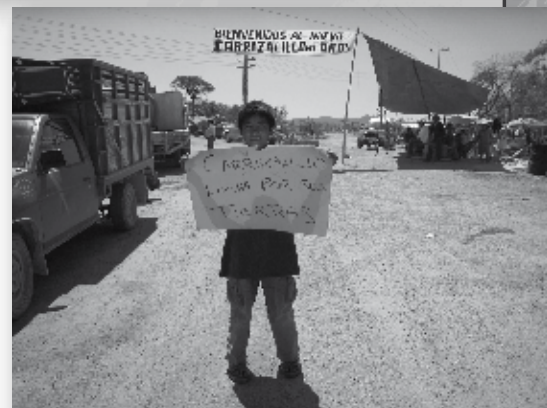
This film is an Emmy award-winning feature documentary that follows the remarkable story of three Latina immigrants (two from Mexico, and one from El Salvador) working in Los Angeles garment sweatshops, as they embark on a three-year odyssey to win basic labor protections from trendy clothing retailer Forever 21. Against all odds, these seemingly defenseless workers launch a very public challenge (a lawsuit and a boycott) to one of the city's flagship clothiers, calling attention to the dark side of low-wage labor north of the U.S.-Mexico border and revealing the social fault lines of the new globalization.

🕒 3:50 PM

A CIELO ABIERTO (UNDER THE OPEN SKY)

(Mexico, 2007) José Luis Matías Alonso & Carlos Efrain Pérez, dirs. 37'. Spanish with English subtitles.

The largest gold deposit in Mexico is found in the community of El Carrizalillo, Guerrero, but its population lives in poverty. In early 2007, community landholders organized themselves to demand from Goldcorp Mining, a Canadian transnational company, a just annual payment for the land it uses and social benefits for the community. The film is the story of a people that organized, fought and won.



MEXICO / INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE TO MULTINATIONALS

MEXICO / THE CONQUEST

🕒 4:35 PM



ERÉNDIRA IKIKUNARI

(Mexico, 2007) Juan Mora Catlett, dir. 115'. Purépecha language & Spanish with English subtitles.

This film is a beautifully shot action film that recreates the 16th century legend of Eréndira, a young Purépecha woman who became an icon of bravery during the destruction of indigenous Mexico by the Spanish conquistadors. When the Spanish arrive, they take advantage of the discord and conflict among the locals, reaping the benefits of a region divided. Eréndira, a young Purépecha woman on the verge of marriage, refuses to allow

her land to be destroyed and stands up to the social conventions prohibiting women to participate in battle. This feature length film was shot entirely in the original Purépecha language.

SPECIAL EVENT

Q&A with director JUAN MORA CATLETT