7th Annual Hispanic Forum

Light and Image:
Film in the Hispanic World

Films are part of a cultural life that we generally take for granted. However, the study of cinema offers a unique means of gaining access to cultural structures and values. Through particular aesthetic forms, film has developed an audio-visual "language" that allows it to communicate to people both as entertainment and as a powerful social commentary and critique.

For decades now, Iberoamerican filmmakers have been struggling to produce a cinema that utilizes the now-universal tools of film form, yet remains unique to the particular histories and cultures within Iberoamerica. In the midst of this struggle many films of great artistic and social merit have been produced but they have typically lacked the distribution and marketing which is so vital to this cultural production.

The Seventh Annual Hispanic Forum seeks to redress some of this imbalance and bring to light films that were not necessarily blockbusters at the box office. The Forum will stress the aesthetics of Iberoamerican films, bringing film form into conversation with cinema's broader function as a mode of cultural communication.

Photos: E Rodríguez Manguel, Cuba 2000
Wednesday
October 4
Special Evening Session
Film Screening
Room 105 Votey Hall
6:00 p.m.

Los amantes del círculo polar
Spanish with English Subtitles

The Lovers of the Arctic Circle is about two young lovers who meet as children in intensely emotional circumstances and whose lives are intertwined for the next seventeen years in moving, powerfully suggestive ways. (Directed by Julio Medem, 1998)

Film analysis—see Thursday afternoon

Thursday
October 5
Morning Sessions
Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building

10:00 Opening Remarks
Catherine Connor, Chair, UVM Dept. of Romance Languages

10:30 Brent Plate, UVM
“Fictional Factions: Documentary Films”

11:15 Anabel Martín, Emory University
“The Other Eye: Postnationalism and Basque Filmmaking in the 1990s”

Afternoon Session

1:30 Txetxu Agudo, University of Cincinnati (in Spanish)
“Entre el todo y la nada: el límite en Los amantes del círculo polar”

Evening Session
Film Screening
Room 105 Votey Hall

6:00 Fresca y chocolate
Spanish with English Subtitles

Strawberry and Chocolate is the story of a great friendship between two men: Diego and David. Diego, a teacher and a writer with a passion for art, has an anti-Castro track record. David, still in college and smirting from his girlfriend’s rejection, studies political science and places the Communist way above all else. The complex and well-developed friendship overcomes incomprehension and intolerance during the ’70s in Revolutionary Cuba. (Directed by Gutiérrez Alea, 1993)

Friday
October 6
Morning Sessions
Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building

10:30 Guido Podestá, University of Wisconsin, Madison (in Spanish)
“Cine sin teorías”
Centros del paraíso will be shown on Monday, Oct 1, as part of the Spanish/Latin American Film Series, at 7:30 pm, Room 427 Waterman.

11:15 Edna Rodríguez Manguel, UVM
“Dialectical Flavors: Strawberry and Chocolate”

Special Afternoon Session
Film Screening & Round Table L100 Lafayette Hall

1:30 Carmen Miranda: Bananas is my Business
This documentary, sprinkled with old footage, interviews, and re-enactments, explores the fascinating life of the legendary Carmen Miranda both as a star and a cultural representative of Latin America. The film examines Hollywood’s complicity in constructing and reinforcing widespread ethnic stereotypes of Latin America. (Directed by Helena Solberg, 1994)

3:00 Round Table Discussion
Led by Peggy O’Neill Vivanco, Office of International Educational Services & International Honors Program

Additional Panelists:
Brent Plate, Religion
Luis Vivanco, Anthropology

If you need additional information please contact the Department of Romance Languages
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