

Synopses - 8th Latin American and Spanish Film Week

September 19 to 24, 2017

Tuesday 19 – *When Two Worlds Collide* by Heidi Brandenburg and Mathew Orzel (Peru, 2016) – 103 min.

This documentary “offers a vivid (...) depiction of the clash between indigenous Peruvian minorities and government interests bent on ‘opening up’ protected tribal lands to multinational-corporation mining, drilling and clear-cutting in the Amazon. That conflict flared into contentious, highly publicized strikes and violence in 2009, which are depicted here in on-the-ground footage shot by participants on both sides. Winner of a World Cinema documentary competition prize for best first feature at Sundance in 2016” (*Variety*).

Wednesday 20 – *Chavela* by Catherine Gund and Daresha Kyi (Mexico, 2017) – 90 min.

Through its lyrical structure, *Chavela* will take viewers on an evocative, thought-provoking journey through the iconoclastic life of game-changing Costa Rican-Mexican singer Chavela Vargas. Centered around never before seen interview footage of Chavela shot 20 years before her death in 2012, it is guided by the stories in Chavela’s romantic ballads, and the myths and tales others have told about her, as well as those she spread about herself. The documentary weaves an arresting portrait of a woman who dared to dress, speak, sing, and dream her unique life into being.

Thursday 21 – *Neon Bull* [Boi Neon] by Gabriel Mascaro (Brazil, 2015) – 101 min.

Wild, sensual and utterly transporting, Brazilian writer-director Gabriel Mascaro’s second fiction feature unfolds in Northeastern Brazil within the world of the *vaquejada*, a traditional exhibition sport in which cowboys try to pull bulls to the ground by their tails. Seen through the eyes of Iremar, a handsome cowboy who works the events, it features a ragtag band of labourers, a makeshift but close-knit family. While he's not afraid to get his hands dirty, Iremar is not your typical cowboy: he has a romantic heart and a penchant for designing outfits for women. *Neon Bull* premiered at the 72nd Venice International Film Festival and won the Special Jury Prize in the Horizons section.

Friday 22 – *No Place Like Home* [El patio de mi casa] by Carlos Hagerman (Mexico, 2015) – 89 min.

What will become of us when our parents grow old? Carlos Hagerman faces this question by creating a loving portrait of his own parents, Oscar and Doris, who for many years have worked providing education opportunities in rural Mexico. Now, it's the time for the takeover by

Enedino and Isabel, two indigenous youngsters that have followed their steps. *No Place Like Home* is a moving reflection on family, friendship, and the possibilities to transform life through learning and teaching.

Saturday 23 - *Rara* by Pepa San Martín (Chile, 2016) – 92 min.

Sara and her younger sister live with their divorced mother, whose new partner is a woman. Everyday life for the four of them is hardly any different than it is for other families. But not everyone sees it that way – Sara’s father in particular has his doubts. As Sara’s 13th birthday approaches, she feels rather overwhelmed: her first crush, a body in the midst of changes and to top it off, conflicts over loyalty with her parents. A bittersweet family drama, *Rara* captures in endearing ways personal struggles as well as changes in today’s Chilean society.

Sunday 24 - *The Distinguished Citizen* [El ciudadano ilustre] by Gaston Duprat and Mariano Cohn (Argentina, 2016) – 117 min.

After refusing big and prestigious awards all over the world, Mr. Mantovani, a Nobel Prize winner in Literature, accepts an invitation to visit his hometown in Argentina, which has been the inspiration for all of his books. It turns out that accepting this invitation is the worst idea of his life. Expect the unexpected when you have used real people as characters in your novels! *The Distinguished Citizen* was selected as Argentina’s entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 89th Academy Awards, and selected to compete for the Golden Lion at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival, where Oscar Martínez won the Volpi Cup for Best Actor.