



LATINO FILM FESTIVAL



SCHEDULE



Friday, March 2nd (all films will include a Q&A at the end of the screening)

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: THE EMPTY CLASSROOM (El aula vacía) Student Community Center, Multipurpose Room
Directed by Flavia Castro, Mariana Chenillo, Pablo Fendrik, Carlos Gaviria, Tatiana Huezo, Lucrecia Martel, Nicolás Pereda, Eryk Rocha, Pablo Stoll, Daniel Vega, Diego Vega, Gael García Bernal / Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, El Salvador / 111 min / 2015 / Spanish and Portuguese with English subtitles



Nearly half of all young people in Latin America never finish high school. To explore this dropout crisis, creative director Gael García Bernal gathered 11 award-winning filmmakers who have created a captivating anthology of short films, both narrative and documentary. There is no easy solution to this complex issue, and each short delves into the underlying reasons, from poverty to societal traditions, that students aren't graduating. Among many issues, the short films explore the links between the dropout crisis and violence; how to identify students at risk of dropping out of school in Latin America; the lack of interest in school that is preventing students from graduating; school exclusion in indigenous communities; the not-so-typical challenges to finishing high school faced by a deaf student; the relationship between the financial cost to staying in school and its benefits; and what happens when drop out students want to go back.

12:00-2:00 pm: MADE IN BANGKOK Student Community Center, Multipurpose Room
Directed by Flavio Florencio / Mexico / 75 min / 2015 / Spanish with English subtitles



Morgana is a Mexican transgender opera singer with an unrelenting desire to combat social stigma and intolerance. Her dream is to become an opera diva and have a sex reassignment surgery. Realistically, her only chance to

make it happen, is to win a beauty/talent pageant in Bangkok and use the \$10,000 cash award to pay for the surgery. The documentary takes us with Morgana on her odyssey as she asserts her identity and place in opera's magical world.

3:30-5:00 pm: Special Live Music Performance by **DINORAH** Student Community Center, Meeting Room D



Based in Sacramento, Dinorah manages a traditional Latin American and Spanish group, Las Brujas; a salsa and blues band, Crosswinds; and performs music from all over the world as a soloist with her inseparable guitar. Dinorah is also involved in the production of shows and festivals, including Sacramento's own Annual Mariachi Festival. Dinorah has performed with legendary artists such as Stevie Wonder, Mariachi Vargas, Mariachi Sol de Mexico, Patti Labelle, Celia Cruz, and many more.

5:00-7:00 pm: **TEMPEST (Tempestad)** Student Community Center, Meeting Room D

Directed by Tatiana Huezo / Mexico / 105 min / 2016 / Spanish with English subtitles



A poignant doc by celebrated filmmaker Tatiana Huezo, *Tempest* narrates the parallel journey of two women. Mirror-like, it reflects the impact of the violence and impunity that afflict Mexico. Through their voices, we are drawn into the heart of their feelings, steeped in loss and pain, but also love, dignity, and resistance. On a normal day on her way to work, Miriam is arrested on suspicion of human trafficking. While the government reports that a criminal gang has been rounded up, in reality a group of innocent Mexicans has fallen victim to the vagaries of a corrupt system. After her detention, she is handed over to a private prison controlled by the Organized Crime, where she is forced to pay a monthly fee to remain alive. Adela works as a clown in a traveling circus. Ten years ago, her life was irreversibly transformed; every night during the show, she evokes her missing daughter, Monica.



7:00-9:00 pm: **THE COMPANION (El acompañante)** Student Community Center, Meeting Room D

Directed by Pavel Giroud / Cuba / 104 min / 2016 / Spanish with English subtitles



Set in 1988 Cuba as the government dispatched HIV patients to AIDS centers under military watch, *The Companion* narrates the unlikely friendship between a boxing champion and a temperamental patient. After failing a doping test, boxer Horacio Romero has no other choice but to serve a sentence. His fate is in Los Cocos sanatorium, where as a "companion" he is supposed to keep an eye on Daniel -the most rebellious patient in the ward. Their interests immediately collide as Daniel seeks to escape. Horacio, on the other hand, dreams about more boxing glory. For that to happen, however, he must first win this battle out of the ring...

Saturday, March 3rd (all films will include a Q&A at the end of the screening)

Films will screen concurrently in the Multipurpose Room and Meeting Room D

Student Community Center, Multipurpose Room

5:00-6:00 pm: Special Live Music Performance by **DINORAH**



It's been a long journey for award-winning Latin musician Dinorah. She performed on buses for donations in Mexico City at the age of 9, playing traditional mariachi music. She moved to Los Angeles, started the city's first all-female mariachi group and has since moved to Sacramento to embark on a career of her own.

6:00-8:00 pm: **TRANSLUCENT (Translucido)**

Directed by Leonard Zelig / Ecuador/Venezuela / 86 min / 2016 / Spanish with English subtitles



Rubén has three months to live or, probably, one year and a half with treatment. After a very complex process he decides to kill himself, before the cancer start showing symptoms. In "Translucido" we will be witnesses of his fate.

8:00-10:00 pm: THE COMPANION (El acompañante)

Directed by Pavel Giroud / Cuba / 104 min / 2016 / Spanish with English subtitles



Set in 1988 Cuba as the government dispatched HIV patients to AIDS centers under military watch, *The Companion* narrates the unlikely friendship between a boxing champion and a temperamental patient. After failing a doping test, boxer Horacio Romero has no other choice but to serve a sentence. His fate is in Los Cocos sanatorium, where as a "companion" he is supposed to keep an eye on Daniel -the most rebellious patient in the ward. Their interests immediately collide as Daniel seeks to escape. Horacio, on the other hand, dreams about more boxing glory. For that to happen, however, he must first win this battle out of the ring...

Student Community Center, Meeting Room D

4:30-6:30 pm: I THOUGHT IT WAS A PARTY (Pensé que iba a haber fiesta)

Directed by Victoria Galardi / Argentina, Spain / 84 min / 2014 / Spanish with English subtitles



Divorced and living with her teenage daughter, Lucía asks her close friend Ana to house-sit and look after her daughter while she goes away with her new partner. Ana spends her days lazing by the pool, afflicted by a deep loneliness until Ricki, Lucía's ex-husband comes to pick up his daughter and an affair that will have profound implications on her friendship with Lucía begins. Ana and Ricki throw themselves into an intense romance that lasts until the day Lucía comes back... An honest and poignant commentary on friendship, *I Thought it was a Party* is also a film about the search for love, loneliness, fear, guilt, and the world of women.

6:30-8:30 pm: BAD HAIR (Pelo Malo)

Directed by Mariana Rondón / Venezuela / 93 min / 2013 / Spanish with English subtitles



A nine-year-old boy's preening obsession with straightening his hair elicits a tidal wave of homophobic panic in his hard-working mother, in this tender but clear-eyed coming-of-age tale. Junior is a beautiful boy, with big brown eyes, a delicate frame, and a head of luxurious dark curls. But Junior aches to straighten those

curls to acquire a whole new look befitting his emerging fantasy image of himself as a long-haired singer. As the opportunity approaches to have his photo taken for the new school year, that ache turns into a fiery longing. Junior's mother, Marta, is barely hanging on. The father of her children has died, she recently lost her job as a security guard, and she now struggles to put a few arepas on the table for Junior and his baby brother. Junior doesn't even know yet what it means to be gay, but the very notion prompts Marta to set out to "correct" Junior's condition before it fully takes hold. This is a story of people doing what they feel they have to, partly out of fear, but also out of love. - Diana Vargas, Toronto International Film Festival.

8:30-10:30 pm: EVERYBODY LEAVES (Todos se van)

Directed by Sergio Cabrera / Colombia/Cuba / 107 min / 2015 / Spanish with English subtitles



Eight-year-old Nieve is the object of her parents' custody battle. Her mother, Eva, is an artist who believes in the revolution and disagrees with censorship or authoritarianism. She is re-married to Dan, a Swede working on the construction of a nuclear plant. Nieve's father, Manuel, is a playwright who sacrifices his artistic career to write government propaganda in a remote area of the country. Through her diary entries, Nieve reveals intimate details of a turbulent family life while painting an authentic portrait of the social and political unrest in Cuba under the rule of Castro.

SUPPORTED BY

