

Film Synopsis – 4th Latin American and Spanish Film Week – 2013

Tuesday Sept. 17: *Gold Fever* by J.T. Haines, Tommy Haines and Andrew Sherburne (US/Guatemala, 2013 - 84 min.)

Gold Fever witnesses the arrival of Goldcorp Inc. to a remote Guatemalan village. 500 years after the conquistadors, and still reeling from decades of U.S.-backed repression, Diodora, Crisanta and Gregoria are caught in the cross-hairs of another global frenzy for gold. Together with members of their divided community, they resist the threat to their ancestral lands in the face of grave consequences.

The screening of *Gold Fever* is possible through the support of the Mining Justice Action Committee, the Central America Support Committee, CUPE Vancouver Island District Council, and Social Justice Studies at UVic.

Wednesday Sept. 18: *Chico & Rita* by Fernando Treuba, Javier Mariscal and Tono Errando (Spain/Cuba, 2010 – 94 min.)

Chico & Rita celebrates the music and culture of Cuba with a story of love, passion and heartbreak. It is 1948: Chico is a young piano player with big dreams, Rita is a beautiful singer with an extraordinary voice. Music and desire unite them as they chase their dreams and each other from Havana to New York to Paris, Hollywood and Las Vegas. With an original soundtrack by legendary composer Bebo Valdés, *Chico & Rita* captures a defining moment in the history of jazz. Recipient of multiple awards such as Spain's Goya and an Academy Award nomination for Best Animated Film.

Thursday Sept. 19: *La revolución de los alcatrazes* [Eufrosina's Revolution] by Luciana Kaplan (Mexico, 2012 – 93 min.)

In 2007, Eufrosina Mendoza was elected president of Oaxaca's municipal council, but was denied the position because she was an indigenous woman. Instead of stopping her, this denial started her on an even bigger political career. Filmmaker Luciana Kaplan doggedly follows Eufrosina over the years as she attacks gender inequality and the lack of women's voting rights in her community, while being harassed by local government every step of the way. *Eufrosina's Revolution* is an eye-opening look at a new breed of politicians in Mexico.

Friday Sept. 20: *El Premio* [The Prize] by Paula Markovitch (Mexico/Argentina, 2011 – 99 min.)

Under the cloud of a military dictatorship, a young mother and her daughter flee Buenos Aires for the seclusion of a cottage along the windy dunes of an Argentine beach. The restless seven-year-old Cecilia joins a nearby school overseen by a kindly teacher. A childhood idyll soon becomes contaminated by the general political crisis, as the teacher recruits the class for a

patriotic essay contest sponsored by the army—the very people that may have already disappeared Cecilia’s father. A superbly acted and engrossingly atmospheric drama, *El Premio* won the Ariel, Mexico’s top cinema prize, for best film in 2012.

El Premio is co-presented by the Global Film Initiative as part of the Global Lens series. For more information, visit www.globalfilm.org.

Saturday Sept. 21: *Sagrada, el misteri de la creació* [Sagrada, the Mystery of Creation] by Stefan Haupt (Spain/Switzerland, 2012 – 89 min.)

The “Sagrada Familia” in Barcelona is a unique building project by a controversial genius, Antoni Gaudí. Who was the man who designed this cathedral? What was his driving force? Who are the workers, craftsmen, artists and architects, who continue working on the building today? Inspired by Gaudí’s vision, this documentary film shows how the edifice is growing and evolving, even today, as it has done for the past 125 years. *Sagrada* explores the history behind the cathedral, as well as our search for the meaning of existence and the nature of creativity.

Sunday Sept. 22: *Blancanieves* [Snow White] by Pablo Berger (Spain, 2012 – 104 min.)

Blancanieves is Carmen, a beautiful young girl tormented in childhood by her wicked step-mother, Encarna. Fleeing from her past, Carmen sets out on an exciting journey with her new friends: a troupe of bullfighting dwarves. Beautifully shot in black-and white, this silent film is an original take on the classic fairy tale set in southern Spain in the 1920s, packed with adventures, emotion and laughs. *Blancanieves* was Spain’s official submission to the Oscar’s Best Foreign Language category. It won ten Goya Awards including Best Film in 2012. (N.B: No bulls were hurt in the making of this movie).