

10th Latin American and Spanish Film Week

Synopses

Tuesday 17 to Sunday 22 September, 2019

*** Tuesday Sept 17: Megalodemocrat by Benjamin Duffield with Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (Mexico/Canada) – 94 min.**

The Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer is one of the most acclaimed creators working today in the visual arts. Shot over 10 years in 30 cities around the world, including Mexico City, Vancouver and New York, *Megalodemocrat* provides intimate access to his large-scale interactive installations. It follows Lozano Hemmer's breakout career producing large-scale works that entice an increasingly isolated public into transforming their cities and reconnecting with one another.

*** Wednesday Sept 18: The Heiresses (Las herederas) by Marcelo Martinessi (Paraguay, 2017) – 95 min.**

Chela and Chiquita live in Asunción, Paraguay, and have been together for over 30 years. When, due to her debts, Chiquita is imprisoned on fraud charges, Chela is forced to face a new reality. Driving for the first time in years, she begins to provide a local taxi service to a group of elderly wealthy ladies. She settles into her new life and encounters the much younger Angy, forging an invigorating new connection. She finally begins to break out of her shell and engage with the world, embarking on her own personal, intimate revolution. *The Heiresses* was selected to compete for the Golden Bear in the main competition section at the 2018 Berlin International Film Festival, where Ana Brun won the Silver Bear for Best Actress.

*** Thursday 19: Journey to the fumigated towns (Viaje a los pueblos fumigados) by Fernando Solanas (Argentina, 2017) – 97 min.**

Solanas' film opens with a series of startling images: forests being cleared, communities displaced, herbicides used with no control... A poignant documentary by one of the most important Latin American directors today, the film explores the ravages of agroindustry in Argentina. It is a condemnation of state-sanctioned environmental crimes committed by industrial enterprises, but it also explores ways in which we can break out of the vicious circle of a corrupt system in which consumers are deceived and regulation is eliminated. Do ecological alternatives have a chance?

After the show, Q & A and conversation about agroindustry and sustainable food production with **Dr. Andrew Weaver, MLA Oak Bay-Gordon Head, Councillor Nathalie Chambers (Saanich)** and **Prof. Jeremy L. Caradonna, Environmental Studies (UVic)**.

*** Friday 20: Indestructible - the Soul of Salsa (*Indestructible - el alma de la salsa*) by David Pareja with Diego El Cigala (Cuba/Spain, 2017) – 78 min.**

This documentary follows Spanish flamenco singer Diego El Cigala as he embarks on a journey to make a salsa record and discover the sources of this bewitching rhythm. With stops in Cali, Havana, San Juan, Miami and New York, *Indestructible* is a musical tour-de-force, enlisting the iconic figures of Omara Portuondo, Larry Harlow, Oscar d'León and the Fania All-Stars as our guides. Their stories are fascinating, but the backbone of this voyage is the music itself, played in studios, stages and streets by El Cigala and some of the world's finest salsa practitioners.

After the screening: **PARTY celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Film Week** at Vertigo, in the Student Union Building at the UVic campus, featuring live Latin music with Pablo Cárdenas & The West Coast Cuban All Stars.

*** Saturday 21: One Last Afternoon (*La última tarde*) by Joel Calero (Peru, 2016) – 81 min.**

After 19 years without seeing each other, two former “guerrilleros” reunite to sign their divorce papers. As Laura and Ramón revisit their shared romantic and political past, they unveil intimate secrets to finally discover who they truly are and how much their country and convictions still hurt them. *One Last Afternoon* captures the sentiment of a whole generation who believed that insurgency was the path to social justice. The film won the Audience Award and Best Actor Award for Lucho Cáceres in the 20th Lima Film Festival in 2016, and Best Director in the Ibero-American Competition at the Guadalajara International Film Festival in 2017.

*** Sunday 22: The Realm (*El reino*) by Rodrigo Sorogoyen (Spain, 2018) – 121 min.**

The Realm is an enthralling political thriller set in contemporary Spain. Manuel (Antonio de la Torre), an influential regional vice-secretary who had everything in his favour to take the leap into national politics, becomes trapped in a struggle for survival after a leak involves him in a corruption scandal. In 2019 *The Realm* was awarded seven Goyas, Spain's highest film honour, including best director and best male protagonist.