

2501 Migrants: A Journey



SUN / 3/14 / 6:30PM / S1

Dir. Yolanda Cruz
(2009, 57 min., Mexico, Spanish w/ English Subtitles)

When artist Alejandro Santiago returned to Mexico after living in France for several years, he discovered that his home town of Teocuilco was a virtual "ghost town." Like many others in the area, it had been abandoned by thousands of migrants who travel north in search of work. Inspired by this, he decided to embark on an ambitious project - to repopulate the town with 2,501 life-size ceramic figures representing each of the absent villagers.

Beauty of the Fight

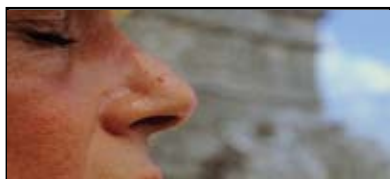


SUN / 3/14 / 7:30PM / S3

Dir. John Urbano
(2009, 69 min., USA/Panama, English & Spanish w/ Subtitles)

Photographer and filmmaker John Urbano explores, with intimate and devastating imagery, two historic barrios of Panama: Bar-raza and El Chorrillo, which suffered heavy losses when the U.S. invaded in 1989 to capture General Manuel Noriega. With the barrios facing extinction due to outside private and commercial developments, Urbano renders for posterity the residents' daily struggle as well as their dignity, joy, and hope for the future.

Al Mas Alla



SUN / 3/14 / 6:30PM / S1

Dir. Lourdes Portillo
(2009, 43 min., USA, English and Spanish w/ Subtitles)

In this docu-fiction hybrid, veteran filmmaker Lourdes Portillo ("Señorita Extraviada") investigates the story of three morally corrupt fishermen who find a shipment of drugs on the shore and sell it to the local police. The film combines fictional elements (such as a documentary film crew led by a narcissistic director played by Ofelia Medina) and real interviews to show a compelling portrait of a nation losing its moral center as a result of economic pressures.

Chevolution



SUN / 3/21 / 5:00PM / S3

Dir. Dir. Luis López and Trisha Ziff
(2008, 86 min., Mexico, Spanish w/ English Subtitles)

How did the iconic image of Che Guevara end up on beer bottles and bikinis? "Chevolution" tells the story of how one photo became a symbol of leftist and disenfranchised groups across the globe, generations of subsequent protesters, and ultimately marketing gurus. Filmmakers Luis López and Trisha Ziff's thoughtful and ironic documentary investigates how the enduring symbol of Cuba's revolution skyrocketed to fame and was ultimately devoured by its own worst enemy: Capitalism. With appearances by Antonio Banderas and Gael Garcia Bernal.

As Long As I Remember: American Veterans



THURS / 3/18 / 6:00PM / S6

Dir. Laura Varela
(2009, 56 min., USA, English)

Directed by San Antonio filmmaker Laura Varela, "As Long As I Remember" examines the personal toll and legacy of the Vietnam War on three South Texas artists: visual artist Juan Farias, author Michael Rodriguez and poet/performance artist Eduardo Garza. The film takes us on a personal journey of these veterans' compelling lives - growing up in the Mexican-American community, their military service in Vietnam, their lives after the war - and examines the role art plays in the sorting of sometimes painful memories.

La Clave



SUN / 3/14 / 1:30PM / S7

Dir. Mariella Sosa
(2008, 80 min., Puerto Rico, Spanish w/ English Subtitles)

This fascinating documentary explores the similarities between two of Latin music's most popular genres: salsa and reggaeton. Featuring a veritable who's who of Puerto Rican music stars such as Willie Colón, Ismael Miranda, Tego Calderón and Julio Voltio, the film traces the evolution of these two styles to their African roots and highlights the importance of the "clave," a five-note, two-rhythm pattern, which is the backbone of all Afro-Cuban music.

Dzi Croquettes



SAT / 3/13/ 5:00PM / S3
 SUN /3/14 / 10:00PM / S7

Directed by Raphael Alvarez and Tatiana Issa
 (2009, 110 min., Brazil, Portuguese w/ English Subtitles)

This irreverent documentary by Raphael Alvarez and Tatiana Issa is an examination of the formation and influence of the all-male Cabaret group Dzi Croquettes. Banned under Brazil's harsh military dictatorship of the 1970s, Dzi Croquettes performances openly mocked the regime, and challenged traditional social concepts of homosexuality and personal freedom, achieving global influence in the theater and art world.

El Informe Toledo



SUN / 3/14/ 5:00PM / S3

Dir. Albino Alvarez
 (2009, 87 min., Mexico, Spanish w/ English Subtitles)

Inspired by Franz Kafka's "Report For an Academy," renowned Mexican painter Francisco Toledo made fifteen famous drawings which provide the narrative thread of this insightful cinematic portrait. The paintings are a surreal combination of his self-portrait and Kafka's protagonist, a red monkey who metamorphosizes into a middle-class European man. The film similarly combines art and history to trace the evolution of Toledo as a crusader for social justice and cultural preservation.

El General



SAT / 3/20 / 5:00PM / S3

Dir. Natalia Almada
 (2009, 83 min., Mexico, Spanish w/ English Subtitles)

Filmmaker Natalia Almada is the great-granddaughter of Mexican president Plutarco Elias Calles (1924-1928), one of Mexico's most controversial revolutionary figures. Accused of having been a "dictator", "iron man" and "nun-burner," while also considered by some to be the "father of modern Mexico," "El General" is a portrait of a family and a country under the shadow of the past. Almada goes on a personal journey to reconcile her family's legacy with her own progressive ideology. Winner of Best Documentary Director at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival.

Immigrant Nation! A Human Right Struggle of the New Millennium



TUES / 3/16/ 6:00PM / S6

Directed by Esau Meléndez
 (2009, 105 min., U.S.A., in English & Spanish w/ Subtitles)

"Immigrant Nation" interweaves the stories of individuals, organizations, activists, and community leaders united by a passion and concern for justice. Highlighting the story of Elvira Arellano, a single mother from Chicago who fought her own deportation, the film underscores the opposition to the controversial HR4437 immigration bill, as well as the ongoing struggle for comprehensive immigration reform.

Imaginadores



MON / 3/15 / 6:00PM / S6

Directed by Daniela Fiore
 (2008, 83 min., Argentina, in Spanish w/ English Subtitles)

"Imaginadores" is the first documentary ever produced to explore the history of comic books in Argentina and their incredible appeal. Artfully constructed, the film weaves insightful interviews with some of the country's most popular illustrators with actual animated vignettes of their work to reveal the limitless possibilities of the fantasy genre, often referred to as the "ninth art." A must for comic book fans or anyone interested in the creative process.

Mi Vida Con Carlos



SAT / 3/20 / 6:00PM / S6

Dir. Germán Berger-Hertz
 (2009, 83 min., Chile/Spain, Spanish w/ English Subtitles)

German Berger-Hertz's second feature film (gorgeously shot on 35mm) is the journey of a son trying to learn the truth father, who was killed in 1973 in Pinochet's Chile. Personal, poetic, and often suspenseful, the film chronicles the events that brought Pinochet to power and the suffering that his family endured as a result. Berger-Hertz has created a powerful cinematic document that reveals not only the horrors of his country's past but also his own.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

Sons of Cuba

SUN / 3/21 / 1:00PM / S6

Dir. Andrew Lang
 (2009, 88 min., Cuba, Spanish w/ English Subtitles)

The Havana Boxing Academy is a Cuban boarding school that takes 9 year-old boys and turns them into the best boxers in the world. "Sons of Cuba" follows the stories of three young hopefuls through eight dramatic months of training as they prepare for the biggest event of their lives: Cuba's National Boxing Championship for Under-12's. But during the season, crisis strikes: Fidel Castro is taken ill, and some of Cuba's Olympic boxing champions defect to the USA, leaving the country at a crossroads, and the boys contemplating a changing world.

Titón, de La Havana a Guantanamera

SUN / 3/14 / 3:30PM / S6

Dir. Mirtha Ibarra
 (2009, 93 min., Cuba/Spain, Spanish w/ English Subtitles)

Tomás Gutiérrez Alea is considered one of Cuba's most influential filmmakers. The director of "Memorias de Subdesarrollo" and "Fresa y Chocolate," he made over 20 features, documentaries, and shorts throughout his career, many of which are bold critiques of the social, economic, and political realities of his country after the revolution. In this love letter to "Titón," his widow Mirtha Ibarra (an accomplished Cuban actress in her own right) chronicles, from her unique vantage point, his personal life as well as the vision and skill that led him to become one of the foremost figures of what is now known as the New Latin American Cinema.

Stages

SUN / 3/21 / 3:30PM / S6

Dir. Meerkat Media Collective
 (2009, 79 min., USA, English)

In New York City's changing Lower East Side, a group of older Puerto Rican women and inner-city youth come together to create an original play out of the stories of their lives. Weaving together themes of immigration, evolution, aging and coming of age, "Stages" offers an intimate portrait of an unlikely ensemble, transformed by the liberating power of their own stories. A rare feat in non-fiction filmmaking, the film was directed by twelve members of New York City's Meerkat Media Collective.

The Tijuana Project

SAT / 3/13 / 3:30PM / S6

Dir. John Sheedy
 (2009, 61 min., USA., Spanish w/ English Subtitles)

This compelling film turns an unflinching eye on the people who pick through the trash at the Tijuana garbage dump to survive - a community that Mother Teresa once described as "one of the world's most destitute." The story follows the lives of six children who, despite their circumstances, manage to thrive thanks to education, friendship, and family.

SUNDAYS @ 4 PM ON myTV13



Daisy Fuentes



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