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HIGH TO HOST 24TH ANNUAL LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

September 25 – October 31, 2009

ATLANTA, August 3, 2009 – The High Museum of Art will present the 24th annual Latin American Film Festival on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. The festival begins on September 25 and runs through October 31, 2009, and features outstanding recent cinema from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Uruguay. Its twelve films represent the best in comedy, drama, thriller and documentary in Latin American film today, including the award-winning films “That’s It,” “Lion’s Den” and “Ballroom.”

The 24th annual Latin American Film Festival is sponsored by LAPT.V. Program enrichment is made possible by a gift from Julie and Jerry Chautin. The Festival Program Consultant is Sandro Fiorin of FiGa Films.

“The High is excited to present its 24th year of the Latin American Film Festival as we continue to offer patrons a series deep in quality and breadth,” said curator of media arts Linda Dubler. “With our festival program consultant Sandro Fiorin, we have created a program that reflects the diverse film culture of Latin America. While themes of social and political justice are key with ‘Oblivion’ and ‘Lion’s Den,’ this year’s films are fascinating in their exploration of young people who are just discovering love and finding themselves, as well as elders for whom life still holds revelations and wonders.”

The Latin American Film Festival opens Friday, September 25, with “Insignificant Things.” Andrea Martinez’s ensemble cast offers up redemption in the small things that happen in daily life. This slice-of-life story set in Mexico City is a delicate and finely observed drama exploring the themes of forgiveness, mortality and both familial and romantic love. An opening-night reception sponsored by the Consulate General of Mexico in Atlanta will follow the screening in the lower lobby of the Promenade II building, located at 1230 Peachtree St. *This film is in Spanish with subtitles.*

Showing on Saturday, September 26, “Oblivion” is a humorous, biting and humanistic film by Hedy Honigmann. This film was praised by the International Film Critics Federation for its “poetical and Chaplinesque vision of the resilience of humanity.” An ode to Peru’s people who have been plundered by the powerful, the film is a song for the powerless who resist being consigned to oblivion. *This film is in Spanish with subtitles.*

On Friday, October 2, “Intimacies of Shakespeare and Victor Hugo” is a film by Yulene Olaizola. The film centers on the relationship that she and her maid Florencia had for many years

with a strange, artistic young man named Jorge Rios, who roomed in her home. Evoking the gothic atmosphere of a Tennessee Williams tale, this real-life mystery uses what *Variety*'s Robert Koehler called "a placid, inviting style" to present "an everyday look into the bizarre." *This film is in Spanish with subtitles.*

"That's It," on Saturday, October 3, is the set up for 21-year-old director Matheus Souza's fresh romantic comedy about twenty-somethings falling in and out of love. Channeling mumblecore style by using digital video, seemingly improvised dialogue, non-professional actors and pop-cultural references, Souza's film is rooted in Generation Y. Directed with surprisingly heart-warming sincerity, "That's It" won the Audience Award for Best Film at the 2008 Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo Film Festivals. *This film is in Portuguese with subtitles.*

Showing on Friday, October 9, "The Good Life," from director Andres Wood, won Spain's Goya Award for Best Spanish Language Foreign Film in 2009. The moving drama, set in present-day Santiago, is the story of four characters whose lives cross during a search for their visions of the good life. *This film is in Spanish with subtitles*

On Saturday, October 10, "The Window," from director Carlos Sorin, centers on 80-year-old Antonio, who, after a vigorous life, awaits what will probably be a final visit from his estranged son. He sees light and life, the past, the present and intimations of the future—a vision so compelling that he sneaks past his caregivers to take what might be a last walk in his fields. Through Antonio's foray into both the corners of his own memory and the world beyond his shadowy room, Sorin evokes the elegiac and pastoral spirit of Ingmar Bergman's "Wild Strawberries." *This film is in Spanish with subtitles.*

In "Lion's Den," showing on Friday, October 16, Pablo Traper crafts a dark meditation on familial relationships and a searing critique of Argentina's judicial system. Shot on location in a number of Argentinean penitentiaries and featuring many non-actors in supporting roles, the film tells the story of Julia, a 25-year-old student incarcerated for committing a murder she can't remember. Martina Gusman, playing Julia, won the International Film Critics' FIPRESCI award for Best Actress at the Palm Spring International Film Festival; the film was also nominated for the Palm D'Or at Cannes in 2008. This film is not appropriate for children. *This film is in Spanish with subtitles.*

Showing on Saturday, October 17, Gabriel Medina's "The Paranoids" is a deadpan comedy centered on Luciano, a hangdog twenty-something whose life is defined by his endless anxieties. His paralyzing angst is inspiring to Manuel, a smooth-talking producer who has launched a successful Spanish television series based on his friend's miseries. To complicate matters, Manuel's insomniac girlfriend Sofia starts crashing at Luciano's place, and the stage is set for a very neurotic romance. *This film is in Spanish with subtitles.*

Showing on Friday, October 23, "Café de los Maestros," directed by Miguel Kohan, is a valentine to the elder statesman of Argentina's treasured musical form, the tango. Kohan unites talented musicians for a magnificent performance at the famed Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires and captures the gentlemen as they rehearse and reminisce. *This film is in Spanish with subtitles.*

On Saturday, October 24, Mariana Chenillo's "Nora's Will" is a poignant, understated comedy about the legacy that Nora, a longtime sufferer of depression, leaves her loved ones when, after many suicide attempts, takes enough pills to end her life right before Passover. Mariana Chenillo's first feature, loosely based on her own family history, won audience awards at the Morelia, Miami and Cine Las Americas film festivals. *This film is in Spanish and Hebrew with subtitles.*

Showing on Friday, October 30, "Ballroom" is the story of love and life unfolding in one of São Paulo's most popular ballrooms. Director Laís Bodanzky's finely acted ensemble film introduces us to a cast of diverse characters and features a fabulous soundtrack with performances by singers Elza Soares and Marku Ribas. The film won the Audience and Best Director awards at the Brasilia Film Festival. *This film is in Portuguese with subtitles.*

In "Ocean," showing on Saturday, October 31, Russian filmmaker Mikhail Kosyrev-Nesterov mixes operatic emotion, realist acting and a fearlessly inventive visual style in an ode to Cuba and its people. The action alternates between a small fishing village that is home to a protective mother and her three sons, and Havana, a metropolis where the eldest son believes any dream can come true. As its title suggests, "Ocean" explores the fluid, fierce undertow of passion and ties it to an edenic tropical landscape whose beauty is as intoxicating as a first kiss. *This film is in Spanish with subtitles.*

Film Series Schedule

All films are screened at 8 p.m. in the Richard H. Rich Theatre, *unless otherwise noted. The Richard H. Rich Theatre is located in the Memorial Arts Building, adjacent to the High at Peachtree and 15th Streets in midtown Atlanta. All films are in their original language with English subtitles. Most films are for mature audiences. Please contact us at highfilm@woodruffcenter.org if you have questions about whether or not a film is appropriate for children.

"Insignificant Things" / "Cosas Insignificantes"
Friday, September 25

"The Window" / "La Ventana"
Saturday, October 10

"Oblivion" / "El Olvido"
Saturday, September 26

"The Lion's Den" / "Leonera"
Friday, October 16

"Intimacies of Shakespeare and Victor Hugo" / "Intimidades de Shakespeare y Victor Hugo"
Friday, October 2

"The Paranoids" / "Los Paranoicos"
Saturday, October 17

"Café de los Maestros"
Friday, October 23

"That's It" / "Apenas O Fim"
Saturday, October 3

"Nora's Will" / "Cinco Dias Sin Nora"
Saturday, October 24

"The Good Life" / "La Buena Vita"
Friday, October 9

"Ballroom" / "Chega de Saudade"

Friday, October 30

“Ocean”
Saturday, October 31

Organization and Support

The 24th Latin American Film Festival is sponsored by LAPTV. Program enrichment is made possible by a gift from Julie and Jerry Chautin. The Festival Program Consultant is Sandro Fiorin of FiGa Films. 35mm projection facilities in the Rich Auditorium were provided by a gift from George Lefont.

Tickets

Please note that LAFF films sell out early and advance purchasing is advised. Tickets are \$7 for the public and \$6 for Museum members, students and seniors. Patron-level members enter free. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.High.org, by visiting the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office or by calling 404-733-5000. Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the night of the screening. Phone and internet orders will incur a \$1-per-ticket service fee.

The public may call the High’s film hotline at 404-733-4570 for up-to-the-minute information about visiting directors, receptions, changes or cancellations. The museum’s website is www.High.org

High Museum of Art

The High Museum of Art, founded in 1905 as the Atlanta Art Association, is the leading art museum in the southeastern United States. With more than 11,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High Museum of Art has an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American and decorative art; significant holdings of European paintings; a growing collection of African American art; and burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, photography and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists and is distinguished as the only major museum in North America to have a curatorial department specifically devoted to the field of folk and self-taught art. The High’s Media Arts department produces acclaimed annual film series and festivals of foreign, independent and classic cinema. In November 2005, the High opened three new buildings by architect Renzo Piano that more than doubled the Museum’s size, creating a vibrant “village for the arts” at the Woodruff Arts Center in midtown Atlanta. *For more information about the High, please visit www.High.org.*

The Woodruff Arts Center

The Woodruff Arts Center is ranked among the top four arts centers in the nation. The Woodruff is unique in that it combines four visual and performing arts divisions on one campus as one not-for-profit organization. Opening in 1968, the Woodruff Arts Center is home to the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art and Young Audiences. To learn more about the Woodruff Arts Center, please visit www.woodruffcenter.org.

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