

melbournefilmoteca.org



2008 Melbourne

Latin American

Film Festival

2008 Melbourne  
**Latin American**  
**Film Festival**

presented by

melbourne  
**filmoteca**

in association with

C I N E M A  
**NOVA**  
www.cinemanova.com.au

### TICKETS:

Session price \$14/\$11 (concession)  
Five-film pass \$60/\$45 (concession)  
Opening night \$35/\$28 (concession)  
El Cantante \$20/\$15 (concession)  
Closing Night \$20/\$15 (concession)

Buy in advance from:

Cinema Nova,  
380 Lygon St, Carlton  
www.cinemanova.com.au  
9347 5331

### MLAFF EVENTS

- THU 28 > 7.00PM **Postales de Leningrado + Opening Night Fiesta!!**  
Live music with band San Lázaro and DJ Saca La Mois.  
Nibbles, drinks, giveaways and traditional piñata bashing  
Supported by Red Island Imports. \$35 / \$28
- SAT 1 > 5pm **Secretos de Lucha**  
Q&A with director Maiana Bidegain
- SAT 1 > 7.15pm **El Cantante**  
Latin party with DjSalsabor. Supported by Gilgamesh  
Connections & Claypots. \$20/\$15
- SUN 2 > 5pm **La Segunda Conquista**  
Q&A with director Joao Duron Pereira
- SUN 2 > 7.15pm **La Otra Copa**  
Q&A with Street Socceros Coach George Halkias
- MON 3 > 9.00PM **Surfing Favela**  
Closing night party with Brazilian percussion group  
Tumbarumba. Supported by Gilgamesh Connections  
& Claypots. MLAFF Creative partner. \$20/15



MLAFF Creative Partner



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## Welcome message

# 2008 Melbourne Latin American Film Festival

Since its inception in 2004 (when we showed five films over four days) the *Melbourne Latin American Film Festival* has gained a reputation for its consistently creative, entertaining, eclectic and daring programs, running the gamut of documentaries, features and shorts... as well as sell-out opening-night fiestas, special after-parties, and Q&A sessions with directors.

This year, the festival's diverse, exciting program boasts no less than 30 films from 13 countries, screening over five days. Our Festival Guest for MLAFF 2008 is French/Uruguayan director Maïana Bidegain, whose *Secrets of the Struggle* (*Secretos de lucha*) screens on Saturday 1 March (see page 10 for details).

Indeed, your main challenge with the 2008 Melbourne Latin American Film Festival will be clearing your calendar so you don't miss anything!



## POSTALES DE LENINGRADO

### POSTCARDS FROM LENINGRAD

VENEZUELA, DIR. MARIANA RONDÓN, 2006 - 93MIN  
WINNER: BIARRITZ LATIN FILM FESTIVAL

Being the daughter of a guerrilla in 1960s Venezuela isn't easy: just ask la Niña, narrator of *Postales de Leningrado*. Together with her cousin Teo, she copes with her clandestine life by reinventing it as a game of childish make-believe and super-heroes. However, sometimes reality impinges, and la Niña's fantasy world is threatened by uncertainty and fear.

Spanish with English subtitles  
**Opening Night Fiesta!**

## GUNNAMATTA

AUSTRALIA, DIR. CARLO IACOVINO, 2006 – 10MIN

Over the past 30 years the once pristine Gunnamatta beach has been reduced to a toxic wasteland by the daily dumping of 450 million litres of waste water on the shoreline. This short film shows the environmental disaster affecting Port Phillip Bay and its surroundings.

English

Introduction by the director of the film, Carlo Iacovino



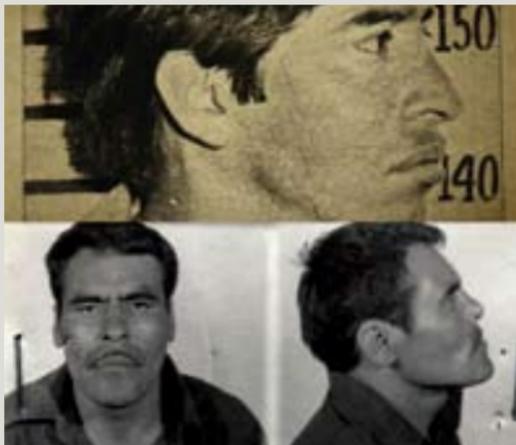
## SURFING FAVELA

BRAZIL, DIR. NATALIA BACALINI/MAXIMILIANO EZZAOUI, 2006 – 59MIN

In Rio de Janeiro's infamous favelas (shantytowns), residents must contend with violence, drug gangs and corruption on a daily basis. To defy such entrenched, overwhelming environmental challenges takes great courage and strength of will. *Surfing Favela* reveals how a group of young faveladwellers take up surfing instead of crime, and find freedom and inspiration in the process.

Portuguese with English subtitles





## LADRONES VIEJOS - LEYENDAS DEL ARTEGIO

### OLD THIEVES: LEGENDS OF ARTEGIO

MEXICO, DIR. EVERADO GONZÁLEZ, 2007 – 97MIN

WINNER: GUADALAJARA MEXICAN FILM FESTIVAL

Until recently, petty theft in Mexico City was an occupation subject to strict codes of honour, non-violence, even artistry. Efrain Alcaraz, this documentary's charming protagonist, is considered King of the Zorreros, and famed for burgling the President's home in the 1970s. *Los Ladrones Viejos* will challenge your notions of good and bad, law and justice.

Spanish with English subtitles



## EL CANTANTE

### THE VOICE

USA/PUERTO RICO, DIR. LEON ICHASO, 2007 – 116MIN

This long-awaited biopic about Puerto Rican salsa legend Héctor Lavoe doesn't disappoint. A tale of talent, fame and tragic self-destruction, *El Cantante's* got the lot: scorching music and wild concerts... adulation and excess...dizzying highs and crushing lows – all set against the vivid historic backdrop of New York in the 60s, 70s and 80s.

English and Spanish (with English subtitles)

## MI VIDA DENTRO

MY LIFE INSIDE

MEXICO, DIR. LUCIA GAJÁ, 2007 – 120MIN

In 1999, a young Mexican woman named Rosa migrated illegally into Texas, in search of a better life. In 2003, she was arrested on suspicion of murder and, in 2005, imprisoned for a term of 99 years. *Mi Vida Dentro* exposes the precarious reality of Mexican migrants in the US, and the discrimination, isolation and powerlessness they experience.

Spanish with English subtitles



## COCALERO

COCA FARMER

BOLIVIA/ARGENTINA, DIR. ALEJANDRO LANDES, 2007 – 94MIN

*Cocalero* offers an insight into the exciting political changes afoot in Latin America, as it follows Evo Morales' historic bid to become Bolivia's first indigenous president. A powerful portrait of a charismatic, down-to-earth and determined Aymara Indian, who – backed by a troop of coca-farmers – challenges US interference and proposes a sweeping new socialist order.

Spanish with English subtitles





## **MALDITO: O ESTRANHO MUNDO DE JOSÉ MOJICA MARINS**

**COFFIN JOE: THE STRANGE WORLD OF JOSÉ MOJICA MARINS**

**BRAZIL, DIR. ANDRÉ BARCINSKI & IVAN FINOTTI, 2001 – 65MIN**

What goes on in the mind of a cult horror director? What inspires him to come up with gleefully gruesome scripts where no taboo is sacred, no storyline too revolting? This fascinating documentary gives us a glimpse into José Mojica Marins' strange world, while reminding us that true creativity will always find expression, even under a repressive political regime.

Portuguese with English subtitles

## **A MEIA-NOITE LEVAREI SUA ALMA**

**AT MIDNIGHT I'LL TAKE YOUR SOUL**

**BRAZIL, DIR. JOSÉ MOJICA MARINS, 1964 - 84MIN**

Warning: this film may offend! Zé do Caixão (Coffin Joe) is a creepy undertaker with a penchant for wearing a top hat, a cape and long fingernails. He's also desperate to father a child, and heaven help anyone who stands in his way... A trippy, freaky horror classic, made on a budget that would barely get you a choc bomb these days!

Portuguese with English subtitles

## BROTHERHOOD

HERMANDAD

AUSTRALIA/COLOMBIA, DIR. LAURA MORA, 2006 – 18MIN

Shot on location in Melbourne's housing commission flats in striking black and white, *Brotherhood* is the story of Syed and Ali, two Australian brothers of Middle Eastern background. Syed, passionate about music and street poetry, finds himself forced to take on the pain of those around him – his mum's suffering, his community's problems and Ali's heroin addiction.

English

## NGATAHI: KNOW THE LINKS

NEW ZEALAND, DIR. DEAN HAPETA, 2003 – 80MIN

OFFICIAL SELECTION SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

In this vibrant "rapumentary", New Zealand musician Dean Hapeta explores how hip-hop has been embraced by indigenous and marginalised people worldwide as a means of communicating their stories and struggles. From Jamaica, Cuba and Colombia to Australia and Hawaii, *Ngatahi* is testament to the universal power of music. Streetwise philosophy set to a hip-hop beat!

Spanish (with English subtitles), English





## THE PIER

EL MUELLE

ARGENTINA/AUSTRALIA, DIR LEANDRO PALACIO, 2007, 5 MIN

Directed by Filмотека's own Leandro Palacio, and filmed in evocative Super-8, *The Pier* is a love story set on one of Melbourne's most beloved landmarks, St Kilda Pier.

Introduction by the director of the film, Leandro Palacio



## PORNO

PORNO

ARGENTINA, DIR. HOMERO CIRELLI, 2006 – 86MIN

The title says it all. A bunch of people head to the countryside to make a blue movie, and *Porno* is the unflinching record of their experiences. But don't expect cheap thrills or titillation – this intriguing documentary goes beyond the explicit to give us a new and unexpected angle on an age-old pursuit.

Spanish with English subtitles

## BAJO JUAREZ: LA CIUDAD DEVORANDO A SUS HIJAS

BAJO JUAREZ: THE CITY DEVOURING HER DAUGHTERS

MEXICO, DIR. ALEJANDRA SÁNCHEZ & JOSÉ A CORDERO , 2006 – 96MIN

*Bajo Juarez* tells of the hundreds of women murdered and raped in the industrial Mexican town of Juarez, while authorities sit back and do nothing. Putting a human face on these shocking statistics, the documentary demands justice for the victims – mostly young factory workers – and their families, who refuse to be silenced by high-level corruption and apathy.

Spanish (with English subtitles), English



## SECRETOS DE LUCHA

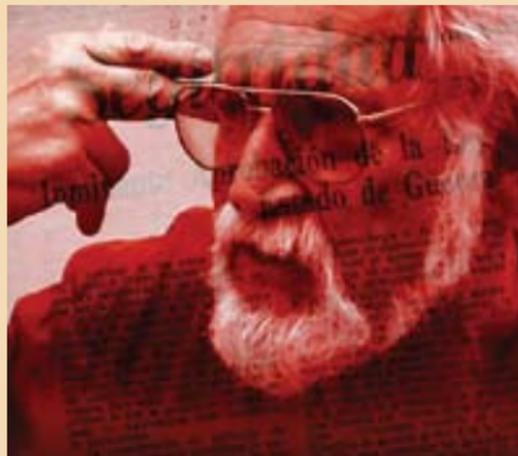
SECRETS OF THE STRUGGLE

URUGUAY/FRANCE, DIR. MAIANA BIDEGAIN, 2007 – 85MIN

A young woman seeks to understand her family history and lift the veil of silence that hangs over the darkest years of Uruguay's military dictatorship. Tracing her father's journey from French Basque country to South America, Maiana Bidegain shares with us an intimate family portrait and a compelling account of courage and struggle against oppression.

Spanish, French with English subtitles

Introduction by the director of the film, Maiana Bidegain and Q&A session





## JUDIOS EN EL ESPACIO

JEWIS IN SPACE

ARGENTINA, DIR. GABRIEL LICHTMANN, 2005 - 89MIN

When an eccentric, dysfunctional Jewish family comes together in Buenos Aires to celebrate Passover, you know you're in for a fun night! This quirky, affectionate comedy treats us to all the human foibles and frailties associated with a rellie bash - the petty rivalries, the grudges and suspicions, the unexpected revelations – all wrapped up in an anarchic and hilarious script.

Spanish with English subtitles

## EL CANTANTE

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English and Spanish (with English subtitles)

Party with DjSalsabor

Supported by Gilgamesh Connections & Claypots. \$20/\$15

## FINALES FELICES

### HAPPY ENDINGS

AUSTRALIA/VENEZUELA, DIR. MARCEL RASQUIN, 2005 – 19MIN

Floyd is sick of it all – the loneliness...the stupidity of others...life. In fact, death is starting to look very appealing – at least you're guaranteed some peace and quiet. So he hires a hitwoman to kill him. Little does he know that she'll be the one to teach him the value of life and love.

Spanish with English subtitles

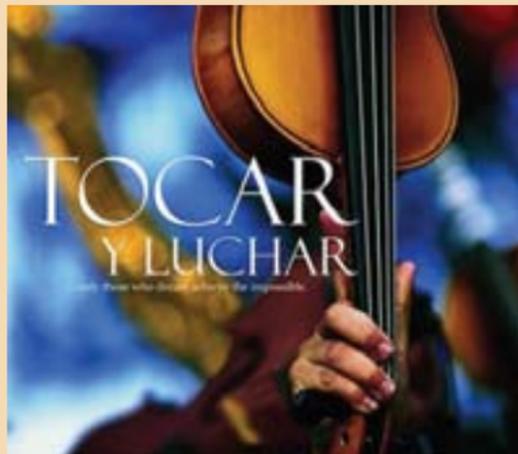
## TOCAR Y LUCCHAR

### TO PLAY & TO FIGHT

VENEZUELA, DIR. ALBERTO ARVELO, 2006 – 70MIN

"Only those who dream can achieve the impossible". *Tocar y Luchar* presents the uplifting story of the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra System, a huge network of childrens' orchestras throughout Venezuela. Designed as a modest social program to introduce rural youth to the joys of music, the system has produced some world-class musicians and inspired international acclaim.

Spanish with English subtitles





## LO MAS BONITO Y MIS MEJORES AÑOS

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF MY VERY BEST YEARS

BOLIVIA, DIR. MARTIN BOULOCO, 2006 – 97MIN

We've all heard of love triangles, right? Well, this indie gem is about a love square: two guys, a girl – and a car. Shy, lonely Berto wants to leave Bolivia to see the world – but can't afford a plane ticket unless he sells his prized 1965 VW. Accompanied by his friends Victor and Camila, Berto's efforts to sell the car make for an evocative tale of friendship, love and longing.

Spanish with English subtitles



## DRAGONES (CHILDREN'S ANIMATED FEATURE)

DRAGONS

PERU, DIR. EDUARDO SCHULDT, 2006 – 80MIN



John-John is an abandoned baby dragon who is adopted by a family of condors. Though his parents treat him the same as their other children, deep down he knows he's different. With the help of Marina, another dragon, John-John comes to terms not only with his identity but with his heroic destiny. A delightful animated feature.

Spanish with English subtitles

## EL CHACAL DE NAHUELTORO

THE JACKAL OF NAHUELTORO

CHILE, DIR. MIGUEL LITTIN, 1969 – 88MIN

Based on a real crime that shocked Chile, *The Jackal of Nahueltoro* is a damning indictment of a society that civilises only to destroy. After murdering his family, an illiterate peasant is sent to jail, where he is educated, converted to Christianity and executed. With its innovative mix of documentary and dramatic techniques, this classic film is unforgettable.

Spanish with English subtitles



## LA SEGUNDA CONQUISTA

THE SECOND CONQUEST

ARG/AUS, DIR. DENALI DEGRAF / JOAO DUJON PEREIRA – 68MIN

Patagonia: a region rich in natural resources, and home to Mapuche and non-indigenous communities who have lived in harmony with their environment for generations. Enter the multi-national corporations and corrupt government officials, intent on plundering and profiting from the land and locals be damned. Sound familiar? This alarming documentary resonates worldwide.

Spanish with English subtitles

Introduction by the director of the film, Joao Dujon and Q&A session





## LOS LABERINTOS DE LA MEMORIA

THE LABYRINTHS OF MEMORY

MEXICO, DIR. GUIYA SCHYFTER, 2007 – 95MIN

In this moving documentary, Guyta Schyfter – a Costa Rican woman of Jewish Lithuanian descent – attempts to unite an adopted Cuban woman of indigenous Mexican heritage with her biological family. Parallels with Jewish dispossession during WWII, and the director's own family's wartime experiences, soon emerge. *Los Laberintos de Memoria* combines emotive personal stories with anthropological meanderings.

Spanish, English, Yiddish, Lithuanian with English subtitles



## LA OTRA COPA

THE OTHER CUP

ARGENTINA, DIR. DAMIAN CUKIERKORN, 2006 – 88MIN

A heartwarming documentary about the first Argentinean team to compete in the Football World Cup for the homeless – *la otra copa*. Follow the players' preparations, share their expectations and dreams, and travel with them to Sweden for the tournament that will change their lives forever.

Spanish with English subtitles

Q&A with George Halkias, Coach of the Street Socceros  
Melbourne will host the 2008 Homeless World Cup

## LA PALOMILLA SALVAJE

THE SMALL WILD DOVE

MEXICO, DIR. GUSTAVO GAMOU, 2006 – 55MIN

You can't knock a bloke for trying! When a shoe-shiner, a taxi driver and their mates decide to go for broke and challenge professional cowboys in the Mexican rodeo to a competition, the result is bound to be interesting. An endearing, tragicomic documentary about pursuing one's dreams against all odds, *La Palomilla Salvaje* will move and amuse you.

Spanish with English subtitles

## ¡VIVA CHILE M...!

CHILE/USA, DIR. UWE BLESCHING & MARCIA CAMPOS, 2004 – 51MIN

Written in the tumultuous 1960s, Fernando Alegría's "*¡Viva Chile Mierda!*" was the most recited poem of the decade. Raised in the same Santiago barrio as Pablo Neruda, Alegría was a much-loved revolutionary poet and campaigner for the advancement of Latino culture in the US. This stirring documentary celebrates his rebellious spirit and enduring legacy

Spanish with English subtitles





## NUESTRA AMERICA

OUR AMERICA

NICARAGUA/SWITZERLAND, DIR. KRISTINA KONRAD, 2005 – 84MIN

“Nicaragua was the Vietnam of my generation”. Swiss director Kristina Konrad returns to Nicaragua 20 years after making a film there about the Sandinistas’ struggle against the Contras. Has the country changed much? Have the rebels mellowed in their middle age? *Our America* is an thought-provoking celebration of idealism, defiance and Ruben Dario’s poetry...

Spanish, German with English subtitles



## LA SOMBRA DEL CAMINANTE

THE WANDERING SHADOWS

COLOMBIA, DIR. CIRO GUERRA, 2004 – 94MIN

The unusual friendship between two marginalised men – one missing a leg, the other a *silletero* (a man who carries people around on his back for money) – is the focus of this unique and poetic feature. Shot in beautiful black and white, *La Sombra del Caminante* evokes Colombia’s troubled past while offering hope and redemption for the future.

Spanish with English subtitles  
35mm copy!

## S-CRASH

AUS/VEN, DIR. LINDSAY COX & VICTOR HOLDER, 2001 – 3MIN

An ambitious DJ annoys his neighbors with his loud beats. Let the battles begin! Shot on 16mm black and white. Screened at Mikrokino Film Festival, Croatia; Animac Animation Festival, Spain; and Berlin Interfilm Short Film Festival.



## THE THIRD PINT

EL TERCER VASO

DIR LUCIANO PODCAMINSKY, ARGENTINA/UK, 2006, 70 MIN

Who hasn't wished to be invisible at least once in their life? *The Third Pint* explores the freedoms and fun - as well as the conundrums - that come with invisibility. Shot entirely on Super-8, this quirky mockumentary takes the viewer on a wild, visually beautiful ride. *The Third Pint* is an exciting feature debut from Argentinian director Luciano Podcaminsky, who describes his film as "a silly story, but treated in a really serious way."

English





## COCALERO

COCA FARMER

BOLIVIA/ARGENTINA, DIR. ALEJANDRO LANDES, 2007 – 94MIN

Please refer to description on Page 6



## BROTHERHOOD

AUSTRALIA/COLOMBIA, DIR. LAURA MORA, 2006 – 18MIN

Please refer to description on Page 8

## SURFING FAVELA

BRAZIL, DIR. NATALIA BACALINI/MAXIMILIANO EZZAUI, 2006 – 59MIN

Please refer to description on Page 4

Closing night party with Brazilian percussion group Tumbarumba

Supported by Gilgamesh Connections & Claypots. \$20/15



## POSTALES DE LENINGRADO

POSTCARDS FROM LENINGRAD

VENEZUELA, DIR. MARIANA RONDÓN, 2006 - 93MIN

Please refer to description on Page 3



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