

SYDNEY LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

The logo for the 2010 Sydney Latin American Film Festival. It features the text 'SYDNEY', 'LATIN AMERICAN', and 'FILM FESTIVAL' in a bold, black, distressed font. To the right of the text is a large yellow '2010' with a diagonal slash through the '0's, and a vertical line of yellow dots to its right.

MEDIA RELEASE 28th July 2010

The 5th Sydney Latin American Film Festival opens on the 1st of September at Dendy Opera Quays.

The 2010 Sydney Latin American Film Festival – September 1st to 19th – brings over 60 fresh and exciting Latin American films to Sydney audiences, from the Rio Grande to Tierra del Fuego and the Caribbean, including many award-winners and Australian premieres.

Festival crewmember Chris Johns said that 2010 was a very special year in Latin America with Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela all celebrating the bicentenary year of Independence.

“We have an incredibly varied selection of films this year, from box-office hits to hard-hitting documentaries. But our festival is more than just eighteen nights packed with fantastic Latin American Films,” said Chris Johns. “It is a one in two hundred year fiesta!”

The festival opens on the 1st of September, at the beautiful Dendy Opera Quays, next door to the Sydney Opera House, with award-winning Argentine comedy and box-office hit *Cuestión de principios (A Matter of Principles)*. Afterwards, filmgoers are invited to the Havana Club Opening Night Fiesta at Vivaz Restaurant and Nightclub on the harbour. Headlining the evening’s music will be Aria nominated Afro Colombian Roots & Rock band **WATUSSI**, fresh from their successful South American tour.

The Australian premiere of the Chilean comedy *Ilusiones Ópticas (Optical Illusions)* opens the Western Sydney run at Casula Powerhouse, followed by food, drinks and music by the high energy Cuban band **Armandito y Su Trovason** to welcome the Festival to Western Sydney.

Festival highlights include:

- In association with **Ambulante Documentary Film Festival** – two powerful new documentaries: **El General (The General)**, winner of the Sundance Film Festival Documentary Directing Award, and **El Arbol Olvidado (The Forgotten Tree)**. **Ambulante** is a travelling film festival founded in 2005 by Mexican film stars Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal, together with producer Pablo Cruz.
- **Spotlight on Human Rights@Macquarie University** – a series of donation only screenings that includes Mexico’s submission for the Oscars **El Traspatio (Backyard)**, based on the true story of the Mexican border town Ciudad Juarez where hundreds of women have gone missing since the mid-90’s.
- For the second year running screenings at the Mu-Meson Archives, Australia’s premier underground cinema and one of Sydney’s hidden cultural gems.
- As part of the Bicentennial focus in 2010, the spotlight is cast on the dynamic Chilean and Argentine film scenes and on September 9, a traditional Mexican

The Sydney Latin American Film Festival is a volunteer run, Non Profit Organization, proceeds from the Festival are used to fund grassroots community projects in Latin America, for more information visit <http://www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org>

Fiesta will round off the city screenings. Roaming Mariachis **Hector Patricio & Fiesta Viva Trio** will entertain ticket-holders as they enjoy complementary drinks followed by the screening of the multi-award winning offbeat comedy **Crónicas Chilangas**,

- **The City Closing Night Fiesta** is just one of the many special events held at Dendy this Festival. There are also surprise Tango performances at select screenings and a very special **Gourmet Cinema** event for the Peruvian foodie film **De Ollas y Sueños (Cooking Up Dreams)**; celebrated Peruvian chef Alejandro Saravia will treat filmgoers to a taste of specially-prepared Peruvian appetisers.
- With the support of Dendy cinemas, the free **Microcinema** sessions are back this year with thought provoking films highlighting immigration and indigenous representation on film.
- Local Filmmakers will also be showcased, as they compete for our prestigious Local Filmmaker Award.
- As in previous years, the Festival welcomes audiences to Q&A panel sessions with filmmakers from Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

The Sydney Latin American Film Festival proudly continues to be a not-for-profit, 100% volunteer-run festival, with all proceeds going towards grassroots community development projects in Latin America.

The 5th Sydney Latin American Film Festival 2010 is supported by the Commonwealth through the Council on Australia Latin America Relations of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Full Festival program available at www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org

For Media Enquiries please contact: Reem Algharabali, Mobile: 0404537924
wordout@sydneylatinofilmfestival.org

Film stills and media releases available at:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/sydneylatinofilmfestival/>
<http://slaff2010.wordpress.com/>

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