



PRESS RELEASE 28 July 2010

Human Rights in Focus at Sydney Latin American Film Festival and Macquarie University - continuing femicides in Ciudad Juarez, the horrors of child mining in Bolivia, and making sense of a nation's dark past.

For the first time in its five-year history, the Sydney Latin American Film Festival teams up with **Macquarie University** for a series of film screenings followed by thought provoking panel discussions on the human rights issues.

Topping the bill is ***Backyard (Traspatio)***, Mexico's Oscar entry, a film directed by cult art house filmmaker Carlos Carrera and starring the legendary Jimmy Smits.

It tells the gripping story of Mexican police captain Blanca Bravo, who is sent to Ciudad Juarez, one of the world's most dangerous towns, to investigate the murders of hundreds of women who have gone missing since the mid-1990s. Many have been murdered, their bodies dumped in the desert around the Mexican border town. We follow Bravo on her investigation as she is exposed to the lives of the victims, and discovers a police force and local power structure that has ceased to care.

Accompanying the film is ***Ni Una Mas (Not One More)***, a short by **local filmmaker Amanda King**, documenting a march this year in Sydney on International Women's Day to raise awareness of the brutal femicide still taking place in Juarez. The session will be followed by a discussion chaired by the Macquarie University Department of International Studies.

Also part of the Human Rights screenings will be the Argentine/Bolivian film ***Child Miners (Ninos Mineros)***. Since the beginning of the Iraq War, the mineral business has been booming as a result of demand from US arms manufacturers, with children as young as nine going to work on the mines.

Tell Mario Not to Come Back (Dicele a Mario que no vuelva), tells the story of Uruguayan filmmaker Mario Handler, who returns to his native country after a long exile in Venezuela, only to sense that after so many years the dictatorship is still present in people's memory. Mario records the testimonies of the dictatorship's victims, politicians, policemen and a member of the military, evoking with poetry, humour and a sharp consciousness the precise and dense atmosphere of those dark times for Uruguay.

The issue of human rights has been central to Latin American cinema since the birth of the Third Cinema movement that spread across the continent in the 1950s and 60s. Early pioneers of the movement including Solanas & Birri (Argentina), Rocha (Brazil) and Sanjines (Bolivia) who took their film crews out to the back blocks of their countries to document the harsh realities of people living in situations of absolute poverty. Central to these films was a quest to present both truth and inspire and active response.

The **Macquarie University** sessions aim to present a selection of films in line with this tradition.

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>

Where: Macquarie University
Check our website for campus screening location.

When: Tuesday 14 September

5.00 PM *Child Miners (Ninos Mineros)*

7.00 PM *Tell Mario Not to Come Back (Decile a Mario que no vuelva)*

PANEL DISCUSSION

Wednesday 15 September

6.00 PM *Backyard (Traspatio)*

PANEL DISCUSSION

Entry by donation

Full Festival program available at www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org

For Media Enquiries please contact:
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Films stills available at:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/sydneylatinofilmfestival/>

Festival media releases available at:
<http://slaff2010.wordpress.com/>

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

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