

The Museum of Modern Art

286
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RIPSTEIN AND HERMOSILLO: FILMMAKERS

December 7 - 31, 1990

A mid-career retrospective of the works of Arturo Ripstein and Jaime Humberto Hermosillo, two independent filmmakers from Mexico, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on December 7, 1990. Ripstein and Hermosillo create challenging and universally appealing narratives that explore the complexities and tensions of Mexican culture. Continuing through December 31, RIPSTEIN AND HERMOSILLO: FILMMAKERS is presented in conjunction with the city-wide celebration MEXICO: A WORK OF ART.

Ripstein's films often revolve around small towns and Mexican families and the frequently oppressive social conditions and traditions that govern daily life. Included in the series are *The Children's Hour* (1969), the haunting story of a child left in the care of a clown; *Castle of Purity* (1972), a claustrophobic and shocking family portrait; and *The Realm of Fortune* (1985), an extraordinary tale of horror and hopelessness. His most recent work, *Love Lies*, is based on a story by Paz Alicia Garciadiego, and has its New York premiere in this series.

The son of a film producer, Ripstein was born in 1943 in Mexico City. Collaborating with such major writers as Manuel Puig and José Donoso, he has directed twenty feature films, in addition to numerous shorts and documentaries. He began his professional career as Luis Buñuel's assistant during the making of *Exterminating Angel* (1962). In 1965 he directed his

first feature, *Time to Die*, based on a screenplay by Gabriel García Márquez and Carlos Fuentes.

Hermosillo is known for his sexual farces and for works that underscore the ironies, hypocrisies, and foibles of the provincial middle class, which he depicts with gentle humor and compassion. Among the films in his retrospective are *Matinee* (1976), a devastating portrait of two children captivated by the movies; *Passion According to Berenice* (1976), the story of a young widowed schoolteacher; and *Mary My Dearest* (1979), an unsettling tale by Gabriel García Márquez. Hermosillo is best known for his delightful and unconventional comedy of manners, *Doña Herlinda and Her Son* (1985), a film depicting aspects of homosexual love. The series also features the premieres of *Bathroom Intimacy* and *Homework* (1990).

Hermosillo was born in 1942 in Aguascalientes, Mexico. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he attended the Centro Universitario, the national film school in Mexico City, where he made a number of short films. He directed his first feature in 1971. His fourth feature film, *Passion According to Berenice*, established him as a major filmmaker.

RIPSTEIN AND HERMOSILLO was organized by Adrienne Mancía, curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, in cooperation with Geoffrey Gilmore, programmer, UCLA Film and Television Archive. The program was supported in part by a grant from the Mex-Am Cultural Foundation, Inc.

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No. 115

For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.