

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
December 1994

VENEZUELA: FORTY YEARS OF CINEMA, 1950 - 1990

December 8 - 27, 1994

The first exhibition in the United States to present the rich achievement of Venezuelan film opens at The Museum of Modern Art on December 8, 1994. **VENEZUELA: FORTY YEARS OF CINEMA, 1950 - 1990** includes twenty-nine documentaries, features, works of animation, and experimental pieces, revealing a cinema that is distinctive, passionate, and socially engaged.

Realism and melodrama color many of the narratives, which treat such subjects as rural migration, the vicissitudes of urban life, folk traditions, and the national past. Remaining dynamic over time, the cinema of Venezuela is broad in stylistic range, remarkably resilient over periods of economic decline and growth, and representative of the diversity of the various regions, communities, and cities within the country.

The exhibition highlights works by three of Venezuela's best-known filmmakers, including the internationally acclaimed documentaries of Margot Benacerraf; the dramas of Romàn Chalbaud, which focus on the condition of marginality and on the underclass; and the visually expressive, experimental films of Diego Risquez, which combine figures from Latin American history, mythology, and religion. Also featured is a newly restored print of César Enríquez's *La escalinata* (*The Stairway*, 1950), a critical early work about crime in the impoverished neighborhoods surrounding Caracas.

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Solveig Hoogesteijn's *Macu, la mujer del policia* (*Macu, the Policeman's Wife*, 1987) and Mauricio Walerstein's *Con el corazon en el mano* (*With All My Heart*, 1988) grapple with jealousy and passion. Landscape and the domestic countryside play major roles in César Bolívar's fable *Juan Topocho* (*Juan Banana*, 1977) and in Luis Armando Roche's picaresque *El cine soy yo* (*The Moving-Picture Man*, 1977). Marilda Vera's *Por los caminos verdes* (*By the Green Trail*, 1984) focuses on illegal aliens in Venezuela, and Luis Alberto Lamata's *Jericó* (1990) recounts the spiritual transformation of a Dominican monk through his encounter with indigenous peoples during the Spanish Conquest of the early sixteenth century.

VENEZUELA: FORTY YEARS OF CINEMA, 1950 - 1990 was coorganized by film scholar Karen Schwartzman and Laurence Kardish, Curator, Department of Film and Video. It was made possible by the cooperation of the Fundación Cinemateca Nacional, Caracas, and its Office for International Relations and its Film Archives. Major support for this exhibition has also been provided by Consejo Nacional de la Cultura (CONAC), Centro Nacional Autonomo de Cinematografía (CNAC), and Asociación Nacional de Autores Cinematográficos (ANAC), all based in Caracas. Additional support was provided by The International Council and the Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art. The Department of Film and Video acknowledges the generous assistance of The Venezuelan Center, New York and of United Airlines.

Sunday, December 11

2:30 p.m. *Manaty/Jericó*. * * *

See Thursday, December 8, at 2:00.

5:00 p.m. *El embrujo* (*The Bewitching*)/*El cine soy yo* (*The Moving-Picture Man*).

No. 68

See Friday, December 9, at 5:00.

For further information or film stills, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

The Museum of Modern Art

Tuesday, December 13

3:00 p.m.

VENEZUELA: FORTY YEARS OF CINEMA, 1950 - 1990
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6:00 p.m.

Exhibition Schedule

Thursday, December 8

8:00 p.m.

Wanady. 1981. Armando Arce. Animation. No dialogue. 14 min.
Jericó. 1990. Written and directed by Luis Alberto Lamata. With Cósme Cortázar, Francis Rueda, Doris Díaz. In Spanish, English subtitles. 90 min.

6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 9

3:00 p.m.

La balandra Isabel llegó esta tarde (The "Isabel" Arrived This Afternoon). 1950. Carlos Hugo Christensen. With Arturo de Córdova, Virginia Luque, Tomás Henríquez. In Spanish, English subtitles. 111 min.

6:00 p.m.

El embrujo (The Bewitching). 1983. John Petrizzelli. In Spanish, English subtitles. 13 min.
El cine soy yo (The Moving-Picture Man). 1977. Written and directed by Luis Armando Roche. With Asdrúbal Meléndez, Juliet Berto, Alvaro Roche. In Spanish, English subtitles. 96 min.

8:15 p.m.

Cain adolescente (Young Cain). 1959. Written and directed by Román Chalbaud. With Carlota Ureta Zamorano, Edgard Jiménez, Orangel Delfín. In Spanish, English subtitles. 102 min.

Saturday, December 10

2:30 p.m.

Parque Central. 1992. Andrés Agustí. Vision of large urban renewal project in Central Caracas. No dialogue. 12 min.

5:00 p.m.

La escalinata (The Stairway). 1950. César Enríquez. With María Luisa Sandoval, Rubén Saaveda, Oscar Jaimes. In Spanish, English subtitles. 78 min.

5:00 p.m.

La balandra Isabel llegó esta tarde (The "Isabel" Arrived This Afternoon).
See Friday, December 9, at 3:00.

Sunday, December 11

2:30 p.m.

Wanady/Jericó.
See Thursday, December 8, at 8:00.

5:00 p.m.

El embrujo (The Bewitching)/El cine soy yo (The Moving-Picture Man).
See Friday, December 9, at 6:00.

- more -

Tuesday, December 13

3:00 p.m. *Parque Central/La escalinata (The Stairway)*.
See Saturday, December 10, at 2:30.

6:00 p.m. *Con el corazon en la mano (With All My Heart)*. 1988. Mauricio Walerstein. With María Conchita Alonso, Daniel Alvarado, Hugo Gómez. In Spanish, English subtitles. 90 min.

Friday, December 16

3:00 p.m. *Soy un delincuente (I Am a Delinquent)*. 1976. Clemente de la Cerda. With Orlando Zarramera, Chelo Rodríguez, María Escalona. In Spanish, English subtitles. 111 min.

6:00 p.m. *Al paredón (Against the Execution Wall)*. 1970. Mario Mitrotti. In Spanish, English subtitles. 15 min.
Macu, la mujer del policia (Macu, the Policeman's Wife). 1987. Solveig Hoogesteijn. With Daniel Alvarado, María Luisa Mosquera, Frank Hernández. In Spanish, English subtitles. 91 min.

8:15 p.m. *Descarga (Descarga: Salsa Jam Session)*. 1975. Ivan Feo, Antonio Llerandi. In Spanish, English subtitles. 10 min.
Juan Topocho (Juan Banana). 1977. César Bolívar. With Virilio Galindo, Amalia Pérez Díaz, Enrique Benshimol. In Spanish, English subtitles. 90 min.

Saturday, December 17

2:30 p.m. *Caín adolescente (Young Cain)*.
See Friday, December 9, at 8:15.

5:00 p.m. *"El pez que fuma" ("The Smoking Fish")*. 1976. Román Chalbaud. With Miguelángel Landa, Orlando Urdaneta, Hilda Vera. In Spanish, English subtitles. 115 min.

Sunday, December 18

2:30 p.m. *Al paredón (Against the Execution Wall)/Macu, la mujer del policia (Macu, the Policeman's Wife)*.
See Friday, December 16, at 6:00.

5:00 p.m. *Con el corazon en la mano (With All My Heart)*.
See Tuesday, December 13, at 6:00.

Monday, December 19

3:00 p.m. *"El pez que fuma" ("The Smoking Fish")*.
See Saturday, December 17, at 5:00.

Tuesday, December 20

- 3:00 p.m. *Descarga (Descarga: Salsa Jam Session)/ Juan Topocho (Juan Banana)*.
See Friday, December 16, at 8:15.
- 6:00 p.m. **Cine Politico: Six politically engaged Venezuelan documentaries, 1967-1974.**
La ciudad que nos ve. 1967. Jesús Enrique Guédez. In Spanish, no English subtitles. 17 min.
Santa Teresa. 1969. Alfredo Anzola. In Spanish, no English subtitles. 8 min.
La autonomía ha muerto. 1970. Donald Myerston, Ramón Arellano. In Spanish, no English subtitles. 4 min.
La fiesta de San Juan. 1971. Alfredo Anzola. In Spanish, no English subtitles. 3 min.
Pueblo de lata. 1973. Jesús Enrique Guédez. In Spanish, no English subtitles. 21 min.
María de la Cruz, una mujer venezolana. 1974. Josefina Jordán, Franca Donda. In Spanish, no English subtitles. 20 min.
Total running time 73 min.

Friday, December 23

- 3:00 p.m. *La ventana (The Window)*. 1989. Haydée Pino. No dialogue. 8 min.
Orinoko, nuevo mundo (Orinoko, New World). 1986. Written and directed by Diego Rísquez. With Rísquez, Hugo Márquez, Alejandro Alcega. No dialogue. 103 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Febrero (February)*. 1989. María Eugenia Martínez. Animation. No dialogue. 6 min.
Por los caminos verdes (By the Green Trail). 1984. Written and directed by Marilda Vera. With Jorge Canelón, Joel Escala, Alberto Acevedo. In Spanish, English subtitles. 90 min.
- 8:00 p.m. **Two documentaries by Margot Benacerraf.**
Reverón. 1952. About Venezuelan artist Armando Reverón. In English. 23 min.
Araya. 1959. About the life of the salt-gatherers on Venezuela's Araya peninsula. In Spanish, English subtitles. 90 min.

Saturday, December 24

- 12:30 p.m. **Two documentaries by Margot Benacerraf.**
See Friday, December 23, at 8:00.
- 3:00 p.m. *Soy un delincuente (I Am a Delinquent)*.
See Friday, December 16, at 3:00.

Monday, December 26

3:00 p.m. *Febrero (February)/Por los caminos verdes (By the Green Trail)*.
See Friday, December 23, at 6:00.

6:00 p.m. *Flor del campo (Country Flower)*. 1951. José Giaccardi. With Elena Fernán, Alfredo Sadel, Rafael Lanzetta. In Spanish, English subtitles. 80 min.
Llano adentro (The Plains Within). 1956. Elías Marcelli. On the 'cowboy' culture and the yearly cycle of the Venezuelan wetlands. In Spanish, no English subtitles. 38 min.

Tuesday, December 27

3:00 p.m. *Flor del campo (Country Flower)/Llano adentro (The Plains Within)*.
See Monday, December 26, at 6:00.

6:00 p.m. *La ventana (The Window)/Orinoko, nuevo mundo (Orinoko, New World)*.
See Friday, December 23, at 3:00.

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