

The Museum of Modern Art

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COLOMBIAN CINEMA: FROM MAGIC TO REALISM

February 2 - 19, 1990

On February 2, 1990, a survey of Colombian cinema opens at The Museum of Modern Art, reflecting the burst of independent film activity that has occurred in that country in the past six years. COLOMBIAN CINEMA: FROM MAGIC TO REALISM includes eleven fictional features and three short dramas made between 1984 and 1989, as well as five documentaries. The exhibition, which premiered at the Sundance United States Film Festival, Park City, Utah, continues through February 19.

Colombian filmmakers are divided by their country's wildly varied geography as much as by their extremely independent spirits. Nevertheless, there exists a certain coherence of form and subject among their works. Simultaneously romantic and unsentimental, the films in this series are concerned with everyday life, which, in a country full of unexplained events and relationships, tends to be mysterious and fantastic. The works offer a multifaceted view of the country and address such national concerns as machismo, the class system, economic underdevelopment, and a history of violence.

Opening the program on Friday, February 2, at 2:00 p.m., is Francisco Norden's A Man of Principle (1984), a chilling biography of a pious man who turns into a political assassin, and at 6:00 p.m., Luis Fernando Bottia's The Accordionist's Wedding (1988), a dark folktale of a travelling musician who is carried off on his wedding night by a goddess of the sea.

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Recent features included are Sergio Cabrera's Details of a Duel (1988), a satirical look at life and mores in small-town society; Sergio Dow's The Day You Love Me (1986), a story of a family which is profoundly influenced by a visit from the legendary singer, Carlos Gardel; Victor Gaviria's No Future (1989), an exploration of the bleak and precarious lives of working-class street children in Medellin; and Mario Ribero's The Ambassador From India (1986), a comedy involving a traveler whose joke about being an Indian ambassador is taken seriously.

Four of the five documentaries in the program are made by women. These include Marta Rodriguez and Jorge Silva's Love, Women, and Flowers (1989), an exposé of the Colombian flower industry; Clara Riascos's Myriam's Look (1966), about a squatter and her children; and Patricia Cast and Adelaida Trujillo's Law of the Jungle (1989), about life on Colombia's eastern frontier. A highlight of the exhibition is the rare silent film Blue Lobster (1954), a "surreal" work by Alvaro Cepeda Samudio, Gabriel García Márquez, Luis Vicens, and Enrique Grau. Additionally, two works, Jorge Ali Triana's A Time to Die (1985) and Lissandro Duque's Miracle in Rome (1988), are based on screenplays by Gabriel García Márquez.

COLOMBIAN CINEMA: FROM MAGIC TO REALISM has been organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, with the assistance of FOCINE, the national film organization of Colombia. Funding has been provided by the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, Mr. and Mrs. Julio Santa Mario Domingo, and Avianca, S.A., with the support of the Sundance Institute.

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

COLOMBIAN CINEMA: FROM MAGIC TO REALISM

Exhibition Schedule

All films are in Spanish with English subtitles.

Friday, February 2

- 2:30 p.m. A Man of Principle (Condores no entierran todos los días). 1984.
Francisco Norden. 90 min.
- 6:00 p.m. The Accordionist's Wedding (La boda del acordeonista). 1986.
Luis Fernando Bottía. 94 min.

Saturday, February 3

- 2:00 p.m. The Accordionist's Wedding (La boda del acordeonista).
see Friday, February 2
- 5:00 p.m. Reborn (Nacer de nuevo). 1987.
Marta Rodríguez. 25 min.
- Love, Women, and Flowers (Amor, mujeres y flores). 1987.
Marta Rodríguez and Jorge Silva. 52 min.

Sunday, February 4

- 2:00 p.m. The Ambassador from India (El embajador de la India). 1986.
Mario Ribero. 85 min.
- 5:00 p.m. A Man of Principle (Condores no entierran todos los días).
see Friday, February 2

Monday, February 5

- 2:30 p.m. Reborn (Nacer de nuevo) and Love, Women, and Flowers (Amor, mujeres y flores).
see Saturday, February 3
- 6:00 p.m. No Future -- Rodrigo D. (No futuro). 1989.
Victor Gaviria. 90 min.

Tuesday, February 6

- 2:30 p.m. No Future -- Rodrigo D. (No futuro).
see Monday, February 5
- 6:00 p.m. The Ambassador from India (El embajador de la India).
see Sunday, February 4

Thursday, February 8

- 2:30 p.m. Miracle in Rome (Milagro en Roma). 1988.
Lissandro Duque. Screenplay by Gabriel García Márquez and Duque. 82 min.
- 6:00 p.m. Visa U.S.A. 1986.
Lissandro Duque. 90 min.

Friday, February 9

- 2:30 p.m. The Spider Game (Pisingaña). 1985.
Leopoldo Pinzón. 85 min.
- 6:00 p.m. The Blue Lobster (La langosta azul). 1954.
Alvaro Cepeda Samudio, Gabriel García Márquez, Luis Vincens, Enrique Grau. Preserved by the Fundación Patrimonio Filmico Colombiano. 29 min.
- A Time to Die (Tiempo do morir). 1985.
Jorge Alí Triana. Screenplay by Gabriel García Márquez. 91 min.

Saturday, February 10

- 2:00 p.m. Details of a Duel (Técnicas de duelo). 1988.
Sergio Cabrera. 97 min.
- 5:00 p.m. The Blue Lobster (La langosta azul) and A Time to Die (Tiempo do morir).
see Friday, February 9

Sunday, February 11

- 2:00 p.m. Visa U.S.A.
see Thursday, February 8
- 6:00 p.m. Miracle in Rome (Milagro en Roma).
see Thursday, February 8

Monday, February 12

- 2:30 p.m. Details of a Duel (Técnicas de duelo).
see Saturday, February 10
- 6:00 p.m. The Spider Game (Pisingaña).
see Friday, February 9

Tuesday, February 13

2:30 p.m. In Search of Maria (En busca de Maria). 1985.
Luis Ospina and Jorge Nieto. 15 min.

The Day You Love Me (El día que me quieras). 1986.
Sergio Dow. 75 min.

6:00 p.m. San Antoñito. 1985.
Pepe Sánchez. 80 min.

Thursday, February 15

2:00 p.m. San Antoñito.
see Tuesday, February 13

5:00 p.m. In Search of Maria (En busca de Maria).
see Tuesday, February 13

Friday, February 16

2:30 p.m. Night People (Los habitantes de la noche). 1984.
Victor Gaviria. 20 min.

Uproar in the Uptown Neighborhood (Bochinche en el barrio arriba). 1987.
Alberto Vides and Luis Gonzalez. 25 min.

That Day (Aquel 19). 1985.
Carlos Mayolo. 25 min.

Dead Men's River (Río de las tumbas). 1966.
Julio Luzardo. 87 min.

Entire program in Spanish, no English subtitles.

Saturday, February 17

2:30 p.m. The Blue Lobster (La langosta azul) and A Time to Die (Tiempo de morir).
see Friday, February 9

5:00 p.m. Miriam's Look. 1966.
Clara Riascos for Cine-Mujer. 25 min.

Law of the Jungle (La ley del monte). 1989.
Patricia Castaño and Adelaida Trujillo. 60 min.

Sunday, February 18

2:30 p.m. The Accordionist's Wedding (La boda del acordeonista).
see Friday, February 2

5:00 p.m. The Ambassador from India (El embajador de la India).
see Sunday, February 4

Monday, February 19

2:30 p.m. Miriam's Look and Law of the Jungle (La ley del monte).
see Saturday, February 17

5:00 p.m. Night People (Los habitantes de la noche), Uproar in the Uptown
Neighborhood (Bochinche en el barrio arriba), That Day (Aquel 19),
and Dead Men's River (Río de las tumbas).
see Friday, February 16

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