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UNDERGROUND

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# 8TH LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL



The Canadian Film Institute is proud to present the 8th annual Latin American Film festival, featuring the best of contemporary cinema from Latin America. All films are Ottawa premieres!

## May 1 mai, 19:00 ARGENTINA ANA AND THE OTHERS

### Ana y los Otros

**Argentina 2003, 80 min. Director: Celina Murga**  
Set in the town of Parana, Murga's delightful debut feature revolves around Ana, a young woman who returns from Buenos Aires for a class reunion. When Ana asks questions about her ex-boyfriend, a remarkable and surprising journey of self-discovery begins, as does a new friendship with a precocious eight year-old boy. "One of the year's ten best." (*Film Comment*) "Outrageous, funny, and hip." (*Variety*) English sub-titles.

## May 2 mai, 19:00 BRAZIL

### TWO SUMMERS Houve Uma Vez Dois Verões

**Brazil 2002, 75 min. Director: Jorge Furtado**  
Chico is a teenager on vacation at the "longest and worst beach in the world". He meets Roza at an arcade and falls in love. They make love on the first night they meet and then she disappears. With the help of a friend, Chico looks for Roza on the beach, to no avail. Back in the city, he meets her again. Chico wants to talk about "that night", but Roza tells him she is pregnant. Before the following summer, she will be in and out his life several times. "Experienced short filmmaker Jorge Furtado (who won a Berlin Silver Bear for "Iha des Flores") finds just the right light, ironic touch for his first feature, "Two Summers," a bittersweet tale of sexual initiation set against a background of adolescent uncertainty." Deborah Young (*Variety*). Preceded by two special short films, POSSIBLE CITIES (2003, 15 min.) and MEMENTO MORI (2002, 12 min.) English sub-titles.

## May 3 mai, 19:00 CHILE

### UNDERGROUND/Subtierra

**Chile 2003, 105 min. Director: Marcelo Ferrari**  
Based freely on Chilean author Baldomero Lillo's 1904 masterwork, this drama narrates the human epic story of coal mining in Chile at the beginning of the last century, where thousands of miners and one powerful Spanish aristocratic family spend their blood and their lives pursuing a dream. A powerful but prohibited love is the spark that sets off a great explosion of freedom in this full and rich history of passion, human values and the inherent love of life. The rigours of mining life and the beginning of the Industrial Revolution of the Cousiño-Goyenechea come together in this festival award-winning social and human drama. English sub-titles.

## May 4 mai, 19:00 COLOMBIA

### THE FIRST NIGHT

#### La Primera noche

**Colombia 2003, 94 min. Director: Luis Alberto Restrepo**  
THE FIRST NIGHT is a story of hidden passion set in a Colombia drained by war, violence and ignorance. Two people, Paulina and Toño, like many others before them, flee from the countryside into the cities where they are not wanted and are considered invisible. Between brutality in the countryside and betrayal in the city, Paulina and Toño face immense challenges and carry repressed, secret passions. The director says this film began with a vision: "One night in the city, I saw a young woman folding newspapers on the street, getting ready to put her infant son to bed. Her gestures were so fluid and sure, while full of abandonment, that for a long time I couldn't forget what I'd seen." Restrepo's film has the same effect. English sub-titles.

For their generous assistance in the preparation of this programme we thank / Pour leur collaboration a ce programme nous remercions :

Embassy of Argentina; Embassy of Brazil; Embassy of Chile; Embassy of Colombia; Embassy of the Dominican Republic; Embassy of El Salvador; Embassy of Honduras; Embassy of Mexico; Embassy of Paraguay; Embassy of Uruguay; Embassy of Venezuela; Andre Paquet; Janet Stinson; Maya and Benjamin; Peter Piening; Adam Holman; Anita Lee; Dan Sokolowski; Ramiro Puerta (in memoriam); Little Latin America; Glebe Video; Tina Legari; Bob Ferris; The Dark Canucks.

## May 5 mai 19:00 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### RED PASSPORT/Pasaporte rojo

**Dominican Republic 2003, 93 min Director: Albert Xavier**  
Set in New York's vibrant Dominican culture, RED PASSPORT is the story of Fabio Reyes, a former counterfeit artist who, after serving 10 years in prison, wants nothing more than to rekindle his relationship with his long lost daughter and live out his life in peace. If only life were that simple. Fabio is soon drawn into his former life of deception, intrigue, and murder. Xavier's impressive directorial debut won the audience award at LaCinema Fe Film in New York in 2003. English sub-titles and English.

## May 5 mai, 21:00 EL SALVADOR

### THE PARIS REVIEW: EARLY CHAPTERS

**U.S.A./El Salvador 2002 53 min. Director: Paula Heredia**  
In the summer of 1953, an expatriate trio of young Americans Peter Matthiessen, Harold "Doc" Humes and George Plimpton — founded the international literary quarterly, The Paris Review. This documentary, on what has become one of the 20th century's most influential and enduring avant-garde literary institutions, is shot by award-winning cinematographer, Albert Maysles, and directed by El Salvadoran filmmaker, Paula Heredia. Guided by the commanding, witty, mischievous presence of George Plimpton, we roam the streets and cafes of Paris, glimpse the expatriate literati world of the 1950's and 60's, and step into the bustling New York offices of the Review, meeting the people, past and present, who remain central to this singular literary endeavor. Preceded by RALPH GIBSON: PHOTOGRAPHER/BOOK ARTIST (U.S.A./El Salvador 2001, 28 min.), a portrait of a man who for more than thirty years has served as one of the few truly independent forces within the art of photography. In English and, in places, English sub-titles.

## May 6 mai, 19:00 HONDURAS

### MIDNIGHT SOULS

#### Almas de la Media Noche

**Honduras 2001, 125 min. Director: Juan Carlos Fanconi**  
A mystery/thriller based on religious beliefs concerning life after death, the plot of MIDNIGHT SOULS weaves superstitions and legends of the antique Lenca Indians. Six young college journalism students start an investigative journey to a small town in northern Honduras with the purpose of clearing up the mysterious death of another journalist who was murdered on the road to Tegucigalpa. This transcendent journey becomes an expedition digging into the multiple levels and dimensions of both the bourgeois characters and the mysterious death itself. Eventually, the past mixes with the present, and the life of the victim is projected upon one of the students, Alex (played by Juan Fernando Lobo). English sub-titles.

## May 7 mai 19:00 MEXICO

### THE FACES OF THE MOON

#### Las Caras de la Luna

**Mexico 2001, 101 min. Director: Guita Schyfter**  
A group of actresses from all over the Spanish-speaking world come to Mexico to head a film festival jury. In six dizzying days the women share their experiences, their ghosts and their expectations of the future, while viewing and critiquing the entries of the festival. Schyfter's film is one about loyalty, love, women, and political commitment, and is as revealing about the characters' lives as it is about the films they watch. With an international cast that includes Geraldine Chaplin (USA), Ana Torrent (Spain), John Edmunds (UK), Carola Reyna (Argentina), Diana Bracho and Carmen Montejo (Mexico), and Haydee de Lev (Costa Rica).

## PARAGUAY

FACES will be preceded by the short film, TRASH LOVE/Amor Basura (Paraguay 2000, 11 min. Directors: Juan Carlos Maneglia & Tana Schémbori). "It's lust in the dust in this saucy silent comedy from Paraguay as a prim housewife finds herself longing for the daily visits of the muscle-bound bin-man. Assailed by Buñuel-esque S & M fantasies of bedding her hunk on a mountain of garbage, she finds herself generating industrial amounts of rubbish to lure him inside her kitchen." (Kate Stables, *The Guardian*) English sub-titles.

## May 8 mai, 19:00 URUGUAY

### SEAWARD JOURNEY

#### El Viaje Hacia el Mar

**Uruguay 2003, 78 min. Director: Guillermo Casanova**  
Uruguay's official Foreign Film entry at this year's Academy Awards, SEAWARDS JOURNEY is the offbeat, heartwarming tale of five men who take the trip of a lifetime: to see the sea for the first time. Traveling from their tiny inland village to the edge of the ocean, the characters share their hopes, dreams and experiences on their incredible journey. Based on Juan José Morosoli's celebrated short story, Casanova's feature film debut is as pleasing to the eye as it is to the heart. English sub-titles.

## May 9 mai, 19:00 VENEZUELA

### THE ARCHANGEL'S FEATHER

#### La Pluma del Arcangel

**Venezuela 2002, 92 min. Director: Luis Manzo**  
The 1930s. A town hidden on the edge of a mountain range. Its only contact with the world is the telegraph. The community lives in terror of the country's dictatorial ruler, whose telegrams contain orders for sentencing. Each wired edict contains the seeds of pain and hopelessness. When the old telegraph operator dies, a new one arrives to take his place. His name is Gabriel, and he decides to change each official telegram as it arrives over the wire. Now, in a single stroke, he is able to alter the lives of those who have been unjustly condemned. A fascinating, moving film about hope, the film captured the Audience Award at the 2003 Miami Hispanic Film Festival. English sub-titles.

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