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FINAL REPORT

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The 12th Cine Las Americas International Film Festival (CLAIFF) was held from April 22-30, 2009 in Austin, Texas. With 3,200 audience members, CLAIFF screened a total of 116 films representing 23 countries including, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Germany, South Korea, Japan, India, France, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, United Kingdom, Uruguay, United States and Venezuela. This year's festival also hosted 5 final jury members and 35 international, national and local filmmakers, including directors, producers, actors, screenwriters and music composers.



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The 12th Cine Las Americas International Film Festival opened on April 22 with the film ALL INCLUSIVE (Chile/Mexico, 2008), directed by Rodrigo Ortúzar at the historic Paramount Theatre in downtown Austin. The film was well received and captivated many of the 450 audience members in attendance.

The festival closed with a sold out show at the Alamo Draffhouse South, on April 30, with the film ARRANCAME LA VIDA (TEAR THIS HEART OUT, Mexico, 2008) and with Director Roberto Sneider and Producer Francisco Cossio in attendance. The film received many rounds of applause by the audience, and the Q&A session following the screening was interesting and entertaining.



*Roberto Sneider, director of
ARRANCAME LA VIDA (TEAR THIS HEART OUT)*



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Santiago Zannou directs EL TRUCO DEL MANCO (THE HANDLESS TRICK), winner of the Jury Award for Best Narrative Feature.

The New Releases selection included the latest work produced by well established Latin American filmmakers, like Argentina's Lucrecia Martel (*THE HEADLESS WOMAN*, 2008) and Carlos Sorín (*THE WINDOW*, 2008), Chile's Andres Wood (*THE GOOD LIFE*, 2008), and Mexico's Fernando Eimbcke (*LAKE TAHOE*, 2008), among many others, for a total of 18 films.

The festival granted jury awards in five competitive categories, and two Audience Awards. The 2009 winners included: Jury Award for Best First or Second Narrative Feature to *EL TRUCO DEL MANCO (THE HANDLESS TRICK)*, Spain, 2008), directed by Santiago Zannou; Jury Award for Best Documentary Feature to *INTIMIDADES DE SHAKESPEARE Y VÍCTOR HUGO (SHAKESPEARE AND VICTOR HUGO'S INTIMACIES)*, Mexico, 2008), directed by Yulene Olaizola.; Special Jury Award for Documentary Feature to *UNIDAD 25 (UNIT 25 Argentina/Spain)*, 2008), directed by Alejo Hoijman; Jury Award for Best Narrative Short to *DANZAK* (Peru/USA, 2008), directed by Gabriela Yepes; Special Jury Award for Narrative Short to *SALIVA* (Brazil, 2007), directed by Esmir Filho; Jury Award for Best Documentary Short to *CONVERSATIONS II* (Peru/USA, 2007), directed by Marianela Vega Oroza; Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature to *CINCO DÍAS SIN NORA (NORA'S WILL)*, Mexico, 2008), directed by Mariana Chenillo; and Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature to *EL GENERAL* (USA/Mexico, 2009), directed by Natalia Almada. The winner of the 2009 Emergencia Youth Film Competition was *JOURNEYS THROUGH THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE: BRIAN'S JOURNEY* (USA, 2008), directed by Andrea Williams.

The Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) presented a free series made up of 17 screenings of 30 short and feature-length films. Several of the films included in the series were of interest to the Austin community, and the Emergencia Youth Film Competition. Also included in the general program were a new Animation showcase, featuring short animated films from four different countries, and "Hecho en Tejas", a section devoted to the work of local and statewide filmmakers.

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Cine Las Americas honors Chilean cinema
By **Chris Garcia** | Thursday, March 26, 2009, 12:40 PM

It's coming fast: **Cine Las Americas International Film Festival** happens April 22 — 30. For the first time in its 12 years, the fest has invited a guest country and Chile has accepted the honor.

What's it mean? That the fest has made "space for the screening of films that represent the best and most successful of contemporary Chilean cinema, focusing on films produced in the post-dictatorship period from 1994 to 2004." New and classic Chilean films are also part of the program.

More about the guest and the fest [HERE](#).

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Extensive press coverage for the festival by English and Spanish language media outlets included *El Mundo Newspaper*, *Austin American-Statesman*, *The Austin Chronicle*, *The Texas Observer*, *Austin Monthly*, *¡ahora sí!*, *The Daily Texan*, *The Onion*, *Hitz 107.7 FM*, *Univision*, *News 8 Austin*, *KUT 90.5 FM*, *Austinist.com*, *Naica.org*, and *LatAmCinema.com*.

Additionally, traffic on the Cine Las Americas website increased by 125% compared to the previous year.

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Cine las Americas Previews

La Mujer Sin Cabeza (The Headless Woman) [CLICK TO ENLARGE](#)

New Releases,
Argentina/France/Italy/Spain
D: Lucrecia Martel; with María Onetto, Claudia Cantero, César Bordón

Although the title makes this thoughtful Argentine movie sound like a bloody slasher film, Veró (Onetto) manages to keep her head attached to her body at all times. It's her wits that seem to be scattered after she hits something – a dog? – while driving and reaching for her cell phone. (There's always a phone ringing somewhere in this movie, and rain.) She drives off, then a seeming amnesia sets in,



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The Presenting Sponsor of the 12th Cine Las Americas International Film Festival was The City of Austin Cultural Arts Division. Premiere Sponsors included American Airlines, the official airline of the festival, Univision, and Latinworks, one of the most prominent Hispanic advertising agencies in the country, and a new Cine Las Americas partner. Main Sponsors included the Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, Regal Cinemas, the Foreign Relations Ministry of Chile, and the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB), and the Alamo Drafthouse. Supporting sponsors included the Mexican Consulate in Austin, Austin Film Society, H-E-B, and The University of Texas at Austin. Contributors to the event also included local businesses and members of the community.



Audience members at the Opening Night after party at Mexic-Arte Museum.

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“As a supporter of Cine Las Americas since its inception, I would like to congratulate you, your staff and volunteers and your sponsors and supporters for the great programming you continue to offer. Just when it seems like the films cannot get any better, you consistently raise the bar. Last night’s film, ARRANCAME LA VIDA, was superb and having Roberto Sneider, the director, in attendance made it extra special. I am looking forward to reading the book!”

– Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Travis County District Clerk.

The 12th Cine Las Americas International Film Festival in figures:

- 3,200 festival attendees
- 116 films screened
- 23 countries represented
- 35 filmmakers in attendance
- 1,000,000 average hits on www.cinelasamericas.org during the month of April
- 85 total screenings
- 17 free screenings

The 13th annual Cine Las Americas International Film Festival is scheduled for April 2010, with Mexico as the invited country.