

5TH ANNUAL
CINE LATINO
NOVEMBER 16-19

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THE FILM SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL ANNOUNCES
OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION AND
VISITING ACTORS AND DIRECTORS ATTENDING
THE 5TH ANNUAL CINE LATINO FILM FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 16-19

October 16, 2017 Minneapolis, MN — The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul announced today the Opening Night celebration at Jefe: Urban Hacienda and visiting filmmakers and actors to the forthcoming **Cine Latino Film Festival**, November 16-19, showing at the Film Society's St. Anthony Main Theatre and other venues in the Twin Cities.

Returning for a fifth year, Cine Latino offers a rich tapestry of stories from across the vast cultural, social and historical landscape that is Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula, taking moviegoers on a journey across geography, history, age, gender, social and political issues and the complexities of human relationships.

The Opening Night Celebration begins Thursday, November 16 with a screening of **Carla Simón's *Summer 1993 (Estiu 1993)*** followed by a fiesta at Jefe: Urban Hacienda with live salsa music.

"Cine Latino celebrates its 5th Edition with a prolific, diverse and prestigious group of directors and guest talent representing the most acclaimed films from the region, helping establish this as one of the fastest-growing Latino festivals in the US," said Artistic Director Hebe Tabachnik.

Our Opening Night feature, ***Summer 1993 (Estiu 1993)***, won the Best First Feature Award at the 2017 Berlinale. Described by *The Hollywood Reporter* as "a delicately crafted, moving filmic memoir," *Summer 1993* has been chosen to represent Spain at the 90th Academy Awards. The film's writer and director, **Carla Simón**, will be in attendance.

From Spain, we also welcome **Miguel Ángel Rosales**, director of the music documentary ***Gurumbé, Afro-Andalusian Memories (Gurumbé. Canciones de tu memoria negra)***.

In our **Focus on Mexico** we are honored to have the presence of three outstanding women directors here with their films as part of our **Women on Film** program: **Mitzi Vanessa Arreola**, co-director, writer and editor of *The 4th Company (La 4ta Compañía)*, recent winner of 10 Ariel Awards (Mexican Academy of Film awards); **Lucía Gajá**, director of the powerful documentary *Intimate Battles (Batallas Íntimas)* enjoying its US Premiere; and **Sofia Carrillo**, one of the most prominent animators from the renowned Jalisco School (the cradle for such acclaimed filmmakers as Guillermo del Toro), who will be presenting the shorts “**Prita Noire**” (2011 Ariel Award for Best Animated Short), “**The Sad House**”, and “**Cerulia**” winner of Best Animated Short at this year’s Guadalajara International Film Festival (FICG). The Focus on Mexico is also honored to welcome director **José Ramón Chávez** and his debut feature *Help Me Make It Through the Night (Ayúdame a pasar la noche)*, winner of the FICG Audience Award winner. To round out our list of stellar guests we are proud to present **Andrés Crespo**, lead actor and writer of this year’s Oscar submission from Ecuador, *Such is Life in the Tropics (Sin muertos no hay carnaval)*.

Cine Latino will be an opportunity for audience members to meet and connect with talented filmmakers from around the world, and participate in a variety of engaging film-related events: workshops, panels and parties, with great food and music to round out the experience.

The full Cine Latino 2017 slate will be announced later this month. Artistic Director Hebe Tabachnik and Film Society Board Member Paola Nuñez-Obetz are available for interviews in English and Spanish, as will be the filmmakers in attendance.

Confirmed filmmakers and actors (and their films) at the 5th Cine Latino include:

Carla Simón, director, *Summer 1993 (Estiu 1993)*. Born in Barcelona, Spain in 1986, Simón grew up in a Catalan village. She graduated in audiovisual communication at the Universitat Autònoma in Barcelona after spending a year studying at the University of California. She then studied on a TV Fiction course organised by Catalan Television and subsequently at the London Film School. Simón participated in Berlinale Talents in 2015 where the screenplay for her debut feature film *Summer 1993 (Estiu 1993)* was selected for the Script Station.

Summer 1993 (Estiu 1993) (Spain). Sent to live with her uncle and his family following her mother’s untimely death, six year-old Frida acts out her unspoken hurt in a strange new place in this astonishing autobiographical debut feature from writer/director Carla Simon.

Miguel Ángel Rosales, director, *Gurumbé. Afro-Andalusian Memories (Gurumbé. Canciones de tu memoria negra)*. A self-taught filmmaker, Miguel Ángel Rosales learned the trade by taking several workshops and courses on documentary film before trying his hand at film directing. With his first feature, *Gurumbé. Afro-Andalusian Memories (Gurumbé. Canciones de tu memoria negra)*, he unites his two passions: cinema and anthropology.

Gurumbé. Afro-Andalusian Memories (Gurumbé. Canciones de tu memoria negra) (Spain). This joyous, involving documentary traces Spain’s involvement in the slave trade and the often unacknowledged contributions of its most marginalized communities into that nation’s rich cultural and artistic tapestry.

Mitzi Vanessa Arreola, co-director, writer and editor, *The 4th Company (La 4ta Compañía)*. Mitzi Vanessa Arreola studied Communication Science with a major in cinema at the National Autonomous

University of Mexico (UNAM), and studied Literary Creation at the Escuela de Escritores. Arreola has been awarded for best script at the “Alejandro Galindo” Screenwriting Workshop, given by Vicente Leñero, as well as a screenwriting award at FICG’s Ibero-american Co-Production Meetings for *The 4th Company (La 4ta Compañía)*. She is currently directing the film *The Cleft*, a documentary about childhood in imprisonment.

The 4th Company (La 4ta Compañía) (Mexico). Sensitive car thief Zambrano finds himself in the world’s toughest prison where he quickly earns a place on the inmate football team, a crew that doubles as the notorious 4th Company crime network.

Lucía Gajá, director, *Intimate Battles (Batallas Íntimas)*. Lucía Gajá graduated from the University Center for Cinematographic Studies (CUEC). She has been nominated three times for the Ariel prize of the Mexican Academy of Cinematographic Arts and Sciences and was winner of the Ariel in 2005 for her short documentary “Soy”. She is currently an active member of the Mexican Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMACC). Her debut *My Life Inside (Mi vida dentro)* won the Best Documentary Award at the 2007 Morelia International Film Festival, among other national and international festivals.

Intimate Battles (Batallas Íntimas) (Mexico). With empathy and honesty, director Lucia Gaja recounts the stories of five incredible women from around the world, each of whom survived the hell of domestic abuse, often within indifferent cultures, yet were able to reestablish rich lives of love and meaning.

Sofía Carrillo, director of three animated short films, “Cerulia”, “Prita Noire” and “The Sad House” (Mexico). Carrillo participated in the Toronto Talent Lab 2016, Berlin Talents 2014 and Mexicannes 2014, at the Guanajuato International Film Festival (GIFF). Her work has been screened at numerous film festivals and is a winner of the Silver Ariel (Mexican Academy of Science and Cinematography) award for “Prita Noire”.

José Ramón Chávez, director, *Help me Make it Through the Night (Ayúdame a pasar la noche)*. José Ramón Chavez began his career working with the television and radio department of the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí. He studied at the Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica (CCC), specializing in film direction. *Help me Make it Through the Night (Ayúdame a pasar la noche)* is his debut feature.

Help me Make it Through the Night (Ayúdame a pasar la noche) (Mexico). A family is at its breaking point. Dad kicked mom out the house because she has a gambling addiction, the older child’s fiancée wants to cancel their wedding, and the youngest child believes he can fix his family and bring them back together. An accident will make everyone reconsider their decisions; the doctors say one of them will not make it through the night.

Andrés Crespo, star and writer of *Such is Life in the Tropics (Sin muertos no hay carnaval)*. Born in 1970 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Crespo found fame in his role as Blanquito in *Pescador* (2011) an international sensation. He also wrote *Pescador* and *Such is Life in the Tropics (Sin muertos no hay carnaval)*.

Such is Life in the Tropics (Sin muertos no hay carnaval) (Ecuador, Mexico, Germany). When a young tourist is killed during a forest outing by a trio of hunters who also have designs on the land, a class war

breaks out pitting powerful business interests against an impoverished rural community in this riveting, tightly woven tapestry of greed, ambition and corruption.

Other directors, producers, actors and filmmakers connected to Cine Latino programming have been invited, and updates will be sent upon confirmation.

Cine Latino is presented by the Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul, Minnesota's leading non-profit exhibitor of international independent cinema. Our mission is to foster a knowledgeable and vibrant appreciation of the art of film from around the globe and its power to inform and transform individuals and communities.

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