



Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival (2005-2009)

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This guides includes those films screened at the Latin American Environmental Film Festival hosted by the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University from 2005-2009. The films are divided by year and subject area. Many of these films provide unique opportunities to see footage and interviews not available on other films.





Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

Environmental Film Festival

LARC and the Stone Center for Latin American Studies sponsored a Latin American Environmental Film Festival biannually from 2005-2009. The films screened during these festivals are detailed below. All of the films are excellent resources for the classroom particularly in classes addressing Latin America or environmental issues. The films are of a variety of lengths, from shorts to feature length films. The length of some of the films makes them ideal for classroom use. The films from each year are listed below and are divided into sections based on topics. Several of these films are part of curricula which are available for free download on the LARC website. These films are: *Banana Split*, *Iaurete*, *Waterfall of the Jaguars*, and *!Justicia Now!*.

2005 Films

Activism

Sembrando Futuro (Planting the Future) Roberto Olivares (Mexico 2003) 15 minutes. **Best Short Entry 2005.** In one of the poorest regions of Mexico, a group of people from a small village is involved in a struggle inspired by a dream: to recover the forest that they had never seen, but their grandparents had told them existed a long time ago. Spanish with English subtitles.

The Man we Called Juan Carlos David Springbett (Canada 2001) 55 minutes. This is a personal and multi-layered film that looks at the filmmakers' 25 year connection with a Guatemalan campesino whom they first encountered while making a documentary about long-term development in 1976. The film looks at the impact of an agricultural project in a small Mayan village where, with more effective farming methods, and better yields of corn, the community became less dependent on picking coffee for cash. The film looks historically at the balance of power created by corporate interests and cash cropping all through the protagonist in the film, "Juan Carlos", who went from campesino to teacher to community leader to guerilla and finally to a Mayan rights advocate and priest. Through his story the film explores the life choices we make and the price we sometimes pay when we commit to political and spiritual ideals. English.

Oscar Sergio Morkin (Argentina 2005) 61 minutes. Oscar Brahim is a taxi driver in Buenos Aires and works twelve hours a day. Ever irritated by the constant bombarding of advertisements – indeed a visual form of pollution – he transports modified posters, scissors and glue in the boot of his car, that will allow him to alter the ads and transform them into veritable works of art, visual pamphlets to denounce the leeway of the Argentine society. But he leaves room for hope that even an individual initiative, and an artistic one at that, can change our vision of the world and awaken our conscience. Spanish with English subtitles.



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

Water

Esta tierra es nuestra (This Land is Not for Sale) Guillermo Monteforte (Mexico 2003) 13 minutes. **Best Short Entry 2005.** A decade ago, Nahua people in Guerrero fought a hydroelectric dam which would have flooded 22 homes in their communities. When the project was revived recently, it prompted this made-for-television work stressing the Nahua's ties to their land and their willingness to defend it. Spanish and Nahua with English subtitles.

Cuando el rio y el mar se unieron (When the River Set the Sea) Comité de emergencia garifuna de Honduras (Honduras 2004) 14 minutes. This video was co-produced by a group which is part of the Afro-Indigenous community in Honduras, the Garifuna Emergency Committee of Honduras (Comite de Emergencia Garifuna de Honduras). The Garifuna are descendants of Indigenous Arawaks and Caribs, and Africans, and maintain their culture, in addition to protecting the natural resources, living in harmony with the sea and the land. Their communities were battered by Level 5 Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which stalled over the coastal area for 3 days, resulting in the loss of lives, homes, livelihoods and entire neighborhoods. In this video, the communities themselves report on the struggle during and after Mitch, including the voices of women and children. Working together, the community is still struggling for survival, to recover and to preserve their unique culture. The Garifuna face hostility and negligence by the government, usurpation of ancestral lands, and abuses by national and international agencies. Nevertheless, as we say in Garifuna, "Wabaruagon!", or we go together forward. Spanish with English subtitles.

Donde no hay agua (Where There is no Water) Jonathan Muller (Dominican Republic 2005) 23 minutes. *Donde No Hay Agua* is a documentary that explores water scarcity issues in the Dominican Republic. This island nation is known for its tropical climate, but in some parts of the country, citizens struggle to find water to meet their day to day needs. This struggle is best represented in Oviedo, a small town in the poor southwestern region of the country. The water challenge in Oviedo is due to various factors including: politics, economics, and location, but the overarching factor is the environment. Whether an aqueduct is built in Oviedo or not, if the watershed is deforested, the water will disappear. This documentary shows how slash and burn agricultural techniques have damaged nearby watersheds. If the remaining watersheds are not protected, the already precarious water sources will vanish forever. Though local institutions and residents are working to save the watershed, there is still much work to be done. Spanish with English subtitles.

Life of the River: the Futaleufú Liz McGregor (USA 2001) 54 minutes. *Life of the River - The Futaleufu* goes south of south with travel writer Rick Montgomery to do a story about a remote and raging river in southern Chile known as "the greatest whitewater on earth." While getting up close and personal with some of the finest class V rapids on the globe, Rick finds out about the



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

plans for a dam on the river. Through conversations with the local people of Futaleufu, Rick learns about the real threat of a dam, the promise of eco-tourism and the preparations for the upcoming battle. English and Spanish with English subtitles.

Habitat

Viva Vicuña Christian Baumeister (Germany 2002) 50 minutes. Their wool is finer and more precious than any other on earth. Paradoxically the elusive fur, which ensured the Vicuñas survival in an extremely demanding habitat over thousands of years, nearly brought an end to the species. Now populations are recovering; thanks to an old Inka tradition and modern wildlife management. But this is not only a story of human exploitation and miraculous survival. It is also an intimate portrait of an animal living in the breathtaking surroundings of the High Andes. Only few other species make it out here, such as first time filmed- Andean mountain cat. German with English subtitles.

Secrets of Choco Ian McLaren (Canada/Colombia 1997) 52 minutes. The Choco in Colombia is one of the largest relatively unspoiled rainforests on the planet. Hugging the Pacific Coast to the west and rising to the Andes in the east, the Choco still hides thousands of undiscovered plants and animals. But large scale development plans and the impending completion of the Pan American Highway threaten the future of the Choco and the lives of the blacks and Indians who live along the maze of rivers. This video takes us into Choco aboard an old steamer with six of the world's foremost experts on tropical ecology and sustainable development to interpret what we see and to debate the region's future. English.

Wildes Rio (Wild Rio) Christian Baumeister (Germany 2004) 50 minutes. Rio de Janeiro, "the marvelous city", is well known for its glamorous life, the extraordinary carnival, beaches and beach beauties. But few people know that the wildlife of the city is equally flamboyant. Tijuca National Park is the wild heart of Rio de Janeiro. This mystic rainforest lies on steep hills in the middle of the city, surrounded by a sea of stone. As part of the Atlantic rainforest it is a hot spot of biodiversity. Due to the nearness of the park to Rio, animals frequently are seen outside of the park areas. Capuchin monkeys often enter houses and create a mess and sometimes caimans end up in swimming pools. The close proximity of nature inspires Carnival celebrations. While the preparations for the city's biggest annual event are going on the film shows intimate moments in the life of Rios wild inhabitants, revealing many interesting and little known facts of their biology. German with English subtitles.

Indigenous Communities

Seguir Siendo (Still Mybá) Ana Zanotti (Argentina/Brazil 1999) 28 minutes. A portrait of the Mbyá-Guarani people living in Misiones, a subtropical province in Northeast Argentina. The



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

people demonstrate everyday life existing on a geographical as well as a cultural border. Spanish with English subtitles.

Video in the Villages Presents Itself Mari Correa and Vincent Carelli (Brazil 2002) 33 minutes. *Video in the Villages* presents its recent progress, its Indigenous workshops of training and production. Founded in 1987, the project began with the introduction of video in Indigenous communities that produced documentaries for their own purposes. In 1995, the opening of a space on educational TV in Cuiabá, led the project to produce the "Indigenous Program," an original experience for the first time on Brazilian television. Since 1997, Video in the Villages has been investing in the formation of the first generation of Indigenous documentary filmmakers, through the use of national and regional workshops. English.

Kinja Iakaha (A Day in the Village) Araduwá Waimiri, Iawusu Waimiri, Kabaha Waimiri, Sanapyty Atroari, Sawá Waimiri, and Wamé Atroari (Brazil 2003) 40 minutes. Six Indians of different Waimiri and Atroari villages, located in the Amazon, document the day-to-day life of their relatives in the Cacau village. These images, stitched together in *A Day in the Village* transport us to intimate scenes of their lifestyle and their intense relationship with nature. Portuguese with English subtitles.

Lucha Garifuna (Garifunas Holding Ground) – Comité de Emergencia Garifuna de Honduras (Honduras/USA 2002) 11 minutes. **Grand Prize 2005.** This video was co-produced by a group which is part of the Afro-Indigenous community in Honduras, the Garifuna Emergency Committee of Honduras (Comité de Emergencia Garífuna de Honduras). The Garifuna are descendants of Indigenous Arawaks and Caribs, and Africans, and they maintain their unique culture, in addition to protecting the natural resources, living in harmony with the sea and the land. In this video, the communities themselves explain the struggles to protect our ancestral lands and environment against multiple threats, like the usurpation of land by large land-owners by violent means, cattle ranchers who pollute our water supplies with an illegal highway. In spite of the indifference of the government and the risk we face – one of the colleagues who is seen in the video has since been brutally assassinated – we continue to struggle. As we say in Garífuna, “Wabaruaon!”, or we go together forward. Spanish with English subtitles.

Globalization

¿Minería? ¡No gracias! Un mes en Tambogrande (Mining? No thanks! One month in Tambogrande) Diana St. Antoine (Canada 2004) 49 minutes. The agricultural region of Tambogrande, located in northern Peru, is threatened by a mining project. For the past 4 years, a Canadian mining company has been trying to build three huge open-pit mines in Tambogrande. The local population is against the project which would relocate some 8,000 people and divert a river. In this heartwarming documentary, two families tell the story of Tambogrande. Like most of their fellow citizens, they fear the project will bring an irreversible degradation of the



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

environment in a region where agriculture has been the main source of income for a vast majority of the population for over 40 years. These families and the people of Tambogrande are determined to defend the land that feeds them. Spanish and French, with English subtitles.

Oleoducto, contaminación, y pobreza (Amazon Oil Pipeline-Pollution, Corruption, and Poverty) Juan Pablo Barragán (Ecuador 2003) 33 minutes. In Ecuador in the year 2000 construction began on a heavy crude oil-pipeline, the OCP. It is intended to double Ecuadorian oil output in order to satisfy the energy requirements of the U.S. The oil will be extracted from the Amazon headwaters, wiping out our rainforests national parks and indigenous cultures. This documentary testifies to the reality of 30 years of oil exploitation in a country whose extremely rich natural patrimony is being destroyed due to the greed of transnational corporations and of the international banking system. Spanish with English subtitles.

Matamoros: The Human Face of Globalization Amanda Boxall (USA 2001) 11 minutes. New free trade agreements initiated by the US Government threaten the health and environment of the people of the Americas. This video contains graphic images of the effects of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, on one particular city in Mexico near the US border, called Matamoros. NAFTA encourages US companies to build factories or maquiladoras, in border towns like Matamoros, Mexico escaping tough pollution control laws, labor standards, and taxes that pay for social and environmental needs. Matamoros reveals the alarming environmental and human toll of the NAFTA-style free trade. The people of Matamoros, attracted by the jobs that maquiladoras promise, suffer low wages, inadequate housing, poor sanitation, and disease, revealing the true human face of Globalization. English.

Esmeraldas: Petroleum and Poverty Joshua Holst (Ecuador/USA 2002) 9 minutes. A film that portrays an intimate connection with a desperate community. The bulk of Ecuador's petroleum is refined in an Afro-Ecuadorian community in Esmeraldas. After years of illnesses from wastes and spills, the refinery exploded, killing several people and contaminating the river. Graphic depictions of illnesses caused by the pollution accompany the story of this community's struggle for health, safety and dignity. English.

Peru's Camisea Project: Risky Business Atossa Soltani (USA 2004) 13 minutes. Peru's Camisea Gas Project is currently the most damaging project in the Amazon Basin. Located in the remote Urubamba Valley in the south-east Peruvian Amazon, the \$1.6 billion project includes two pipelines to the Peruvian coast cutting through an Amazon biodiversity hotspot described by scientists as "the last place on earth" to drill for fossil fuels. Nearly 75 percent of gas extraction operations are located inside a State Reserve for indigenous peoples living with little or no contact with the outside world, who have been forcibly contacted by the Camisea consortia in violation of their internationally recognized rights. A gas processing plant is being built on the Peruvian coast within the buffer zone of a marine reserve of international significance. English and Spanish with English subtitles.



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

Burlington Resources in Ecuador Atossa Soltani (USA 2004) 13 minutes. Burlington Resources, a Houston-based oil company with record annual earnings of some \$1.2 billion in 2003, has plans to explore for oil in three highly controversial oil concessions in remote Amazon regions of Ecuador and Peru. These concessions were carved out of the traditional territories of four indigenous nations--the Shuar, Achuar, Kichwa, and Zapara--without their consultation or consent. The indigenous federations representing the peoples that have lived in these extraordinarily biodiverse areas for thousands of years are opposed to oil projects on their lands. They point to the fate of other forest communities living near the major oil producing regions of the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Amazon, where wide-spread oil and toxic contamination has caused increased incidents of cancer and other illnesses among the local peoples who have no option but to bathe, fish, and drink from polluted rivers. Spanish with English voiceovers.

Food

Halvan Kahvin uhrin (Victims of the cheap coffee) Pertti Pesonen (Finland 2003) 50 minutes. Collapsing prices on the world coffee market have plunged millions of growers in many countries into poverty. In Nicaragua, Rosa Maria Mendez buried her 6 year-old son, who had died of starvation. "We have nothing left but to wait for death," she says, as she looks after her five surviving children. Coffee plantation owners are bankrupt, the workers are starving. The program reports on the victims of cheap coffee and tells about the consequences that collapse of coffee prices has caused in producer countries. The movie was filmed in Nicaragua and Vietnam. Finnish with English subtitles.

Hot Potatoes John de Graaf (USA 2001) 57 minutes. *Hot Potatoes* reveals the little-known story behind a disaster that changed science forever. Before the Potato Famine of the 1840s wiped out much of Ireland, scientists had little appreciation for the destructive power of microscopic pathogens. The science of plant pathology was born when researchers tried to understand and conquer the blight that had wiped out potato crops throughout Europe. More than 150 years later, potato late blight is still an immense global threat. Potatoes have gradually become one of the world's three most important sources of nutrition, especially in developing nations. But the failure to heed the warnings of American plant geneticist Dr. John Niederhauser, who predicted in the 1950s that blight may become resistant to many chemicals available, is having dire consequences at the beginning of 21st century. English.

Banana Split Kelly Saxberg and Ronald Harpelle (Canada/USA/France/Honduras 2002) 47 minutes. **Best Feature Length Entry 2005.** The banana is the cheapest fruit you can buy in Canada at any time of the year and Canadians eat approximately 3 billion bananas a year. In Canadian supermarkets bananas account for over 10% of total sales in the produce section and 1% of total sales. All this despite the fact that the nearest plantation is 5000 kilometers away and the banana is the most perishable fruit on our store shelves. *Banana Split* takes the viewer on a journey that begins with the hustle and bustle of a fruit market in Thunder Bay, Ontario and ends



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

up with an examination of the daily challenges of life in Honduras. In addition to being a popular fruit in Canada, bananas are used as a staple food in more than 100 tropical and sub-tropical countries. In the developing world, bananas rank behind rice, wheat, and corn as the most important staple food crops. Filmed in Canada, the United States, Honduras and France, "Banana Split" explores the North/South split between Canadian consumers and the people whose lives revolve around the "curvaceous fruit from the herbaceous plant." English and Spanish with English subtitles. **Part of the curriculum *Platanos: Learning about Bananas* available for free download on the LARC website.**

Outstanding Individuals

Sin embargo (Nevertheless) Judith Grey (Cuba 2003) 49 minutes. After the revolution of 1959 and the U.S. embargo that followed, the people of Cuba were left to fend for themselves. Deprived of even the most basic goods, they scavenge the alleys and scrap heaps, giving new vitality to the discarded. Their recycled products are often remarkably ingenious and creative. For Andres the sculptor, Tomas the canary breeder, and the other subjects of *Sin Embargo*, even the greatest pressure – whether levied by government or circumstance – cannot crush the spirit nor quash the desire to forge a better life for themselves and their families. Shot entirely in Cuba, *Sin Embargo* is a look into the hearts and dreams of struggling peoples and a tribute to their optimistic and resourceful determination to survive. Spanish with English subtitles.

Sastun: My Apprenticeship with a Maya Healer Guido Verweyen (Belize 2001) 20 minutes. Sastun tells the story of American herbalist Rosita Arvigo, whose quest to explore the healing powers of plants led her to the rain forest of Belize where she befriended one of the last remaining Maya shamans, Don Elijio Panti. While learning his secrets during her apprenticeship she unearthed her life's work: to preserve Don Elijio's ancient healing knowledge and to bridge the gap between science and traditional healer's wisdom. Funded by the National Cancer Institute in New York, Rosita Arvigo is in a race against time, scouring the tropical rainforests of Central America in search of cures for many deadly diseases like AIDS and Cancer, before they are wiped out by deforestation. English, Spanish, Mayan, with English subtitles.

Madam Ti Zo (Mrs. Littlebones). David Belle. (Haiti 2004) 65 minutes. This is a documentary portrait of a dynamic peasant healer from Jacmel, Haiti. This film tells the story of an extraordinary Haitian elder who runs the equivalent of a rural health clinic from her modest thatched roof hut situated near the Jacmel River. While taking care of numerous relatives and neighbors who depend upon her, Mrs. LittleBones or Mother Bones, as friends know her, simultaneously works as a mid-wife and leaf doctor for an endless stream of men, women and children who find their way to her yard seeking relief from their maladies. As she says in the film, "They call me Never Tired" her energy seems ceaseless. Moving through one delivery or treatment after another, her days and often nights of work are intimately observed in this unique look at one, of Haiti's many, wise elders. Humorous, mysterious, and insightful the film offers a



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

rare glimpse into traditional life of Haitian peasants. A reality where faith in the spirit world is central to resolving problems and where access to modern medicine is extremely limited. Entirely in Haitian Creole and filmed in a pure cinema verite fashion over the course of many months along Haiti's southern coast, Madanm Ti Zo is the second of a six part series of films about Haiti's elders and traditions. Haitian Creole with English subtitles.

The Shaman's Apprentice Miranda Smith (USA 2001) 54 minutes. Renowned ethnobotanist Dr. Mark Plotkin first traveled to the Amazon twenty years ago seeking a cure for diabetes. There he found extraordinary biological riches and a mysterious world of shape-shifting shamans who healed with sophisticated plant medicines. Mark was to learn that these indigenous people have an astonishing ability to understand and manage their fragile rainforest environment -- but they are disappearing faster than the forests themselves. Could he save their world from extinction? English.



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

2007 Films

Extremosul/Southern Extreme M. Schmiedt (Argentina 2006) 92 minutes. 5 South Americans plan an expedition to climb Mount Sarmiento, located in Tierra del Fuego. The film documents the expedition. Spanish and Portuguese with English subtitles.

Water and Habitat

Fuera Maria Corcorran and Lindsay Katona (Bolivia 2005) 30 minutes. This film focuses on the debate over water as a commodity or a basic human right. The people of El Alto, Bolivia do not have access to potable water even though the water treatment facility adjoins their neighborhood. The necessity of water in every aspect of life and health hazards connected to water deprivation are highlighted in this impactful work. Privatized since 1997, the water system in El Alto, Bolivia has become the topic of recent political and social debates in Bolivia and around the world. *Fuera* evaluates how the privatization of water, under the transnational Suez, has affected access and quality of water for the citizens of this sprawling urban center. Interviews with local and international activists, doctors, public health officials, academics, and most importantly the Alteños themselves. Spanish with English subtitles.

La Ruta del Cobre Jenny Sharman (Ecuador/UK 2006) 34 minutes. When the Canadian mining company, Ascendant, selects Intag as a prime spot for mining operations in Ecuador, the community begins a long fight to prevent the destruction of their valuable rainforests. The film depicts the conflict between Ascendant and the community leaders about alternative development and ecological preservation in one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. The true cost of mining in the Cloud forest of Ecuador. English.

Baulas Mónica Naranjo González (Costa Rica 2006) 10 minutes. This film is a short description of the conservation efforts at the Parque Nacional Marino las Baulas in Costa Rica. The marine preserve protects the endangered Leatherback Turtles, runs environmental awareness programs and teaches people to protect their environment and resources. Spanish with English subtitles.

Proyecto GAM Douglas F. Williamson (Costa Rica 2005) 26 minutes. The GAM Project engagingly investigates the issues that concern urban development and city planning in order to provide a healthy and ecologically friendly living arrangement for city-dwellers. Environmental, health, social, and transportation problems are addressed through interviews with professionals and average citizens. Spanish with English subtitles.



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

People, Culture, and Environment

Lyra Lezama Clayton Haskell (US 2005) 17 minutes. Lyra Lezama lives in an environment under constant threat of war. When she wins the green card lottery to the United States she must decide whether she enjoys life in her beautiful Cuba too much to move to the U.S. English.

Los Nadies Ramiro García and Sheila Pérez García (Argentina 2005) 51 minutes. This documentary seeks to highlight the plight of street children in Buenos Aires. The children filmed parts of the documentary themselves and talk about their reasons for leaving home, their struggles, and eventually reveal their emotions about their experiences. The documentary develops the life of a group of children living on the street. It reflects diverse individual and group stories revealing the codes that exist between them. One camera was used by the children and the other by the directors. Spanish with English subtitles.

El Suroeste Dominicano Martha Ellen Davis (Dominican Republic 2004) 56 minutes. The director brings the audience to the center of the world to demonstrate how ecological and mental calendars have been aligned in the daily lives of the people. Musical expression is important to them and their songs for various activities are recorded to present a fantastic cultural treat. Links nature with human nature in an overview of this most geographically diverse of Dominican regions, today bordering Haiti, but in Precolumbian Taino times the political and religious axis of the island of Quisqueya (Hispaniola). Depicts traditional culture expressed through agricultural technology and crafts, mythological narrative, religious ritual, songs for devotion and healing, work, mourning, and sacred and social dance. Spanish with English subtitles.

Biodiversity

Biopirates: the Sao Luis Letter Manuele Franceschini (Chile 2005) 52 minutes. In São Luis do Maranhão, Brazil, 23 shamans from as many Native Indian nations challenged all patenting of life forms and traditional knowledge associated to the same, in the moving “São Luis Letter.” From forests to cities, the natives searched for the tools to defend the biodiversity and their ancient system of knowledge from the multinational pharmaceutical industries. We hear the views of shamans, leaders, native lawyers and western academic thinking in the person of the British researcher Dr. Benjamin Gilbert. The film reveals the old world ways of the Xavante territory. We hear from Vandana Shiva, the Indian thinker, mixing biology, ethics and philosophy. Biopiracy - such a Brazilian theme - is yet so universal. The question is for the first time in history being asked not only by thinkers and philosophers, but also by the common man: to who does nature and human knowledge belong? Portuguese with English subtitles.

Laurete/Waterfall of the Jaguars Vincent Carelli (Brazil 2006) 48 minutes. **Winner Grand Jury Prize 2007.** The European priests who evangelized to the Tarainos encouraged them to cast off their symbols and rituals and suppressed the continuation of Taraino indigenous knowledge.



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

The Taraino are now reaffirming their cultural heritage by rebuilding places of worship, recovering ritual decorations from museums, and registering sacred sites such as the Waterfall of the Jaguars. Portuguese and Tukano with English subtitles.

Environment and the Media

De la Tierra a la Pantalla Juan Francisco Salazar (Australia/Chile 2004) 37 minutes. Activists in Mapuche are interviewed about presenting ethnic/indigenous rights in the media. A bold journey into the lives and work of Mapuche media makers and activists who pursue their own place in the Chilean media environment. A struggle to find their own stories and shoot back at the mainstream media's portrayal of ethnic civil disobedience. In Spanish and Mapudungun with English subtitles.

The Legend of the Winds of Fire Zenaida Perez (Mexico 2005) 21 minutes. Jenpoj is a radio station that broadcasts informative educational, cultural, and environmental programs in Mixe. The community is heartened by the accomplishment of maintaining a communication facility that caters exclusively to their way of life and language. The film briefly explores the way in which such broadcasts unite people, strengthen their heritage and provide an outlet for historically oppressed voices. Spanish with English subtitles.

Globalization

Maquilapolis Vicky Funari and Sergio de La Torre (Mexico/USA 2006) 68 minutes. Globalization has brought foreign factories to Mexico for tax breaks and cheap labor, but the Mexicans appear to reap only environmental, health and labor problems. The women in this film discuss the problems of low wages, unhealthy work and living conditions, pollution and neglect of workers' rights as consequences of globalization. Women workers in Tijuana recording their lives at the maquiladoras (factory of transnational corporations), demonstrating against work conditions and the toxic waste produced by the plants. English and Spanish with English subtitles.

Juqueriquere Vicentini Gomez (Brazil 2005) 10 minutes. The remembrances of an Old Indian compared to his current condition of "ex-owner of the land." The preservation and devastation of the rivers, mangroves, and areas with water sources. Portuguese with English subtitles.

I Defend the Jungle Eriberto Gualinga (Ecuador 2003) 22 minutes. The CGC oil company invades the Sarayacu territory to conduct geographical surveys without the permission of the people who live there. The people attempt to defend their society, culture, and environment against pollution and human rights violations when the government decides to support the oil company. Kichwa with English subtitles.



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

Indigenous Communities

Cattle Callers Marília Rocha (Brazil 2006) 73 minutes. *Cattle Callers* (original title: Aboio) is a documentary about mysticism and ancestry in the Brazilian outback. Filmmaker Marília Rocha found many references to aboio, a singing used by cowboys during cattle calls, while reading Brazilian authors Guimaraes Rosa and Mário de Andrade. The film depicts a journey through Minas Gerais, Bahia, and Pernambuco looking for cattle callers. Portuguese with English subtitles.

The Sacred Summit Mariano Estrada (Mexico 2003) 27 minutes. The indigenous people recall stories of land and home invasions by the cattle ranchers who burnt houses, stole property and forcefully evicted them. The community remembers the respect their forefathers afforded the land and resources and they hold fast to these beliefs in spite of an environment of injustice and discrimination. Tzeltal and Spanish with English subtitles.

Uratarimanta, Esto es Democracia para Nosotros Cesar Galindo (Peru 2005) 51 minutes. The citizens here hold a definition of democracy that centers on collective action. They are adamant that everyone must assist with community programs while women assert their right to voice their ideas and concerns on community issues. The film demonstrates how each family or section of the village contributes to social improvement. Democracy may prioritize individual rights, but here, people show how individuals and collectives can coexist for greater benefit. Community democracy on the local level. Quechua and Spanish with English subtitles.

Environmental Advocacy

Apaga y Vamonos (Switch Off) Manel Mayol (Spain 2006) 80 minutes. A film about a Mapuche-Pehuenche town in Chile and their fight with the Spanish company ENDESA and the Chilean government. The Mapuche resisted the damming of the Biobío River, which flooded the valley in which they resided. The town was relocated to a mountainous location, at 2,000 m in height without access to electricity. The townspeople who resisted were prosecuted under anti-terrorist laws in Chile. This film relates the story of the Mapuche people and their resistance against their dislocation. Spanish with English subtitles.

La Tierra es Nuestra Esperanza (The Land is our Hope: Resistance to the “Plan Puebla Panama”) Violeta Chavez and Bertha Rodriguez (Mexico 2003) 30 minutes. People protest the Plan Puebla Panama project to install a major highway through farming and subsistence agriculture territory. The people who live here have been relocated before to accommodate government projects and their livelihoods and lifestyles have been negatively impacted by environmental and geographical changes. They are worried that this new highway project will remove them from the only means of earning a living that they know - farming. The authorities'



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

idea of development clashes with that of the people they are supposed to serve. Spanish with English subtitles.

Historia de Dos Orillas Emilio Cartoy Diaz (Argentina/Uruguay 2006) 57 minutes. This film utilizes interviews with scientists and activists and footage from protest action to demonstrate Argentine rejection of the location of pulp mills. Similar mills in other countries caused extensive environmental and health damage and the Argentines worry that the mills will negatively impact their tourism industry, their natural environment and their health. Spanish with English and French subtitles.



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

2009 Films

In 2009 the Stone Center screened the award winning films from the Biennial Latin American Environmental Media Festival at the New Orleans Film Festival and Patois, the New Orleans International Human Rights Film Festival.

Environmental Preservation

Justicia Now! Martin O'Brien and Robbie Proctor (USA 2008) 31 minutes. **2009 Best of the Festival.** *Justicia Now!* is a documentary about Chevron Texaco's toxic legacy in the Northern Ecuadorian region of the Amazon rain forest-and a courageous group of people called Los Afectados (The Affected Ones) who are seeking justice for the ensuing cancer, sickness and death in the largest environmental class action lawsuit in history. **A grades 6-12 curriculum is available for this film on the LARC website for free download.** English.

Godofredo - 20% Albert Schweitzer Gaby Lingke (Chile 2007) 47 minutes. Godofredo is a wise and cantankerous old man who dedicated his life to protecting animals and nature. His property, on the outskirts of Santiago de Chile, is a haven for numerous cats, 24 dogs, a tortoise, four parrots, eleven pigeons, and a host of other animals. The now 90-year-old Godofredo Stutzin has reached a sobering conclusion. The struggle to protect our environment can never be more than a losing battle - humanity, it seems, is simply too stupid for its own good. The retired lawyer and winner of Germany's prestigious Federal Cross of Merit is highly skeptical of the future prospects of our natural world. But this was not always the case. Born to a Jewish father, Stutzin fled Nazi-Germany in 1935 and went on to study law in Chile. In the late 1960s he founded Chile's first society for animal welfare and conservation. The many awards decorating his office testify to his tenacity and dedication. In his 50-year-long struggle Godofredo was driven by his belief that only a life lived for and in communion with nature was a life worth living. Spanish, German, and English with English subtitles.

Politics and the Environment

Cultures of Resistance: Battle for the Xingu Iara Lee (USA/Brazil 2009) 11 minutes. Imagine Hurricane Katrina was not a hurricane but an event sponsored by the federal government, in collaboration with several multinational corporations. If your imagination fails you, watch *Battle for the Xingu*. The Xingu, a tributary of the Amazon, is home to over 10,000 indigenous people who rely on the river for survival. The Brazilian government is proposing what would be the world's third largest hydroelectric dam, threatening to destroy the biodiversity of the region and deprive these people of their rights to a sustainable future. The filmmakers were in Altamira in 2008 for the Xingu Alive Encounter to witness the spectacular determination of the Amazon people to protect their way of life. Today, plans to build the dam continue; so do the protests. Portuguese with English subtitles.



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

Para la comunidad desde la comunidad (By the People for the People) Mark Kendall (Bolivia 2007) 14 minutes. This film shows the use of film technology by indigenous groups in Bolivia. For these groups the acquisition of film technology has spurred a movement to create their own body of mass media, using it as a powerful tool for cultural and political self-determination. Focuses on filming by indigenous peoples in July and August of 2007 where films created by indigenous people were screened across Bolivia. Spanish and English with English subtitles.

Rio Blanco - The Story of the Farmer and the Mine Michael Watts and David McNulty (Peru 2008) 27 minutes. On the 21st of April 2004, 5,000 farmers from Huancabamba province, Northern Peru, marched to protest against a proposed mine. Farmers feared possible contamination of their fresh water sources and were angry they had not been consulted about the project. While farmers waited to meet with government officials a group of police fired tear gas at the protestors and one protestor was killed. This film draws on footage shot at the time, interviews with protestors on the march, and press coverage of the event to build up a picture of what happened and how it was portrayed afterwards in the national and international media. Spanish and English.

United States and Latin America

Blondes in the Jungle Lev Kalman and Whitney Horn (Honduras/USA 2009) 47 minutes. On a hunt for the Fountain of Youth, three teenagers in 1980s Honduras buy drugs, have magical encounters. Long silent jungle sequences, a meditation on Maya archaeology, and a heavy TV teen vibe make *Blondes in the Jungle* at once an absurd comedy and a serious film about the possibility of spiritual growth in a world of instant gratification. Featuring eight original songs by El Jefe and The Executive Look, a 1987 World Beat band assembled from the ranks of Vampire Weekend, Aa (Big A little a), The Birthday Boyz, Asobi Seksu and Julianna Barwick. Spanish and English.

Afuera (Outside) Florencia Krochik (USA 2007) 6 minutes. Separated from her family, a young immigrant teenager tries to hold on to her identity. She must find a way to survive in the city of Los Angeles. As she gives away the necklace her grandfather gave her before she departed, she finds someone to help her in this new environment. Spanish and English with English subtitles.

American Dream Alexander T. Sharkey (Columbia/USA 2008) 17 minutes. Miguel lived a very simple happy life with his wife, Angelica, and son, Gabriel. After a corporate company comes to Miguel's home town to start logging, a malaria outbreak ensues. His wife Angelica dies and Miguel needs to decide whether to stay in Colombia or to immigrate to the United States in hope to save his son's future. Gabriel is all Miguel has left, and with a promise of an American dream, Miguel leaves for the United States. After two years in America, with the failing economy, and struggling to find work, Miguel realizes that life can change in the blink of an eye. Spanish and English.



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

American/Sandinista Jason Blalock (Nicaragua/USA 2008) 29 minutes. In the 1980s, at the height of the Cold War, a bloody civil war between the Soviet-friendly Sandinistas and U.S.-backed Contras ravaged Nicaragua. Despite the danger, thousands of Americans disobeyed White House warnings and descended upon the Central American nation, determined to lend their skills and labor to the social-democratic Sandinista cause. Using an eclectic mixture of rare archival footage, arresting still photography, and contemporary interviews, *American/Sandinista* tells the story of a small group of controversial U.S. engineers who went further than anyone expected, and paid the ultimate price. English.

Fachadas (Facade) Maria Royo (USA 2008) 9 minutes. The film addresses the work of Michel Banda Vives, a Cuban artist living in the US whose work was recently destroyed in a fire. Michel reflects on his art, his journey from Cuba, and his adjustment to life in the US. English.

Heirlooms Barry B. Werger (USA 2008) 12 minutes. Ten years ago, faced with hospital bills incurred by desperate attempts to save his dying wife, Antonio sold priceless family heirlooms to the antique dealer he works for. These wedding mantas (woven shawls) had been handed down by the women of his Bolivian family for 300 years. Embarrassed by his inability to save his wife or support his family in an American lifestyle, and rejected by his deceased wife's family, he became estranged from his daughters, Erica, Anna, and Nina. One year ago, hearing about Nina's upcoming wedding, and knowing that the ancient mantas had not yet been resold by his employer, Antonio snuck the heirlooms out of the warehouse and, unable to face his daughters in person, left them with his late wife's sister Nancy, with whom his daughters had lived. His employer has finally sold the mantas for a very high price, only to discover them missing and a heartbroken Antonio is faced with the painful choice between ruining his kindhearted employer and passing something of his heritage on to his estranged daughters. English.

Without Papers (Sin Papeles) Florencia Krochik and Gabriel Sanchez (USA 2008) 11 minutes. Chronicles the lives of two undocumented college students in the US. English with Spanish subtitles.

Culture and the Environment

The Midnight Man (Homem da Meia Noite) Paolo Santagostino (Brazil 2007) 14 minutes. Olinda, one of the best-preserved colonial cities in Brazil, is the protagonist of this short documentary. Its contrasting vitality is revealed in the elegant movements of the Frevo dancers, as in the piles of trash gathered in the streets during sunset, in the children playing bare foot in front of churches. The sequences edited on a soundtrack deeply linked to the music of this corner of the world try to unravel, in different moments, the contrasts the vitality that the ancient capital express in the carnival. No dialogue.



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

Baiana Mariya Prokopenko (Canada 2008) 5 minutes. This film is the story of a young woman who becomes possessed by spirits and, through this experience, finds her history, her 'self' and her power. The film features a traditional Afro-Brazilian dance which transforms Baiana through her participation in her ancestral rituals. No dialogue.

The Jezebel Spirit Mark Kendall (Bolivia 2008) 5 minutes. A film showing footage of an Aymaran New Year's celebration in Tiwanaku, Bolivia. The footage is interlaced with a song "The Jezebel Spirit" about a preacher performing an exorcism. The film draws parallels between the two rituals. English.

Feature Length Films

Grissi Siknis: La enfermedad mágica de la selva (Grissi Siknis: The Magic Illness of the Rainforest) Enrique Luis Skippy (Spain/Nicaragua/Mexico 2008) 94 minutes. **2009 Winner of Best Feature Length Film.** The Miskito are a large tribal group of linguistically similar people inhabiting eastern Central America between Rio Tinto in Honduras and Pearl Lagoon in Nicaragua. They are descended from a mix of European, Creole, Chinese, African, and Native American peoples making them racially diverse. The majority of the modern Miskito live in small villages, farming, raising animals or fishing to supply their livelihood. The Miskito religion is a conglomerate of traditional Indian mysticism and European Christianity and combines Biblical and mystical spirituality. Symptoms of grissi siknis vary but include a distinct set of central characteristics, and most of the victims are young girls from 15 to 18 years old. The attacks are prefaced by headaches, dizziness, anxiety, nausea, irrational anger and/or fear. During the attack the victim loses consciousness and falls to the ground, subsequently running away. The victim may view other people as devils, feel no pain for bodily injuries and have absolute amnesia regarding the physical circumstances. Some grab machetes or broken bottles to wave off unseen assailants. Miskito tradition holds that grissi siknis is caused by possession by evil spirits they believe to be caused by a dilman or evil sorcerer. According to western medicine these a trance like disturbances occur with unusual frequencies in certain societies. Grissi siknis is related to emotional upset, worry, fear and general anxiety it has become a local way for expressing misfortune. Filmed in Nicaragua. Spanish and Miskito with Spanish and English subtitles.

Beyond Elections: Redefining Democracy in the Americas (Mas Alla de las Elecciones: Redefiniendo Democracia en las Americas) Michael Fox and Sílvia Leindecker Fox (Brazil/Ecuador/USA/Uruguay/Venezuela 2008) 114 minutes. This film addresses democracy and how democracy is viewed around the world. Specifically focusing on Latin America, this film looks at how democracy is evolving in the Americas. Focuses on Brazil and Venezuela. Featuring interviews with Eduardo Galeano, Amy Goodman, Martha Harnecker and Ward Churchill as well as cooperative and community members, elected representatives, academics,



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

and activists from Brazil, Canada, Venezuela, Argentina, United States, Uruguay, Chile, Colombia, and more. Spanish, Portuguese, and English with Spanish subtitles.

El Regalo de la Pachamama Toshifumi Matsushita (Peru 2008) 104 minutes. At Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni (Salt Lake), where many families work with salt, a 13-year-old boy named Kunturi lives a traditional Quecha life with his family. His life begins to change when his grandmother dies, a friend moves away, and his father takes him on his first trip with the llama caravan. For three months he travels the Ruta de la Sal, exchanging blocks of salt his father and other villagers have chipped from the lake, for other products of the Andes, the altiplano and the valleys. In the snow-covered peaks his father sacrifices Kunturi's favorite llama. A thief is caught and exiled from a town. Kunturi sees his first armadillo. He learns from these and other experiences and encounters along the way. When the caravan arrives at its destination, the town of Macha where the "Tinku" Festival takes place, Kunturi's life is changed even more deeply. There he finds Ulala, the most beautiful girl he could imagine. Kunturi and Ulala feel the stirrings of first love as they share the same dream: to run together across the immense white sea that is the Salar de Uyuni, until they reach the end of the horizon. Spanish and Quechua with English subtitles.

Intimidad (Intimacy) Ashley Sabin and David Redmon (Mexico 2008) 74 minutes. *Intimidad* is an in-depth portrait of Cecy and Camilo Ramirez, ages 21, whose dream is to buy land and build a house in Reynosa, Mexico so their 2 year-old daughter, Loida can live with them. Loida lives with Cecy's mother in Santa Maria, Puebla. *Intimidad* slowly unravels, showing how the everyday politics of living on minimum wage without a functioning infrastructure strains their relationship and sacrifices their own intimacy. One year later they return to Puebla during Christmas vacation to reunite with their daughter. What seems like a satisfying reunion and temporary relief from the harsh environment of Reynosa turns into a confusing dilemma between Cecy and Camilo. The conflict threatens to transform the course of their lives and suspend efforts to improve their living conditions, thereby further straining the family's ability to live together. Spanish with English subtitles.

13 Pueblos en defensa del agua, el aire, y la tierra (13 Towns Defending Water, Air, and Land) Atahualpa Caldera Sosa and Fernanda Robinson (Mexico 2008) 63 minutes. In the future, wars will be fought over water. In the Mexican state of Morelos, this war has already begun. A documentary that contemplates Mexico's destiny, *13 Towns* tells the story of the struggle of Mexican indigenous people to preserve their natural resources and their cultural identity. Nahuatl and Spanish with English subtitles.

Ausangate Andrea Heckman and Tad Fettig (Peru 2006) 61 minutes. This film documents the lives of Quechua people who live around Ausangate, a sacred peak in southeastern Peru. It is based on anthropological research conducted over twenty years and reveals how the weavers make textiles encoded with symbolic images that reinforce ancestral beliefs during rituals and in everyday life. Faced with the pressures of modernization, Quechuas are confronted with choices about whether to move to the cities in search of jobs and education thus separating themselves



Latin American Resource Center
2005-2009 Films of the Biennial Latin American Environmental Film Festival

from nature and from Ausangate or to continue in a lifestyle that has sustained them for centuries. Quechua and Spanish with English subtitles.

Cartoneros Ernesto Livon-Grosman (Argentina 2006) 60 minutes. *Cartoneros* follows the paper recycling process in Buenos Aires from the trash pickers who collect paper informally through middlemen in warehouses, to executives in large corporate mills. The process exploded into a multimillion dollar industry after Argentina's latest economic collapse. The film is both a record of an economic and social crisis and an invitation to audiences to rethink the value of trash. Spanish with English subtitles.