



## LARC Resources on Colombia

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### Units

#### ***A Forgotten People: Afro Pacific People's Struggle***

The slide show presents the lives of Black people of Colombia and Ecuador's Pacific coast and their struggle to protect their homeland, the rainforest along the coast and their culture. The slide show and audio tape are produced by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), based on a series of presentations by Juan Garcia Salazar, Afro-Ecuadorian activist, community organizer, historian, photographer, teacher and recorder of the oral traditions of Black people of the region. Juan Garcia is a leader of El Proceso, a binational effort of Black communities and organizations working for their territorial, cultural, social, economic and political rights. English, 15 minutes., 7 pp., 65 slides.

### Films

#### ***A Path Appears***

A Path Appears is a unique and essential 4.5 hour documentary series addressing the roots of gender inequality, the devastating impact of poverty, and the ripple effects that follow, including sex trafficking, teen pregnancy, gender based violence, child slavery and the effective solutions being forged to combat them. This film travels across the United States to Haiti, Colombia, and Kenya. English, 270 minutes.

#### ***A Tramp in the Darien***

A North American writer observes ecological, economic, and social conditions while traveling by bus, boat, and foot through the Darien, a rainforest region in the gap between the two sections of the Pan-American Highway in the Panama-Colombia border area. PBS film (Adventure series). 1989. English, 60 minutes.

### ***American Dream***

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 because of it, 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. The purpose of this film is for the viewer to engage and discuss in many different social problems that surround and connect us all. Directed and produced by Alexander T. Sharkey. Completed in December 2008. 17 minutes. This project contains dialogue in Spanish and English with no translations available. Submitted in the short film category to the 2009 Latin American Environmental Media Festival. Spanish and English, 17 minutes.

### ***Americas Series Part H: Get Up Stand Up: Problems of Sovereignty***

Discusses issues of establishing national sovereignty in Colombia, Jamaica, and Panama, three nations with continued foreign presence and interest in their national affairs. This ten-part series narrated by Raul Julia explores Latin America via current issues and polemics. Each program explores one issue, using actual newsreel footage and interviews with key individuals from different socio-economic strata within one or more Latin American nation and can be used independently from the others. The Annenberg CPB Collection. 1993. Each film runs for 1 hour. Please specify program when ordering. *English*, 60 minutes.

### ***Bolivar soy yo***

A delirious satire whose humor gives way to anguished political commentary, *I am Bolivar* spoofs that distinctive Latin American genre, the telenovela. Santiago, who plays the great revolutionary Simon Bolívar in *Lovers of the Liberator*, is in trouble. He's so deeply committed to his role that he's lost his own identity, and has come to believe that he is, in fact, Bolivar. Santiago's folly is exploited by a group of celebrity-hungry politicians, but the star's madness is stronger than they are. His determination to realize Bolivar's dreams leads to escapades too bizarre for even the most outrageous telenovela. Colombia, 2002, film. Spanish with English subtitles, 93 minutes.

### ***Cartas del parque (Letters from the Park)***

One of the film in the *Amores difíciles* series based on Gabriel Garcia Marquez works. This film questions the compatibility of Latin American culture with the values of the "modern" world. Directed by Tomas Gutierrez Alea. Starring Victor Laplace, Ivonne Lopez, Miguel Paneque. 1988. Spanish w/ English subtitles, 85 minutes.

### ***Colombia: A Better Manana (South American Journey H)***

Deals with the problems of urban drift, land reform, violence, civil unrest, drug trafficking, and poverty. Narrator shows often extreme ethnocentrism and cultural insensitivity; viewers should be prepared to discuss the cultural biases behind the filmmakers' commentary. Australian Public Television. 1987. (See also DEV/PER/01,

DF/BRA/04, HC/SA/01, I/ARG/02, I/COL/03, I/SA/09 and R/SA/01 for other segments of the South American Journey series.) English, 60 minutes.

***Colombia: An Enterprise with a Future***

This short film is an introduction to Colombia's cities, landscape, people, industrial, agricultural, and shipping industries with an eye toward inviting foreign investment. Pays special attention to all aspects of Colombia's international trade and manufacturing industries. Offers a different view from what is usually given by the international media. The Colombian American Chamber of Commerce. 1994. English, 11 minutes.

***Confesion a Laura (Confession to Laura)***

An emotionally gut-wrenching drama from Colombia set after the assassination of liberal leader Jorge Elieser Gaitan in 1948, an event which touched off civil war in Colombia. Rioting traps two people at Laura's house, setting the scene for an unforgettable night. Directed by Jamie Osorio Gomez. Starring Vicky Hernandez, Gustavo Londono, Maria Cristina Galvez. 1990. LESSON PLANS AVAILABLE, PLEASE INDICATE ON REQUEST FORM. *Spanish w/ English subtitles*, 90 minutes.

***Cruel Courage***

The hour-long film begins in NYC on September 11th, 2001. After witnessing the destruction of ground zero, the filmmaker searches for answers. A week later he finds himself in Colombia, a country which has been living with terrorism almost half a century. We are introduced to our characters: a social worker assisting campesino families displaced by the war, a choreographer teaching barrio children to escape violence through dance and trying to keep his ideals in a climate of compromise, an assassin-for-hire struggling to understand himself and his context, and a maverick photographer intent on documenting Colombia's terrorism. We learn what our characters can teach the world about living in and through terrorism. Although in Colombia the cycle of violence ultimately continues, this film is a story of hope and resilience because of the choices made by the main characters. But hope itself is cruel. As Gabriel Garcia Marquez has written, the adaptability of Colombians may be the cruelest kind of courage, because it enables Colombians to carry on no matter how terrible the circumstances. English, Portuguese and Monde with English subtitles, 57 minutes.

***Diary of Bucaramanga: Last Days of Simon Bolivar***

Diary of Bucaramanga takes place in 1828 amid the conflicts surrounding the consolidation of independence in South America. Bolívar, accompanied by his political advisors, is in the Colombian city of Bucaramanga awaiting news of developments at the Ocaña Convention, which is expected to generate a constitution for Colombia. In dramatic days marked by intrigue and treachery at the hands of General Francisco de Paula Santander, the future of Grán Colombia is decided as Bolívar recalls key moments in his life. The film is based on a 19th century novel by Luís Perú de Lacroix, a French general who fought in the army of Napoleon I and then joined Bolívar's army in 1823. Spanish with English subtitles.

### ***El Golpe de Estado***

An oil company has set up camp for geological research in a small village in Colombia that has been named New Texas so it becomes the target of the guerrillas holding constant classes with police in the area, the confrontation is altered in the interest of the sides of continuing the transmission of the World Cup qualifiers for the 1994 World Cup. They establish a truce to watch the match between Colombia and Argentina on the only working TV in Town. 1998 Spanish, 100 minutes.

### ***Gabo: The Creation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez***

How did a boy from a tiny town on the Caribbean coast become a writer who won the hearts of millions? How did he change our perception of reality with his work? The answers lie in the incredible story of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the 1982 Nobel Prize winner in Literature. A law-school dropout and political journalist who grew up in the poverty and violence of northern Colombia, Gabriel Garcia Marquez became the writer of globally celebrated, critically acclaimed books. Known as 'Gabo' Gabriel Garcia Marquez's sensual, 'magical' sensibility led him to the forefront of the political struggles of the 1970s and 1980s - including a pivotal and previously unknown role in negotiations between Cuban leader Fidel Castro and American President Bill Clinton - and into the hearts of readers across the world. In addition to Clinton, the documentary includes former Colombian president Cesar Gaviria along with writers, journalists, literary agents, and Garcia Marquez's siblings. Spanish and English with English subtitles, 90 minutes.

### ***Gabriel Garcia Marquez: Magic and Reality***

Shot on the Colombian coast in Aracataca (Macondo), the Banana Zone, Cienaga, & Baranquilla, this film incorporates rare archival footage, appearances by the author and characters of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *The Autumn of the Patriarch*. film for the Humanities. 1981. English, 90 minutes.

### ***Harvesting New Songs: Colombia and Venezuela***

The international folkloric group Sotavento describes the instruments, rhythms, and social influence of music from Colombia and Venezuela and performs five selections. University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. 1986. English, 16 minutes.

### ***La presencia africana en Hispanoamerica***

This three part program presents an overview of the history, current world and culture of the peoples of African descent in Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. International film Bureau. Guide included. 1988. In beginner-level Spanish. Available ONLY on VHS. Spanish, 30 minutes.

### ***Latino Cuisine in New Orleans***

Inspired by numerous countries - from Mexico and Colombia, to Cuba and Brazil. Well known chefs, like Aaron Sanchez, John Besh, and Phillip Lopez, discuss their thoughts on this multifaceted cuisine, along with their favorite dishes, while food writers share anecdotes and additional commentary. Set to vibrant music, this documentary highlights the many cultural contributions that the Latino community has made to the city of New Orleans. *English*, 60 minutes.

### ***Lines of Blood***

Examines the toll the present drug war is taking on Colombia and looks into the controversial view that one way to reduce cocaine production is to legalize it. Produced and directed by Brian Moser and Julia Ware. filmmakers Library. 1991. English, 52 minutes.

### ***Love Women and Flowers***

Sixty thousand women are employed in Colombia's floral industry. But the pesticides and fungicides used in the nation's third-largest industry have major health and environmental repercussions on the land and the workers. This documentary probes these hazards. Women Make Movies. 1988. English, 58 minutes.

### ***Maria Full of Grace***

Maria Alvarez is a Colombian teenager who lives with three generations of her family in a cramped house in rural Colombia. Desperate to leave her job stripping thorns from roses, Maria accepts a large paycheck, agrees to be a mule for drug-runners: she has to swallow dozens of thumb-sized capsules of heroin and smuggle them into New York. This debilitating process is painstakingly described, and of course not everything goes as planned when Maria and her fellow mules land in America. The trump card is the lead performance of Catalina Sandrino Moreno, who won awards at the Seattle and Newport film Festivals. Her empathetic face carries us along on Maria's journey, and humanizes a problem that is too easily relegated to a headline. The dramatic thriller builds toward a conclusion that could only be based on a thousand true stories. Directed by: Joshua Martin. Spanish with English subtitles, 101 minutes.

### ***Marquez: Tales Beyond Solitude***

In this rare interview, Nobel Prize-winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez speaks about his role in the Latin American cinema, and his recent foray into--of all things--melodramatic soap opera. Marquez considers himself a "writer of literature" who uses the cinema only to reach a larger audience. RM Arts/Luna film Limited (Profile of a Writer series). 1989. Contains some nudity. Teachers should preview. English, 59 minutes.

### ***Our Lady of the Assassins***

Barbet Schroeder's first film away from Hollywood in 13 years also ranks as one of his best. A writer returns home to Colombia, with the intention of taking his own life, to find his hometown is a center for cocaine production and gang warfare. He becomes involved intimately with a teenaged gang member, but their relationship only brings the writer closer to the tragic state of his homeland. Shot guerilla-style digital film, on location in Colombia without permits, this film reaffirmed Schroeder's directorial vitality. Colombia/France, 2000, VHS. AVAILABLE ONLY ON VHS. Spanish with English subtitles, 101 minutes.

### ***Palenque: Un canto: The African Heritage of a Colombian Village***

Documents the history and daily life of Palenque de San Basilio, a town near Cartagena in northern Colombia, which was founded by rebel slaves in 1713. Through interviews with the descendants of the original settlers, this film presents their history, cultural

heritage, and current economic and political conditions. Maria Bozzi. Casimba film. 1992. English, 47 minutes.

***Recuerdos de mi barrio: El vergel asentamientos espontaneos de Cali Colombia***

On-site film, newspaper accounts, and interviews build a picture of Aguablanca, a spontaneous settlement resulting from an urban migration to Cali. The shanty town has been organized and now is a vital community which works together to share limited resources and is a model for low-cost housing. University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. 1990. Specify English (A) or Spanish (B) version. Spanish, 40 minutes.

***Secrets of the Choco***

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 has been cut off from the outside world for millennia. The Choco still hides thousands of undiscovered plants and animals, and contains kingdoms of ancient forests and shorelines that have never been disturbed. 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 banks of its maze of rivers. This film takes us into the Choco aboard an old steamer, the Jestiven. On board to interpret what we see and to debate the region's future are six of the world's foremost experts on tropical ecology and sustainable development. Bullfrog film. 1995. English, 58 minutes.

***Secuestro: Story of a Kidnapping***

This documentary dramatizes the complex problem of kidnapping in Colombia, a country where the disparity between rich and poor has turned kidnapping for ransom into a virtual business. The film recreates the kidnapping of Sylvia Motta including dramatizations and actual telephone recordings of negotiations. The Cinema Guild. 1993. Spanish w/ English subtitles, 92 minutes.

***Signposts to the South American Soul: Bravo Bread and Circuses (South American Journey E)***

Rather obnoxious narrator looks at bullfighting in Colombia, boxing in Venezuela, and the media in Brazil to explain "the nature of South Americans." Notes the often conflicting characteristics of violence, machismo, sexuality, rebellion, resignation, calm and patience. This item is extremely useful as an example of contemporary remnants of the "Black Legend" attitude, but viewers should be prepared and encouraged to examine the cultural biases behind the filmmakers' commentary. Australian Public Television. 1987. (See also DEV/COL/02, DEV/PER/01, DF/BRA/04, GE/SA/04, HC/SA/01, I/ARG/02, I/COL/03, and R/SA/01 for other segments of the South American Journey series). English, 60 minutes.

***Speaking Out: Displaced Colombians Silent No More***

This film focuses on the causes of displacement in Colombia, conditions for the displaced, the U.S. response, and displaced persons' efforts to organize and make their voices heard. It features powerful interviews with children, grandmothers, women and

others who have witnessed terrible violence, lost loved ones, and have been forced to flee their homes. Produced by the US Committee for Refugees, 2000. English, 21 minutes.

### ***The Earth is Our Mother***

A study of two Indian tribes in Colombia and Venezuela in the face of encroaching white civilization. filmmakers Library, Inc. 1988. English, 50 minutes.

### ***The Hidden Story: Confronting Colombia's Dirty War***

The Hidden Story analyses the roots of the conflict, the role of the US-sponsored Plan Colombia and the so-called "war on drugs", as well as Canada's connection to the worsening crisis. The documentary also explores what's needed to bring peace and justice to Colombia. It ends with a people's call for international support. Curriculum guide included. English, 29 minutes.

### ***The Kidnapping of Ingrid Betancourt***

In February 2002, in the midst of her controversial campaign for president, Senator Ingrid Betancourt was kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and became one of the thousands of victims of Colombia's 40-year-old civil war. Her impassioned calls for an end to political corruption and Colombia's vicious civil war had made her a popular public figure, but a dangerous instigator to many within her country's political machine. Following Betancourt up to the moments before her disappearance, this remarkable film goes on to document her family's desperate and continuing quest to free her and keep her campaign alive. Two years after the abduction, Betancourt is still missing, victim of the corrupt system she tried so desperately to reform. Through voiceovers from radio interviews taken before she was abducted, footage from the campaign trail and a chilling proof of life film released by her captors, Betancourt herself narrates much of the story. Unsettling and unforgettable, this ripping film captures with intensity the remarkable dedication of ordinary Colombians to persevere and free their country from the grip of corruption and the horror and turmoil of civil war. English, 76 minutes.

### ***The Roar of the Gods***

Pre-Columbian monoliths of San Agustin, Colombia. Organization of American States. Ca. 1975. English, 20 minutes.

### ***The Wind Journeys***

For most of his life, Ignacio Carillo travelled the villages of northern Colombia, playing traditional songs on his accordion, a legendary instrument said to have once belonged to the devil. He eventually married and settled in a small town, leaving the nomadic life behind. But after the traumatic death of his wife, he vows to never play the accursed accordion again, and embarks on one last journey to return the instrument to its rightful owner. On the way, Ignacio is followed by Fermín, a spirited teenager determined to become his apprentice. Tired of loneliness, Ignacio accepts the young man as his pupil and together they traverse the vast Colombian terrain, discovering the musical diversity of Colombian culture. Hardened by a life of solitude, Ignacio tries to discourage Fermín

from following in his footsteps, but destiny has different plans for them. Directed by Ciro Guerra. Copyright 2010. Spanish with English subtitles, 120 minutes.

***Tiempo de morir***

Based on a story by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. The protagonist spends 18 years in prison for murder, and, upon his release, finds that he is now being pursued by the sons of the man he killed. Directed by Jorge Ali Triana. Starring Gustavo Angarita, Maria Eugenia Davila. 1987. Spanish, 120 minutes.

***Uprooted***

As long as Colombia is known only through flash-point headlines of drug cartels and guerilla groups, the poor and victimized members of its society remain invisible. Juan Mejia's *Uprooted* exposes the plight of Afro-Colombians violently driven off their coastal lands and forced to subsist in shantytowns far from home. With immense tenderness and intimate attention, Mejia personalizes this history through the daily life of one brave woman caught in a politically and economically untenable situation. 2007. English and Spanish with English subtitles, 44 minutes.

## **Print Materials**

***Image of Colombia***

Organization of American States. General information and photographs. 1974. English, 24 pp.

***Christmas in Latin America***

Discusses Christmas in Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Nicaragua, and Panama. Four Christmas songs. Organization of American States. 1976 reprint. English, 15 pp.

***Art on the Road: Painted Vehicles of the Americas***

Decorated vehicles vividly reflect the art traditions and popular culture of the Americas. In this pictorial survey, art historian Moira Harris considers the ox carts of Costa Rica, the buses of Panama, the Tap-Taps of Haiti, the Custom Cars of the U.S., and the chivas of Colombia. 1988. English, 108 pp.