



LARC Resources on New Orleans and Latin America

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 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. 2008. Spanish and English, 17 minutes.

Balseros

In the summer of 1994, a crew of television reporters with unprecedented access filmed and interviewed seven Cubans with their relatives before they set out as economic refugees on homemade rafts headed for US shores. The crew followed the survivors who were rescued at sea and transported to Guantanamo, a United States military base and, at that time, site of a temporary refugee camp. Seven years later, this same crew reconnects with their subjects to discover the outcome of their new lives in different regions across the United States. 2002. Spanish and English with English Subtitles, 120 minutes.

Banana Split

The banana is the cheapest fruit you can buy at any time of the year. In a modern supermarket bananas account for over 12% of 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 store shelves. Filmed in Canada, the United States, Honduras and France, "Banana Split" explores the North/South Split between consumers and the people whose lives revolve round the banana. 2002. English, 46 minutes.

La Camioneta

Every day dozens of decommissioned school buses leave the United States on a southward migration that carries them to Guatemala, where they are repaired, repainted, and resurrected as the brightly-colored camionetas that bring the vast majority of Guatemalans to work each day. Since 2006, nearly 1,000 camioneta drivers and fare-collectors have been murdered for either refusing or being unable to pay the extortion money demanded by local Guatemalan gangs. La Camioneta follows one such



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bus on its transformative journey: a journey between North and South, between life and death, and through an unfolding collection of moments, people, and places that serve to quietly remind us of the interconnected worlds in which we live. English and Spanish, 72 minutes.

Children in No Man's Land

A documentary that uncovers the current plight of the 100,000 unaccompanied minors entering the United States every year. This film gives the timely political debate about the U.S./ Mexico border a human face by exploring the story of Maria de Jesus and her cousin Rene as they attempt to cross the U.S./Mexico border alone to reunite with their mothers in the Midwest. 2008. Spanish with English subtitles, 39 minutes.

Cuba and its Music: From the First Drums to the Mambo

This entertaining history of Cuba and its music begins with the collision of Spain and Africa and continues through the era of Miguelito Valdés, Arsenio Rodríguez, Benny Moré, and Pérez Prado. It offers a behind-the-scenes examination of music from a Cuban point of view, unearthing surprising, provocative connections and making the case that Cuba was fundamental to the evolution of music in the New World. The ways in which the music of black slaves transformed 16th-century Europe, how the claves appeared, and how Cuban music influenced ragtime, jazz, and rhythm and blues are revealed. Music lovers will follow this journey from Andalucía, the Congo, the Calabar, Dahomey, and Yorubaland via Cuba to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Saint-Domingue, New Orleans, New York, and Miami. English, 672 pages.

De Nadie (No One)

Prepare for the journey as an unknown, a nothing, no one. Prepare to leave everything from South and Central America behind and travel alone with a vague sense of direction and the echo of your family left in your ears. Prepare to face the same intimidation and corruptive danger in Mexico as you will eventually find 1,300 miles north, when you cross the United States-if you live through it. As rich nations sharpen their borders and differences, the poorest peoples continue to blur them in the search for liberties too universally held to be claimed by any flag. 2005, Spanish with English subtitles, 80 minutes.

Diego Rivera: I Paint What I See

This biographical film on the famed Mexican artist traces his life from childhood through his Cubist period, his leading role in the Mexican mural renaissance, his fame as a muralist in the USA, and his later years. The film explores Rivera's life and work, including his stormy relationship with Frida Kahlo and the destruction of his famous mural at Rockefeller Center. Shot on location in Mexico and the United States, the film includes a remarkable collection of archival film and photographs, much of which has not been seen before. Spanish with English subtitles, 52 minutes.



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Exploration of the African Diaspora in the Americas

This curriculum packet was developed by the participants in the 2009 institute with the same title and includes 3 main sections: Social Studies/History/Geography, Language, and The Arts. English, 67 pages.

The Guestworker

The Guestworker tells the story of Don Candelario Gonzalez Moreno, a 66-year old Mexican farmer who has been coming to the U.S. since the 1960s as a farm laborer. He is some twenty to forty years older than all the thousands of Mexican men who work in today's United States H2A Guest Worker program started in 1986. Despite his age, he continues to work long hours in tobacco, cucumber, and pepper fields, sweating and worrying-all for his family, particularly his ailing wife. We follow him through one grueling season, learning about one man's life in-depth, and through this intimate and personal story we learn about this little-known Guest Worker program. 2006. Spanish with English subtitles, 53 minutes.

Hispanic and Latino New Orleans: Immigration and Identity since the 18th Century

Often overlooked in historical studies of New Orleans, the city's Hispanic and Latino populations have contributed significantly to its development. This book offers the first scholarly study of these communities in the Crescent City. This trailblazing volume not only explores the evolving role of Hispanics and Latinos in shaping the city's unique cultural identity but also reveals how their history informs the ongoing national debate about immigration. Combining accessible historical narrative, interviews, and maps that illustrate changing residential geographies this is a landmark study of the political, economic, and cultural networks that produced these diverse communities in one of the country's most distinctive cities. English, 210 pages.

Land of Opportunity

Land of Opportunity is a character-driven documentary that interweaves the stories of a diverse group of people struggling to rebuild post-Katrina New Orleans. Juxtaposing different perspectives, from urban planners to immigrant workers (from Brazil) to public housing residents, we see how the story of this city is the story of urban America. Filmed over a period of five years, this is a ground-level view of a situation that has been widely discussed but rarely seen with such texture and complexity. English 97 minutes.

Latino Americans

Latino Americans is the first major documentary series for television to chronicle the rich and varied history and experiences of Latinos, who have for the past 500 plus years helped shape what is today the United States and have become, with more than 50 million people, the largest minority group in the U.S. The series chronicles Latinos in the



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United States from the 1500s to the present day. It is a story of people, politics, and culture, intersecting with much that is central to the history of the United States while also going to places where standard US histories do not tend to tread. Latino Americans relies on historical accounts and personal experiences to vividly tell the stories of early settlement, conquest, and immigration; of tradition and reinvention; and of anguish and celebration, from the millions of people who come to the U.S. from Mexico, Spain, Puerto Rico, and countries in Central and South America. English, 6 hours.

Life on the Line: Coming of Age between Nations

Life on the Line is a half-hour documentary that follows a year in the life of 11 year old Kimberly Torrez as she and her family awaits the visa that will allow them to return to the United States after unforeseen circumstances trap them in Nogales, Mexico. Living literally steps from the border, Kimberly crosses each day to attend school just across the line in Arizona. While Kimberly's father finds himself unemployed, stricken with Hepatitis C, and in need of a liver transplant, Kimberly's mother desperately awaits the visa that will allow her to live in the US with her American children if her husband dies. A slice of life portrait film told through Kimberly's eyes, the film illuminates the changing face of America through the story of this one family. Spanish and English with English subtitles, 26 minutes.

The Louisiana Purchase

A history in maps, images, and documents on CD. A comprehensive resource which tells the story of the greatest land deal in the Atlantic world through rare maps, documents, and images digitized from the rich collections of New Orleans and Louisiana archives, museums, and libraries. Includes more than 100 maps, documents, paintings, portraits, and line drawings as well as standards-based lesson plans. English, French, Spanish.

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.

Prince among Slaves

In 1788, the slave ship Africa set sail from the Gambia River, its hold laden with a profitable but highly perishable cargo - hundreds of men, women, and children bound in chains - headed for American shores. Eight months later, a handful of survivors found themselves for sale in Natchez, Mississippi. One of them, a 26 year old named Abdul Rahman, made an astonishing claim: that he was a prince of an African kingdom larger and more developed than the newly formed United States. English, 60 minutes.



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Rebel: Loreta Velazquez, Secret Soldier of the American Civil War

In 1861, at the outbreak of the American Civil War, a teenager from New Orleans headed to the front lines. Under the alias Harry T. Buford, he fought at the First Bull Run, was wounded at Shiloh, and served as a Confederate spy. But Buford harbored a secret - he was really Loreta Velazquez, a Cuban immigrant from New Orleans. By 1863 Velazquez was spying for the Union. She scandalized America when she revealed her story in her 1876 memoir, *The Woman in Battle*. Attacked not only for her criticism of war, but her sexuality and social rule-breaking, Velazquez was dismissed as a hoax for 150 years but evidence confirms she existed, one of over 1,000 women soldiers who served in the Civil War. English, 51 minutes.

Routes of Rhythm: Latin American Music in the United States

Latin American music in the United States. The award-winning documentary traces the history of Latin music from Africa and Spain to its current place in the United States and is hosted by Harry Belafonte. English, 60 minutes.

The Scorpion (El Alacrán)

El Alacrán is about carnival in Havana and one particular dance style, comparsa. Comparsa is a Cuban music and dance style with roots in the Congo which is much favored in carnivals. The El Alacrán comparsa is dedicated to Yemaya, Yoruba goddess of the sea, and has been in existence since 1908. The documentary examines the group's history and its context within carnival as well as its relation to carnival elsewhere, including New Orleans. Spanish with English subtitles, 19 minutes.

The Sixth Section

The Sixth Section is a ground-breaking documentary that follows the transnational organizing of a community of Mexican immigrants who work in upstate New York - but who in many ways still live in southern Mexico. The men profiled in the film form an organization that raises money in the United States to rebuild their hometown in Mexico. In the process, they accomplish more than they expected - they find power. There are at least a thousand of these 'hometown associations' and they are having a major impact in both America and Mexico. English, 27 minutes.

Sugar

Sugar is the inspirational story of Miguel Santos, a gifted pitcher struggling to make it to the big leagues of American baseball. Miguel travels from his poor but tightly-knit community in the Dominican Republic to play minor league baseball in the United States - where anything is possible. He finds himself in a small Iowa town, where he struggles with the culture, the language, and the pressure of knowing that only his success can rescue his family. 2009. Spanish with English subtitles, 114 minutes.



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U.S.-Mexican War 1846-1848

The U.S.-Mexican War (1846-1848) tells the dramatic story of a war in which Mexico lost almost half of its national territory to the United States. This critically acclaimed documentary series explores the events surrounding the conflict between two neighboring nations struggling for land, power and identity. English, 240 minutes (two film), 1998.

The World that Made New Orleans

New Orleans is the most elusive of American cities. The product of the centuries-long struggle among three mighty empires--France, Spain, and England--and among their respective American colonies and enslaved African peoples, it has always seemed like a foreign port to most Americans, baffled as they are by its complex cultural inheritance. The *World That Made New Orleans* offers a new perspective on this insufficiently understood city by telling the remarkable story of New Orleans's first century--a tale of imperial war, religious conflict, the search for treasure, the spread of slavery, the Cuban connection, the cruel aristocracy of sugar, and the very different revolutions that created the United States and Haiti. It demonstrates that New Orleans already had its own distinct personality at the time of Louisiana's statehood in 1812. English, 360 pages.