

USC Upstate Announces Spanish Film Series in October

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The University of South Carolina Upstate is pleased to announce a partnership with the Spanish Film Club, an organization that facilitates the staging of Spanish and Latin American Film Festivals in universities and cultural institutions in North America.

USC Upstate was one of 43 universities nationwide to receive a grant from Pragda to organize a Spanish Film Club Series on campus. The project's ultimate goal is to introduce students and a generally broader audience to the cultures of these territories and to create a stable exhibition platform of the latest Spanish and Portuguese language cinema in the U.S. and Canada. A committee of American and Spanish experts in Spanish language cinema has made an eclectic and diverse selection of films featuring first-time filmmakers and established masters alike. With the American audience in mind, all films feature English subtitles.

Five films will be shown on Tuesday nights in October, starting at 7 p.m. in Tukey Theater, located in the lower level of the Library. The showings are free and open to the public. The films are as follows:

"Lope"

Andrucha Waddington / 100 min. / 2011

Andrucha Waddington brings famed Spanish playwright Lope de Vega's passionate life to the screen. The young poet returns to Madrid from war and gets his foot in the door of Madrid's most important theatre troupe—quickly charming his boss's daughter. His childhood friend, Isabel de Urbina, also falls under the spell of his poems. So much seduction eventually brings misfortune and he must flee Madrid. Tuesday, October 2 at 7 p.m.



"Chico & Rita"

Fernando Trueba, Javier Mariscal and Tono Errando / 94 min. / 2012

Oscar®-winning director Fernando Trueba (*The Age of Beauty*) and famous artist Javier Mariscal, have teamed up to make *Chico & Rita*, an animated love story starring the music, culture and people of Cuba. Chico is a dashing piano player and Rita is an enchanting and beautiful Havana nightclub singer. When they meet, the sparks fly and they fall madly in love. An epic romance unfolds as the pair travels the glamorous stages of 1940s/1950s Havana, New York City, Las Vegas, Hollywood and Paris. Tuesday, October 9 at 7 p.m.

"Even The Rain" (También la lluvia)

Iciar Bollain / 104 min. / 2011

Filmmaker Sebastian (Gael García Bernal) and his cynical producer Costa (Luis Tosar) arrive in Cochabamba, Bolivia to make a film about Columbus's voyage to the New World and the subjugation of the indigenous population. Just as filming begins, the natives face a crisis when the government privatizes the water company and prices skyrocket. Daily protests erupt and the local man cast as a rebellious sixteenth century Taino chief, also becomes a leader in the water hike protests. Tuesday, October 16 at 7 p.m.



"The Fish Child" (El niño pez)

Lucía Puenzo / 96 min. / 2011

Lala (Inés Efron, in a performance called evocative of early Sissy Spacek and Chloë Sevigny) is the privileged teenage daughter of a powerful judge, and she's fallen hard for her family's maid, La Guayi (singer Mariela Vitale, making her feature-film debut). The two women plot to escape Buenos Aires and live together on the remote shores of Paraguay's Lake Ypoá. Before they can carry out their plan, Lala's father is murdered and she runs away from home and heads toward Guayi's village in Paraguay, hoping that her lover will follow. While in Paraguay, she begins to explore Guayi's troubled past. Tuesday, October 23 at 7 p.m.

"Post Mortem"

Pablo Larraín / 98 min. / 2010

A provocative, morbidly comic drama that begins during the onset of the bloody 1973 Chilean coup that overthrew President Salvador Allende. Alfredo Castro is a coroner's assistant who, while obsessively wooing an erotic dancer, is caught in the midst of a cataclysmic event – and finds himself with a rapidly expanding game plan. Tuesday, October 30 at 7 p.m.



The festival was also made possible by the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Languages, Literature, and Composition at USC Upstate. Funding for the Spanish Film Club series comes from Pragda, the Secretary of State for Culture of Spain, and its Program for Cultural Cooperation with United States Universities. For further information about the October film series on campus, contact Shannon Polchow, assistant professor of Spanish, at (864) 503-5654 or spolchow@uscupstate.edu. For further information about the Spanish Film Club, visit the Pragda website. (<http://www.pragda.com/spanishfilmclub>)

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