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Spanish Film Festival continues tomorrow evening with **Qu** **culpa** tiene el tomate?

BY: MICHAEL LOFTHUS - 10/23/2012

Dr. John Stolle-McAllister, Ph.D., will lead a discussion of the Spanish Film Festival's screening of *Qu culpa tiene el tomate?* as it explores the journey food takes before it ends up on our tables. The documentary, known internationally as *From the Land to Your Table*, will be shown at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the University Center Ballroom Lounge. It features footage collected by seven different Ibero-American filmmakers of the people and conditions of popular produce markets in their native countries. It will be subtitled in English. "[The film] questions current food industry practices and their impacts," said Dr. Ana Oskoz, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Spanish. "This is a very current topic not only because it examines the way of life and culture of those closest to the land, but also because it questions consumers' attitudes towards those practices." The event is part of the Spanish Film Festival, a five-film series organized by Dr. Oskoz that is intended to present students with different perspectives of the Spanish-speaking world. *Qu culpa tiene el tomate?* is the last film that will be shown this semester. Even the *Rain* and *Amerikanuak* were screened earlier this month. "A main characteristic of the festival is the wide range of topics which allow the UMBC student body not only to interact with Spanish-speaking films but also to engage in follow-up discussion regarding issues such as immigration, representation, gender issues and multiculturalism that are relevant to our society and of interest to our students in general," said Dr. Oskoz. Forty people attended the viewing of *Amerikanuak* two weeks ago and a combined total of 110 people appeared at the two screenings of *Even the Rain*. The festival is hosted by the department of Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication and was made possible with the support of Pragda, the Secretary of State for Culture of Spain and its Program for Cultural Cooperation with American universities. It has also been supported by the Honors College, New Media Studio, PROMISE, the Humanities Living Learning Community and the Departments of Education; Gender and Women Studies; and Geography and Environmental Studies and the Language, Literacy and Culture and Media and Communication Studies programs. The Spanish Film Festival will return in the spring with screenings of *La Yuma* and *Chico y Rita*.

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