

# 10<sup>th</sup> Latin American Film Festival

27 September to 14 October

University of Otago – Dunedin

All sessions at 6 pm, Lecture Theatre BURNS 2, Ground Floor, ARTS BUILDING

## SCHEDULE AND FILM INFORMATION

### **TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER, BRAZIL**

#### **SE EU FOSSE VOCÊ / IF I WERE YOU**

**2006, 104 min, directed by Daniel Filho**

Claudio and Helena have been married for many years and, like any other couple, have the occasional falling out. When one of these routine disagreements escalates into an unusually heated argument, something inexplicable happens: they switch bodies. As they try to overcome the obstacles of being in their new bodies and new routines, they embark on a learning journey about each other, about themselves and the other sex. The movie was the biggest box-office for a Brazilian production in 2006, with over 3,6 million viewers. Due to its success, part 2 was released in 2009, also a box-office record, followed by part 3 in 2010.

### **FRIDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER, CHILE**

#### **CHILE PUEDE / CHILE CAN DO IT**

**2005, 96 min, directed by Ricardo Larraín**

This is the story of Chile's first cosmonaut and the dreams and misadventures of a businessman (Patricio), who is obsessed with the idea of putting a Chilean into outer space. Patricio convinces a naive school teacher (Guillermo), who is trying desperately to impress his girlfriend (Ana María) and to escape from the boredom of his lousy job, to become the first Chilean in outer space. The launch is successful, but almost everything goes wrong after that. The spaceship's technology fails and the crew abandons the Space Center somewhere deep in Atacama Desert. Meanwhile U. S. officers in Washington received the alert of an identified spaceship has been launched from Chile, and they believe the ship has relation with some Al Qaeda satellite and they react by sending a SWAT team to take over the Space Center and blow the satellite far from the US.

### **MONDAY, 3 OCTOBER, ARGENTINA**

#### **EL HOMBRE DE AL LADO / THE MAN NEXT DOOR**

**2009, 110 min, directed by Mariano Cohn and Gastón Duprat**

The star of this dry and wicked black comedy is a building: The Curutchet House in La Plata, south of Buenos Aires—the only residence designed by Le Corbusier in the Americas. In this Argentine satire about class, love of beautiful things, and violent urges, the landmark structure plays the fictional home of world-famous interior designer Leonardo and his wife and daughter. All cherish the privileged status conferred by living in the house. Then, horror strikes: a neighbor who wants more sun puts a window in the wall facing the family's courtyard! Suddenly, aesthetic symmetry is destroyed, and the neighbor—too friendly, too crude, and too insistent—can now peer into their pristine and elegant abode.

## **WEDNESDAY, 5 OCTOBER, PORTUGAL**

### **O DELFIM / THE DAUPHIN**

**2002, 88 min, directed by Fernando Lopes**

In fascist Portugal of the late sixties, a rich landowner leads an idle life of hunting (animals and women), drinking and enjoying himself. He owns everything and everybody around him; not only the objects, the horses, the dogs, the land and the lagoon, but also the people like his servants and his own beautiful wife, whom he keeps secluded inside his house like an emulator of the old feudal lords. The triangle formed by him, his wife and his manservant is an ambiguous one and the tensions produced within it end up in a tragic outcome. The visual images are splendid and the cut is solid and efficient. The music is superb. The plot is more suggested than explicitly told.

## **FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER, CUBA**

### **LA EDAD DE LA PESETA / THE SILLY AGE**

**2006, 90 min, directed by Pavel Giroud**

In 1950's Havana, in the moment before the Revolution, ten-year-old Samuel and his recently divorced mother arrive in town. They move into the home of his difficult and eccentric grandmother Violeta (Mercedes Sampietro).

The movie cleverly evokes the lifestyle in an ironic view of apparent discord in Cuban society before Castro by focusing on a small dysfunctional middle-class family. This was the first Cuban film presented to the Hollywood Oscars® in the 12 years since Strawberries and Chocolate.

## **MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER, MEXICO**

### **EL ESTUDIANTE / THE STUDENT**

**2009, 95 min, directed by Roberto Girault**

Chano (Jorge Lavat), a retiree in his seventies, enrolls at university to follow his long-deferred dream of studying literature and in the process he tears down the generational gap with a group of youngsters. In a clash of diverse customs and traditions, they share their hopes and dreams, overcoming the challenges of life, romance and friendship.

## **WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER, SPAIN**

### **LA VERGÜENZA / THE SHAME**

**2009, 107 min, directed by David Planell.**

A young married couple, not knowing how to deal with their new adopted son's behaviour, decide to give him back. Despite the seriousness of the situation, *The Shame* leaves space for comedy and suspense. Its lively and precise narrative is backed by well-constructed dialogues, a distinct theatrical mise en scène and superb acting. *The Shame* is David Planell's debut film, co-written by Gracia Querejeta. It was awarded prizes for the Best Film and Best Screenplay at the 2009 Malaga Film Festival.

## **FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER, URUGUAY**

### **LA VIDA ÚTIL / A USEFUL LIFE**

**2010, 70 min, directed by Federico Veiroj.**

Jorge is 45 and still lives with his parents. He is a cinema buff who has been working for 25 years at a Uruguayan cinematheque, where he is a film programmer and gives technical support, as well as hosting a radio show devoted to movies in Montevideo. But when falling attendance and the loss of sponsorship force the cinematheque to close down, Jorge loses the only meaningful job he has ever had. *A Useful Life* explores how Jorge changes his way of living in order to adapt to the new world that he suddenly must face.