

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CINEMA TROPICAL FESTIVAL SHOWCASES THE BEST LATIN AMERICAN FILMS OF 2014

**Five Cinema Tropical Award-winning films to screen, including Manolo Nieto's *The Militant* (Uruguay), Sebastián Sepúlveda's *The Quispe Girls* (Chile), Gustavo Fontán's *The Face* (Argentina), Rodrigo Reyes's *Purgatorio* (U.S.), and Cristina Ibarra's *Las Marthas* (U.S.)**

**February 6–8, 2015**

Astoria, New York, February 5, 2015—This weekend, February 6 through 8, Museum of the Moving Image and Cinema Tropical, the leading presenter of Latin American cinema in the United States, will screen five films that won Cinema Tropical Awards for the best Latin American films of 2014. They include:

- Best Latin American Film of the Year: ***The Militant*** (Uruguay) by Manolo Nieto
- Best First Film: ***The Quispe Girls*** (Chile) by Sebastián Sepúlveda
- Best U.S. Latino Film (tie): ***Las Marthas*** by Cristina Ibarra
- Best U.S. Latino Film (tie): ***Purgatorio: Journey into the Heart of the Border*** by Rodrigo Reyes
- Best Director of a Fiction Film: **Gustavo Fontán** for ***The Face*** (Argentina)

Full descriptions and a schedule are included below and also online at [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

"For years, Cinema Tropical has been the preeminent New York organization devoted to the exhibition and distribution of Latin American films," said David Schwartz, the Museum's Chief Curator. "Their festival acknowledges some of the year's best films, and we are honored and pleased to be the venue for this young and extremely worthwhile event."

Carlos Gutiérrez, Executive Director of Cinema Tropical said, "The films featured in this year's line-up offer a great opportunity for New York audiences to catch up on the revitalized Latin American cinema, as well as to discover the talent of Latino filmmakers in this country. The 2015 Cinema Festival presents some overlooked international gems including Manolo Nieto's *The Militant* and Sebastián Sepúlveda's *The Quispe Girls*. We're thrilled to be partnering with Museum of the Moving Image in bringing these films to local audiences."

The winners of the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Cinema Tropical Awards were announced on January 21 at a ceremony at The Times Center hosted by Philip Klint of NY1 Noticias. The films were selected by a jury panel composed by Daniela Alatorre, producer, Morelia Film Festival; Gustavo Beck, filmmaker and film programmer; Marcela Goglio, film programmer; Lucila Moctezuma, Executive Producing Director UnionDocs; Tamir Muhammad, Director Content and Artists Development for Time Warner; Rachael Rakes, film programmer; José Rodríguez, Manager, Documentary Programming, Tribeca Film Institute; Bernardo Ruiz, filmmaker; and Naief Yehya, film and culture critic, writer.

**About Cinema Tropical:**

New York-based [Cinema Tropical](#) (CT) is the leading presenter of Latin American cinema in the U.S. Founded by Carlos A. Gutiérrez and Monika Wagenberg in 2001 with the mission of distributing, programming and promoting what was to become the biggest boom of Latin American cinema in decades, CT brought U.S. audiences some of the first screening of films such as *Amores Perros* and *Y Tu Mamá También*. Through a diversity of programs and initiatives, CT is thriving as a dynamic and groundbreaking 501(c)(3) non-profit media arts organization experimenting in the creation of better and more effective strategies for the distribution and exhibition of foreign cinema in this country.

**About Museum of the Moving Image:**

Museum of the Moving Image ([movingimage.us](#)) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

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**SCHEDULE FOR 'CINEMA TROPICAL FESTIVAL,' FEBRUARY 6–8, 2015**

Unless otherwise noted, film screenings take place in the Sumner M. Redstone Theater and in the Celeste and Armand Bartos Screening Room at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street), Astoria, and are included with Museum admission.

***The Militant (El lugar del hijo)***

Friday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.

**Winner of Best Fiction Film at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cinema Tropical Awards**

Dir. Manolo Nieto. Uruguay/Argentina. 2013. 129 mins. With Sebastian Blanquer, Rosana Cabrera, Maria Pia D'Andrea, Felipe Dieste. In Spanish with English subtitles. A university student involved in militant leftist activism is faced with difficult decisions when his father suddenly dies, leaving him in charge of their troubled ranch and forcing him to take on the role of a middle class bourgeois. Set in 2002—the year of a major financial crisis in the small South American nation—*The Militant* is “a cinematic essay on the grasp and the limits of activism” (Howard Feinstein, *Screen Daily*).

***Purgatorio: A Journey into the Heart of the Border***

Saturday, February 7, 3:00 p.m.

**Winner of Best U.S. Latino Film at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cinema Tropical Awards**

Dir. Rodrigo Reyes. U.S. 2012. 86 min. In Spanish with English subtitles. Rodrigo Reyes's provocative essay film reimagines the U.S./Mexico border as a mythical place comparable to Dante's purgatory. By capturing a stunning mosaic of compelling characters and broken landscapes on both sides of the border, Reyes—one of *Filmmaker* magazine's New Faces of Independent Cinema—reflects on the flaws of human nature and the powerful absurdities of the modern world.

***Las Marthas***

**With director Cristina Ibarra in person**

Saturday, February 7, 6:00 p.m.

**Winner of Best U.S. Latino Film at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cinema Tropical Awards**

Dir. Cristina Ibarra. U.S. 2014. 68 min. In Spanish and English with English subtitles. In 1939, the Society of Martha Washington was founded to usher each year's debutantes (called "Marthas") into proper society at the Colonial Pageant and Ball in Laredo, Texas. Celebrated as "a striking alternative portrait of border-town life" (*The New York Times*), the film follows two Mexican-American girls carrying this gilded tradition on their shoulders during a time of economic uncertainty and tension over immigration.

***The Quispe Girls (Las niñas Quispe)***

Sunday, February 8, 3:00 p.m.

**Winner of Best First Film at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cinema Tropical Awards**

Dir. Sebastián Sepúlveda. Chile. 2013. 80 min. With Alfredo Castro, Francisca Gavilán, Digna Quispe, Catalina Saavedra. In Spanish with English subtitles. In the remote, almost primeval world of a Chilean mountainscape in 1974, three goat-herding sisters survive, after the death of a fourth sister. Pinochet's rise to power is a distant echo, and the new dictator's edict against herding threatens their meager livelihood. Using a mix of actors (including Catalina Saavedra from *The Maid*) and non-actors, including Digna Quispe, the real sisters' niece, this mesmerizing film, based on a true and tragic story, tells an intimate tale against a stark yet magnificent landscape. *The Quispe Girls* made its U.S. debut as part of the Museum's First Look showcase in 2014.

***The Face (El rostro)***

Sunday, February 8, 6:00 p.m.

**Winner of Best Director, Fiction Film at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cinema Tropical Awards**

Dir. Gustavo Fontán. Argentina. 2012. 64 min. With Pedro Gabas, María del Huerto Ghiggi, Gustavo Hennekens, and Héctor Maldonado. New York premiere. In Spanish with English subtitles. *The Face* is a lyrical and personal film shot in stunning black and white, where past and present, fiction and nonfiction mix together. A man who sails alone approaches an island on the Paraná River. Once he lands, he's no longer alone. He shares a meal with another man—his father. There will also be a woman. And some kids. And nature—in the form of birds, plants, and the river, which is always present through its quietness and constant flowing. The film was a selection of the Rome Film Festival and was awarded the Best Director prize at the Buenos Aires Independent Film Festival (BAFICI).

## **MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be open 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mon. and Tue., February 16 and 17.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Tickets for regular film screenings are included with paid Museum admission and free for members at the Film Lover level and above.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).

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