

SPACE TO DREAM

RECENT
ART FROM
SOUTH
AMERICA

AIR NEW ZEALAND
FILM PROGRAMME
FREE ADMISSION

June

CIDADE DE DEUS (CITY OF GOD)

Mon 6 Jun 12pm
Auditorium

Director: Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund (2002)

The story begins with the early stages of the City of God in the 1960s and revolves around two characters living in the *favela* (slum). We see how they take two different life paths: one becomes a photographer and the other a powerful gang leader and drug dealer. The film is an unflinching look at gang life in the City of God through the 60s, 70s and 80s.

130 min R18

Curator's note

The film presents the harsh social context of the Brazilian slums, and the violence and drug-dealing present in these contexts as in many other South American slums. A link can be established with Ronald Duarte's *Fogo cruzado* (Crossfire), 2002 in *Space to Dream*, a performance that references the flow of firearms among criminal groups of the factions in Santa Teresa, Rio de Janeiro.

LA DANZA DE LA REALIDAD (THE DANCE OF REALITY)

Sat 18 Jun 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Alejandro Jodorowsky (2013)

In Tocopilla, a small town in Chile located between the sea and the desert, the son of a communist father and a loving but weak mother tries to make his own way in a society that does not understand the family's Jewish-Ukrainian origins. Based on Jodorowsky's life, the film blends his personal history with metaphor, mythology and poetry, and reflects his philosophy that reality is not objective but rather a 'dance' created by our own imaginations.

133 min R13

TONY MANERO

Sun 26 Jun 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Pablo Larraín (2008)

As Augusto Pinochet holds Chile in the grip of a dictatorship, a 50-year-old man obsessed with John Travolta's character from *Saturday Night Fever* imitates his idol each weekend in a small bar on the outskirts of Santiago. Raúl longs to become a showbiz superstar, and when the national television announces a Tony Manero impersonation contest it seems like he may finally have a shot at living his dreams. But as Raúl is driven to commit a series of crimes in order to reproduce his matinee idol's persona, his dancing partners are persecuted by the secret police.

97 min R18

Curator's note

Viewing the dictatorship of Chile from a different perspective, this film also addresses the influences of globalisation in South America, popular culture references and more. A link could be made with Alejandro Thornton's *Eva Rebelde* (Rebel Eva), 2012 in *Space to Dream* in the incorporation of movie stars to portray contingent political issues in their countries.

VIOLETA SE FUE A LOS CIELOS (VIOLETA WENT TO HEAVEN)

Sun 26 Jun 3pm
Auditorium

Director: Andrés Wood (2011)

A portrait of the famed Chilean singer and folklorist Violeta Parra filled with her musical work, memories, loves and hopes. The film depicts Parra's road to becoming one of Chile's greatest folklorists and artists. It chronicles her guitar playing, the rural settings of southern Chile and her project of studying Chilean folk music to preserve and carry forward traditional composition styles to form the genre known as Nueva Canción Chilena (New Chilean Music).

94 min R13

Curator's notes

The film penetrates the nature of South American identity, its origins, and the intersections and syncretisms created by contemporaries. Violeta Parra has been an inspiration for artists such as Bernardo Oyarzún, yet her figure can also be related to the work of María Nepomuceno, Joaquín Sánchez and Demian Schopf in *Space to Dream*.

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July

LA NANA (THE MAID)

Sun 10 Jul 3pm
Auditorium

Director: Sebastián Silva (2009)

The story of how a maid called Raquel, who has worked for over 20 years in one affluent Chilean household, rediscovers herself. La Nana provides a microcosm of Latin social hierarchy while also focusing on one woman's journey to free herself from a mental servitude of her own making.

94 min R13

Curator's notes

This film reveals a social context present in all South American countries, the relationship between families and their maids and the complexities that can arise. This film can be linked to Joaquín Sánchez's *Margarita*, 2009 in considering how women suppress their dream-like aspirations.

NO

Saturday 16 Jul 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Pablo Larraín (2012)

This film, based on the unpublished play *El Plebiscito* by Antonio Skármeta, portrays the historical moment when advertising tactics came to be widely used in political campaigns. The campaign in question was the historic 1988 plebiscite of the Chilean citizenry concerning whether dictator Augusto Pinochet should stay in power for another eight years. The campaign rolled out over 27 nights of television advertisements and during that month the 'No' campaign created by the majority of Chile's artistic community proved effective.

118 min M

MACHUCA

Sun 31 Jul 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Andrés Wood (2004)

The story takes place in Santiago in 1973 and is based on a real experiment done during Salvador Allende's socialist government in Saint George's College. Gonzalo Infante is an 11-year-old student at the Saint Patrick's School, a renowned religious school that admitted children of lower classes with free admission. Pedro Machuca is a slum-raised son of the cleaning woman in Gonzalo's liberal-bourgeois home. The children become great friends, they visit each other's homes but can their distinct social realities come together?

116 min M

Curator's note

An interesting view of the political and social scenario prior to Pinochet's dictatorship.

August

NOSTALGIA DE LA LUZ (NOSTALGIA FOR THE LIGHT)

Sun 7 Aug 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Patricio Guzmán (2010)

This documentary unites astronomy, present, past and collective memory in Chile's Atacama desert, where astronomers peer deep into space in search of answers about the origins of life. Nearby, a group of women sift through the sand looking for the remains of their loved ones whose bodies were dumped unceremoniously by Pinochet's regime.

90 min M

Curator's note

The documentary uses astronomy as a way to understand the search that many South Americans have experienced or comprehended regarding the disappeared people from dictatorships. This film has an excellent link to Máximo Corvalán's *Proyecto ADN* (DNA Project), 2012. The artist, like these women, was seeking to understand the fate of loved ones during the military dictatorship of Pinochet.

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August (cont)

EL BAÑO DEL PAPA (THE POPE'S TOILET)

Sun 14 Aug 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Cesar Charlone and Enrique Fernández (2007)

Inspired by the visit of Pope John Paul II to Uruguay in 1988, *The Pope's Toilet* cloaks religious critique in poverty and enterprise. Melo, a Uruguayan town on the Brazilian border, awaits the visit of Pope John Paul II. Numbers begin building – thousands of people will come, say the media. Brimming with enthusiasm, the locals hope not only for divine blessing but also a small share of material happiness. Petty smuggler Beto is certain that he's found the best business idea of all: 'The Pope's Toilet', where the thousands of visiting pilgrims can find relief.

90 min MA

Curator's note

The film contextualises the ever-present influence of the Catholic Church in South American society. It links with León Ferrari's work "L'Osservatore Romano", 2007, with its appropriation of cultural and Christian icons and texts in art that creates criticism of Catholic authorities and their ideological abuse of power.

UN CUENTO CHINO (CHINESE TAKE-AWAY)

Sat 20 Aug 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Sebastián Borensztein (2011)

This film is the story of the encounter between Robert and a Chinese man named Jun, who wanders lost in Buenos Aires in search of his only living family member, his uncle. Robert is a veteran of the Falklands War, and largely a recluse until a strange event awakens him and brings him back to life.

93 min M

Curator's note

This film addresses the theme of mixing cultures present throughout Space to Dream.

CENTRAL DO BRASIL (CENTRAL STATION)

Sun 28 Aug 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Walter Salles (1998)

An emotive journey of a former school teacher, who writes letters for illiterate people, and a young boy, whose mother has just died. The young boy searches for the father he never knew.

113 min M

Curator's note

This film presents the realities of both rural and urban life in northern Brazil and the often complex family dynamics present in South America.

September

JULIO COMIENZA EN JULIO (JULIO BEGINS IN JULY)

Sun 4 Sep 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Silvio Caiozzi (1976)

Julio Begins in July tells the story of Julio, an upper-class Chilean teenager at the end of the early 20th century, and the ritual initiation phase which boys must go through to reach maturity. His father, Julio García del Castano, organises a party to celebrate his son's fifteenth birthday and invites the town's prostitutes. Julio becomes obsessed with one of them, causing the central conflict of the film, which aims to portray the social differences between the various classes in Chile during this time period.

120 min MA

Curator's note

This offers a view into the continuing social class differences in Chile and many other South American countries. The film also portrays the 'machismo' present in all South American countries, the strong sense of masculine pride and denigration of characteristics associated with the feminine. A classic film which is considered to be one of the Chile's best.

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September (cont)

GABO, LA MAGIA DE LO REAL (GABO, THE MAGIC OF REALITY)

Sat 10 Sep 2pm
Auditorium

Director: Justin Webster (2015)

A documentary about the incredible power of human imagination, which follows the interwoven threads of Gabriel García Márquez's life and works, investigating how this writer was able to change our perception of reality through his works.

Gabriel García Márquez, Nobel Prize for Literature 1982 and author of one of the most acclaimed and world renowned masterpieces, *100 Years of Solitude* (1967).

90 min

Curator's notes

This film links to the works by many artists in *Space to Dream* which generate a creative space for reflection and incorporate playful uses of language, irony, humour to offer the unreal, impossible, utopian, speculative and critical.

ELEFANTE BLANCO (WHITE ELEPHANT)

Sat 17 Sep 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Pablo Trapero (2012)

Two priests, old veteran Father Julián, younger Belgian colleague Father Nicolás, and social worker Luciana, work in a slum area of Buenos Aires, Argentina, known as Ciudad Oculta. Their work has them face the clerical hierarchy, the organised crime and repression, risking their lives defending their commitment and loyalty towards the people of the neighbourhood. The film's title comes from the gigantic abandoned hospital that dominates the area where homeless people camp and drug-dealers ply their trade.

95 min R16

Curator's notes

A film that considers the slums of South America and the influence of the Catholic Church.

LA TETA ASUSTADA (THE MILK OF SORROW)

Sun 18 Sept 1pm
Auditorium

Director: Claudia Llosa (2009)

Between 1980 and 1992 Peru experienced a period of extreme violence due to the uprising of the Maoist group Sendero Luminoso and the actions of the paramilitary and state armed forces. By 1990 the conflict reached Lima, the capital of Peru. Llosa's film refers to the folk belief that the trauma experienced by women who are raped by members of security force was passed on to their children through their breast milk. A psychological and sociological approach to the 12 years of conflict and the personal cost of political strategies.

95 min M

Winner of the 2009 Golden Bear award and FIPRESCI prize at the Berlin International Film Festival

Awarded best movie at the Festival Internacional de Cine de Guadalajara, Mexico.

Nominated for the 82nd Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film