



LATINO AND NATIVE AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL 2025 -SELECTED LIST OF FILMS

Costa Rica / Honduras

Syllabus Directed by William Alejandro Aguilar, Kevin Manuel García / Runtime 19:19



A famous writer in the 19th century tells or narrates the fictional story of what could have happened during the night before the execution of the president of **Costa Rica** (Francisco Morazán).

"**Syllabus: Lost Memories**" is a short film born from the concept of a syllabus as a compendium of historical errors, aiming to recover the historical memory lost since Central America's independence over 200 years ago. The project emphasizes the need for a historical review to address distorted facts, presented in an academic manner, and seeks to inspire younger generations to reconnect with history, literature, and the stories of forgotten heroes. By introducing new historical interpretations and shedding light on previously invisible events still preserved in historical texts, the film aspires to promote critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the region's past.

Puerto Rico

Georgina Directed by Ana Marazzi / Runtime 32:30



In 1937 Puerto Rico, under the domain of a U.S. military government, thirteen-year-old Georgina works alongside her mother, Petra, in a tobacco factory. When her father, Andrés, abruptly leaves after uncovering a family secret, Georgina's once-stable world is thrown into turmoil. Determined to reunite her family, she becomes entangled in the political unrest simmering around her, where personal and societal conflicts collide at the **Ponce massacre (la Massacre de Ponce)**.

Diaspora, Curiosity of Culture Directed by Margarita Sotomayor Salgado / Runtime 1:19:39



As a Puerto Rican, my identity has always been intertwined with the stories of migration and the search for a better future—narratives deeply embedded in my personal experience. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, my artistic journey has spanned roles as a dancer, performer, set designer, and educator, eventually leading me to the world of film where I discovered storytelling as a powerful tool to bridge personal experience with collective history. With this project, I explore not just the stories of Puerto Ricans abroad but also my own reflections on belonging, identity, and the ties to one’s roots. Puerto Rican migration, dating back to the 1950s, has often been driven by economic hardship, political struggles, and natural disasters. Yet, beyond the simple narrative of escape, I aim to delve into the emotional complexities of leaving and the enduring longing to return, questioning what it means to be part of the Puerto Rican diaspora and how one sustains a cultural connection across geographical distance.

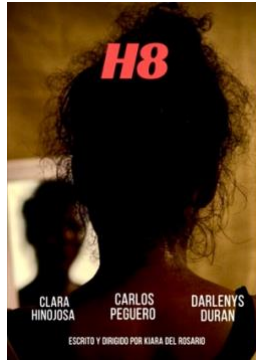
Yo Quiero Bailar (I want to dance) Directed by Ana Sanchez Colberg / Runtime 8:03



A first of its kind in Puerto Rico, a short film essay capturing the life experiences of individuals with intellectual and diverse disabilities through the act of dancing. The film is the result of the project Yo Quiero Bailar (I want to Dance) a creative dance and digital arts intervention for individuals with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities at the Institute Psicopedagógico de PR.

Dominican Republic

H8 Directed by Kiara Cristal Del Rosario / Runtime 14:00



Everything in Rossangel's life is going well until she finds her husband's corpse in the middle of the living room. Wondering who committed this horrible crime, she must protect herself from those trying to enter her home and will do everything possible to stay safe from those pursuing her.

Leaving For Being Directed by Miguel Oniel / Runtime 1:05:36



Benny, Ektor, Yorky, Gian, Josué and Emmanuel, are only 6 Dominican migrants out of the millions around the world. Not all of them know each other and live in different latitudes of the globe, however, they are united by the reason they left their country. How does current legislation affect the Dominican LGTBIQ+ community? Is there homophobia and discrimination in the DR? Is leaving the country the only viable option to live a dignified life?

Colombia

UNO Directed by Julio Cesar / Runtime 1:29:07



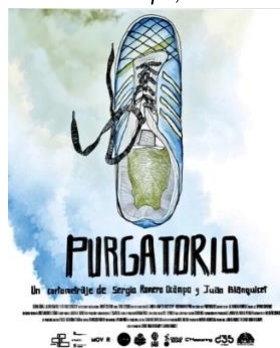
Esmeralda (Marcela Mar), determined to uncover the truth behind the tragedy that shattered her family, embarks on a desperate quest that leads her to the dark secrets of La Alameda, a small mining community in Colombia. With the help of Joaquin (Juan Pablo Urrego), a farmer familiar with the land's dangers, she retraces the final steps of her late husband, a high-ranking executive at a multinational mining company. Together, they unveil a sinister network of greed and power, discovering a ruthless society fighting for gold and territory. As Esmeralda delves deeper, she becomes entangled in a deadly game of betrayal, where each step brings her closer to the truth—and to death.

Imaginarios, el goce de lo simple Directed by Sebastián C. Santisteban / Runtime 28:00



Recovered film archives explore the dreams and fantasies of students at a school in provincial Colombia in 2013 before the massification of social networks, influencers and electricity.

PURGATORIO Directed by Sergio Romero Ocampo, Juan Blanquice / Runtime 21:25



Beatriz (Gloria Gómez) must return to her hometown for a victims' reunion where she must confront the true fate of her relatives who disappeared in a paramilitary attack in Colombia in 1997.

KASHIWA: Voces de Mujeres Wayuu y Resistencia Directed by Norelys Bruges, Paula Dpablos / Runtime 12:12



KASHIWA: Wayuu Women's Voices of Resistance is a documentary that reveals the reality of the artisans from the indigenous Wayuu people of Colombia. The film tells the story of María Pushaina, a weaver who tirelessly strives to provide for her family, while large companies profit from exploiting Wayuu art. The documentary aims to shorten the distance between the artisans and the end consumers, making the invaluable work of these craftspeople visible. KASHIWA encourages the public to directly support the artisans by purchasing their creations.

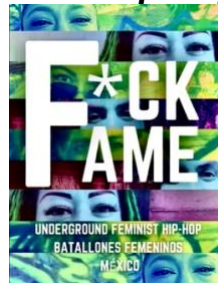
Mexico

Home Run Directed by Julián Acosta Vera / Runtime 9:39



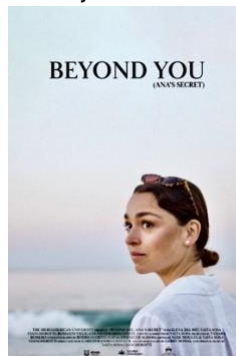
During a bad baseball practice a young woman is spied by a stalker and on her way back home she is unknowingly followed by him. Before sending an important homework the power goes out and she calls for a technician trying to restore it, unaware that the harasser is still lurking from outside.

F*CK FAME - Underground Feminist Hip-Hop Directed by Saray Argumedo / Runtime 14:21



Batallones Femeninos is an underground, autonomous, activist, feminist Hip-Hop collective founded in 2009 in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, on the Mexico/United States border. Using rap as their primary tool, they amplify their voices to denounce femicide, narco-states, murders, disappearances, migration injustices, bodily autonomy violations, and advocate for the freedom of political prisoners worldwide. For over 15 years, they have dedicated their lives to performing, not for fame but to create music that gives voice to the silenced. Comprised of mujerxs, migrants, anti-colonial, anti-fascist feminists, two-spirited individuals, mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, activists, educators, artisans, and Hip-Hoopas, they stand in solidarity with social movements while practicing critical consciousness and using their art for justice and empowerment.

Beyond You, Ana's Secret Directed by Vaita Sosa Ciangherotti / Runtime 15:39



"**Beyond You, Ana's Secret**" tells the story of a strong, ambitious woman who cherishes freedom. The death of her mother forces her to return to her hometown after 16 years of absence. Ana not only has to face the grief of losing the woman who gave birth to her but also the truth of a secret she has kept silent all this time, intertwined with the heart of her first love, Alan.

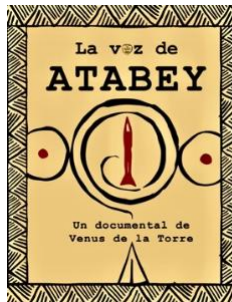
A History of Love and War Directed by Santiago Mohar Volkow / Runtime 1:50:00



A Story of Love and War stands out as a groundbreaking Mexican film that offers a bold, poetic, and uncompromising critique of contemporary colonial realities through an ironic reinterpretation of 500 years of history. Breaking from the social realist tropes common in Latin American cinema, it introduces a visually striking narrative language that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. The creative team behind the film, a collective of young international filmmakers from Spain and Mexico, has long operated independently, crafting a unique cinematic style that challenges conventional expectations of both their generation and national identity. Engaging deeply with the history of cinema, the film draws inspiration from Fritz Lang's *M* while weaving a hypertextual tapestry of literature, painting, history, and digital media. *A Story of Love and War* is a daring and baroque cinematic experience, confronting audiences with wit and compassion while amplifying the voices of a new generation determined to speak on its own terms, defying market conventions yet committed to resonating with the public.

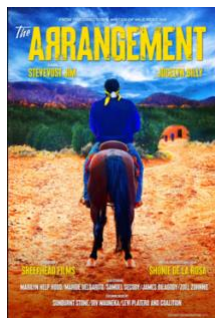
Indígenes América

Atabey's voice Directed by Venus de la Torre / Runtime 29:00



Lemay is an Cuban diver and athlete, Pan-American champion and the only world runner-up in Cuba in dynamic apnea with monofins. Since his childhood, Lemay has felt a deep connection with the waters. Despite his sporting achievements there is a purpose beyond success, perhaps it is the call of the muse of his vocation, Atabey. As he delves into the aquatic world, Lemay faces the dilemma of giving up his family life, in search of his destiny that follows the call of his Taíno roots.

The Arrangement Directed by Shonie De La Rosa / Runtime 01:10:00



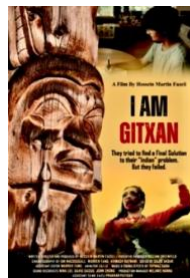
A romantic comedy about an arranged Navajo marriage. Featuring an all-Navajo cast & crew and shot entirely on the Great Navajo Nation. *The Arrangement* is the very first feature film that has been produced primarily (80%) in the Navajo language. English subtitles.

Javyju - Good Morning Directed by Carlos Eduardo Magalhães, Kunha Rete / Runtime 25:00



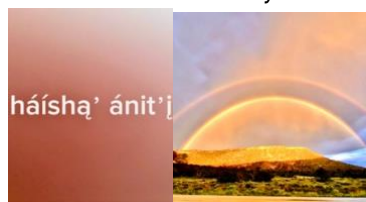
It's the near future and the Earth has been destroyed. The indigenous people managed to survive thanks to the protection of the spirits of nature. In the former city of São Paulo, the Guarani village of Jaragua is one of the remainder and receives a message of hope through a dream. The village shaman calls three young people to travel to the empty city in search of answers.

I Am Gitksan Directed by Hossein Martin Fazeli / Runtime 1:04:17



"I Am Gitksan" follows Phoenix Apperloo, a recent high school graduate, as he reconnects with his Indigenous heritage in Hazelton, British Columbia, Canada. Inspired by conversations with residential school survivors, he writes a heartfelt letter to Prime Minister Trudeau addressing the injustices faced by his people. The documentary explores the lasting impact of colonialism on the Gitksan community, featuring insights from experts like Dr. Gabor Maté and highlighting the community's resilience through protests and legal actions. It concludes with a powerful message of hope, emphasizing the beauty of Gitksan culture, the strength of their spirit, and their unwavering commitment to future generations.

American Indian Origin Stories Directed by MONTANA James MILLER / Runtime 30:00



My documentary explores Diné (Navajo) origin stories and ancestral lands in New Mexico, focusing on petroglyphs created by the Diné people before colonization. It follows two Diné Hatali (Navajo Medicine Men) as they share and preserve a history once believed to be lost. Presented with care to protect the sacredness of Navajo traditions, the film offers a glimpse into life before colonial takeover, honoring the depth and resilience of their cultural heritage.

RED BIRD Directed by Segundo Carlos Fuérez / Runtime 1:10:00



Puka Urpi is a poetic film inspired by an Ecuadorian oral story, following Killa, a 5-year-old girl who moves from the city to the countryside to live with her grandmother after the death of her mother. Initially struggling with the unfamiliar language and environment, Killa gradually learns from her grandmother to work the land and develops a deep connection with nature. When her grandmother falls ill, Killa ventures into the forest seeking medicine and encounters red feathers that guide her to an old house, where she discovers something that will change her destiny. Rooted in the Kichwa Otavalo culture's magical oral traditions, *Puka Urpi* encourages children and young people to reflect on death as a natural transformation of the human body, presented with sensitivity and wonder.

Hatarimuy: Rise Up Submitted by Suni Sonqo Vizcarra Wood / Runtime 17:35



As an Indigenous artist and director, I aim to be an active voice in the struggles of my people by reflecting on our history through a decolonizing lens that reveals our true identity. This film challenges colonial narratives around nationality, religion, race, and blood quantum while exposing the ongoing oppression and control of our territories by a corrupt, genocidal system. By shedding light on these critical issues and amplifying what often remains silenced, the film calls for Indigenous youth to fight for true sovereignty, collective healing from colonization, and the restoration of harmony with respect for diversity and ancestral wisdom.

Vestiges of ancestral knowledge Directed by Miguel Ángel Tisera / Runtime 1:12:00



"*Vestigios*" is a documentary exploring the history of South America's original settlers, beginning with a boat journey deep into the Amazon to meet residents living in relative isolation. The film takes viewers on a voyage to natural monuments, including Venezuela's largest petroglyphs, revealed just before the rainy season conceals them once more. This discovery parallels the unearthing of a ceramic figurine 1000 kilometers away in the Los Roques Archipelago, shedding light on an unknown chapter of history revealed through archaeological research. Inspired by the advanced theories of Drs. Sanoja and Vargas, the film raises profound questions about the region's ancient past, leaving many mysteries yet to be explored in future expeditions.