

9 NEW DOCUMENTARY FILMS

53 FILMS & DVDs

# LATIN AMERICA



## Awakening from Sorrow: Buenos Aires 1997

A Film by John Knoop & Karina Epperlein

**new** AWAKENING FROM SORROW is about a crucial historical moment that transformed Argentinian politics, and inspired social movements from South America to Serbia.

Argentina's "Dirty War" lasted from 1976 to 1983. During those years, the country's military dictatorship "disappeared" thousands of civilian dissidents. They vanished into the country's dungeons and torture chambers, never to be heard from again.

After the return of democracy, many Argentines chose to pretend that the missing were still alive... somewhere. That changed in 1997, when young Argentines whose parents were among those killed began to demand explanations from their government—with their grief erupting into social action.

Featuring interviews with Nobel Peace Prize winner Perez Esquivel, who was imprisoned by the junta, history professor Wolfgang Bayer, death camp survivor Graciela Deleo, and the Captain Adolpho Scilingo—who admits to ordering dissidents dropped alive from a naval cargo plane into the Atlantic, AWAKENING FROM SORROW weaves voices into a "tapestry of remembrance." It documents the transformation of pain into the healing action which lifted the veil of repression that gripped a generation.

*"Chilling in scope and effect."*

—San Francisco Chronicle

*"A commendable documentary. This film is slightly unique in the sense that the story is being told from the perspective of the children of the Disappeared. ...achieves its mission by giving the voiceless a voice to expose the atrocities of the Dirty War."*

—Educational Media Reviews Online

 **2010 Newport Beach Film Festival**

 **2010 Charleston Film Festival**

40 minutes | color | 2009  
Sale/DVD: \$248

## Death Squadrons: The French School

A Film by Marie-Monique Robin



2004 Award of Merit in Film,  
Latin American Studies Association

Best Film, 2004 Ismailia Festival of  
Documentary Films (Egypt)

2004 Human Rights Watch  
Film Festival

60 minutes | color | 2003  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390 ~~now~~ \$348

"A valuable contribution to the study of state terror. Its intent is to illuminate the lesser-known French role [in Latin America], and in that it succeeds exceptionally well. Robin makes skillful use of rare documentary footage interspersed with her interviews. Highly recommended for undergraduate and graduate students as well as experts."

—The Americas

"DEATH SQUADRONS makes an important contribution to our understanding of the development and dissemination of brutal counterinsurgency tactics in the Americas."

—Journal of Latin American Anthropology

## For These Eyes

A Film by Gonzalo Arijon & Virginia Martinez

"Highly Recommended! This film outlines a grandmother's efforts over sixteen years to find [her granddaughter] and get back a piece of her lost family."

—Educational Media Reviews Online

2000 Award of Merit in Film,  
Latin American Studies Association

52 minutes | color | 1998  
Sale/DVD: \$298

During Argentina's "Dirty War" soldiers often illegally adopted the children of prisoners they had tortured and killed. Mariana Zaffaronni is one of those children. Raised as Daniela Furci, she had no idea her parents were Uruguayan activists "disappeared" by Argentina's military dictatorship.

For 16 years Mariana's grandmothers struggled to find out what happened to her. When they finally uncovered her new name and location, Mariana discovered the truth about her past. But she is 17, practically an adult. Which family will she claim as her own?



## Open Sky

A Film by Ines Compan

The land is barren-looking and dry. For centuries it has been home to the indigenous Kolla people who inhabit this part of northwestern Argentina. Here they grow crops, raise pigs and graze their llamas.

But underneath the surface lies a resource that will change the lives of the Kolla forever: enough silver to sustain one of the world's largest mining operations. When Canadian company Silver Standard gains approval to open the massive open pit Pirquitas Mine here in Jujuy Province, nobody asks the local indigenous population what they think. Instead, they watch on television as distant men in suits expound on the virtues of the project and the wealth it will bring—wealth that will not benefit the Kolla.

OPEN SKY is a direct cinema case study of how outside forces can forever alter the lives of Argentina's indigenous people who have no say in how resource developments operate—and receive no share of the wealth they produce.

2010 Cinéma du Réel Film Festival,  
Paris, France

2010 Festival Filmar en América  
Latina, Switzerland

2010 Human Rights  
International Festival, Mexico

94 minutes | color | 2009  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398





## The Comrade

A Film by Toni Venturi

 **Best Brazilian Film, 1997**  
**"It's All True" Documentary**  
**Film Festival**

105 minutes | color | 1997  
Sale/DVD: \$348



THE COMRADE is the story of Luiz Carlos Prestes (1898-1990), Brazil's "Knight of Hope." The film covers seventy years of Brazil's contemporary history, a period in which Prestes was a principal protagonist, from an epic march by rebellious lieutenants in the 1920's, to his romance with Comintern agent Olga Benário (during the disastrous communist revolt of 1935), to the military coup, armed struggle, and through the fierce political repression between 1964 and 1974.

A wealth of statements (by journalists, historians, family members, former Communist Party activists and others) are interwoven with rare historical footage to form this groundbreaking biography

## Justice

A Film by Maria Ramos

**"In the classroom, Ramos's patient dissection of Rio de Janeiro's justice system can serve as the basis for discussion of various topics, all of them touching on justice and inequality: barriers to legal equity, incarceration as social control, and the incentive structures that shape young people's choices in poor Brazilian communities."**  
—The Americas

 **2006 Award of Merit in Film,**  
**Latin American Studies Association**

 **Grand Prize, 2004 Visions du Réel**  
**(Switzerland)**

 **Best Film, 2004 Copenhagen**  
**Documentary Festival**

102 minutes | color | 2004  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

This observational documentary offers a look inside the Brazilian justice system. JUSTICE follows several cases—including a young man caught with a stolen car, and a teen arrested on drug and weapons charges—from meetings with public defenders to life in overcrowded cells.

Without editorializing, JUSTICE reveals implications of police corruption, an oppressive judicial system that seems designed to punish the poor, and an inhumane penal system. Justice here becomes public theater—dramatizing the social relations and power structures of Brazilian society at large.



## The World's Next Supermodel

A Film by IJsbrand van Veelen

America's version of capitalism seems headed for bankruptcy. Is there a crisis-proof economic model for the 21st century? In THE WORLD'S NEXT SUPERMODEL three prominent thinkers argue the case for competing economic models: the "Asian model", characterized by China, India and Singapore, the "North European" approach, and Brazil's, praised by the Brazilian economist Marcelo Neri.

Then an all-star jury weighs the arguments, and after a lively debate, comes to a surprising decision sure to provoke continued discussion.

**"An excellent work for anyone interested in examining present economic models and forecasting the state of the global economy by 2020. Highly Recommended."**—Educational Media Reviews Online

48 minutes | color | 2009 | CC  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348



## Lula's Brazil

A Film by Gonzalo Arijon

In 2002, a former metalworker known as Lula won the Brazilian presidency with a campaign for social change that galvanized the nation. LULA'S BRAZIL, filmed two years into his administration, examines his achievements and failures, revealing how Lula's ambitious plans were being frustrated by clashes with powerful national and international economic interests.

Lula won an election in Brazil, not a revolution, and as president he found himself balancing promises of reform made to his popular constituency with economic reassurances for the country's power brokers.

**"Excellent... the film expresses the mature, critical, and balanced judgment that characterizes the mainstream of the Brazilian left."**—The Americas

62 minutes | color | 2005  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348 ~~now~~ \$298



## The Pinochet Case

A Film by Patricio Guzmán



"A gripping step-by-step account of the case."—**The New York Times**

2003 Award of Merit in Film,  
Latin American Studies Association

2001 Cannes  
Film Festival

109 minutes | color | 2001  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

General Augusto Pinochet's repressive regime ruled Chile from 1973 to 1990. After he was ousted from power, Pinochet lived a free man, held unaccountable for the human rights violations that had taken place. Then in 1998 he was arrested while on a trip to London, becoming the first dictator to be tried by the international justice system since Nuremberg. Pinochet's arrest set a precedent that continues to exert a powerful force on international affairs.

THE PINOCHET CASE investigates the legal origins of the case and explores how a small group of people in Madrid laid the groundwork for the incredible feat of capturing a dictator 25 years after his rise to power.



## Salvador Allende

A Film by Patricio Guzmán



"A haunting exploration of the Allende paradox... deserves to be widely seen."—**Salon.com**

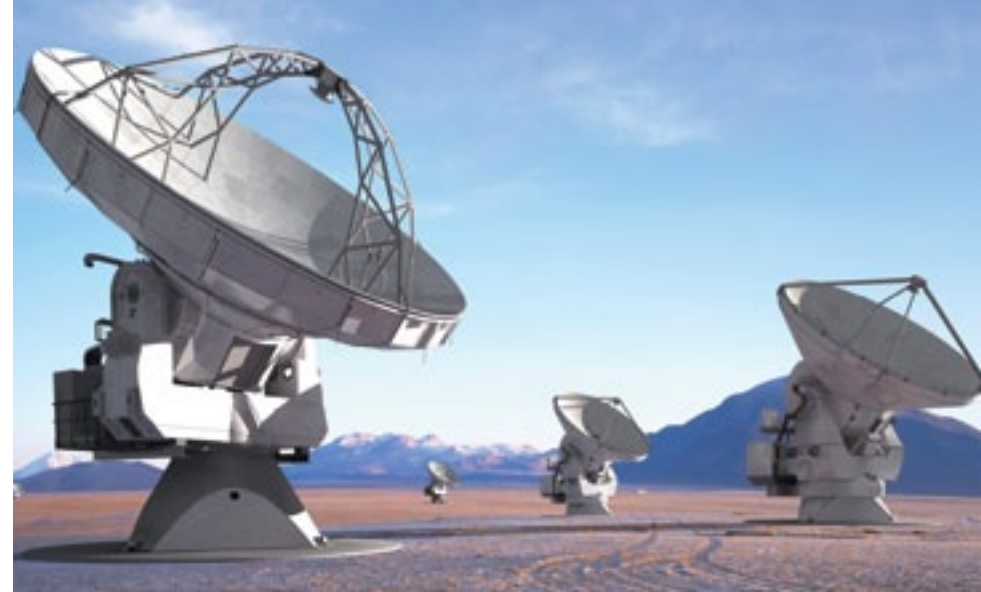
2006 Palm Springs  
Film Festival

2005 Miami  
Film Festival

Best Documentary, 2004  
Lima Latin American Film Festival

100 minutes | color | 2004  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398 *now* \$348

A leftist revolutionary or a reformist democrat? A committed Marxist or a constitutionalist politician? An ethical and moral man or, as Richard Nixon called him, a "son of a bitch"? In SALVADOR ALLENDE, acclaimed Chilean filmmaker Patricio Guzmán returns to his native country thirty years after the 1973 military coup that overthrew Chile's Popular Unity government to examine the life of its leader, Salvador Allende, both as a politician and a man.



## Nostalgia For The Light

A Film by Patricio Guzmán

For his new film master director Patricio Guzmán travels 10,000 feet above sea level to the driest place on earth, the Atacama Desert, where atop the mountains astronomers gather to observe the stars. The sky is so translucent that it allows them to see right to the boundaries of the universe.

The Atacama is also a place where the harsh heat of the sun keeps human remains intact: those of Pre-Columbian mummies; 19th century explorers and miners; and the remains of political prisoners, "disappeared" by the Chilean army after the military coup of September, 1973.

So while astronomers examine the most distant and oldest galaxies, at the foot of the mountains mothers, wives and sisters of the disappeared whose bodies were dumped here, search, even after twenty-five years, for the remains of their loved ones, to reclaim their families' histories.

Melding the celestial quest of the astronomers and the earthly one of the women, NOSTALGIA FOR THE LIGHT is a gorgeous, moving, and deeply personal odyssey.

"Stunningly beautiful. I don't know how you can put more into a film, or make one that's more deeply moving."

—**Stuart Klawans, The Nation**

"An extraordinary film about the unknown and the unknowable."

—**Sight & Sound Magazine**

★★★★ "NOSTALGIA FOR THE LIGHT may just be the most profound movie I have ever seen." —**Peter Howell, Toronto Star**

Best Documentary, 2010 European  
Film Academy Awards

Best Documentary,  
2010 Abu Dhabi Film Festival

Official Selection,  
2010 Cannes Film Festival

90 minutes | color | 2010  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$440 *now* \$398







## Agustín's Newspaper

A Film by Ignacio Agüero

**"A groundbreaking documentary because it is the first to investigate the role and influence of this powerful newspaper... The investigative work and research that was done for this film presents an impressive array of primary sources. This is an important exposition on power and corruption in the media and the tragic human rights violations of thousands of Chileans. Recommended."**

—Educational Media Reviews Online

 **2009 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association**

 **2009 Guadalajara Film Festival (Mexico)**

80 minutes | color | 2008  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

*El Mercurio*, the oldest newspaper in Chile, has been owned and operated since 1849 by the Edwards family. Its current owner, Agustín Edwards Eastman, has controlled the journal since 1956. With editions published in Santiago and Valparaíso, as well as twenty regional editions, Chile's "newspaper of record" is also the largest news organization in the country.

AGUSTÍN'S NEWSPAPER follows journalism students from the University of Chile as they launch an investigation into the work of the newspaper, and its reporting of and role in their country's political history, in particular around the election of Salvador Allende in 1970, the violent coup against him in 1973, and the subsequent seventeen years of the military regime.

The film features archival footage, interviews with former editors, journalists and other staff members at *El Mercurio*, Pinochet's political advisor and press secretary, relatives of political dissidents who were "disappeared," as well as John Dinges, former Washington Post correspondent in Santiago.

Through its attention to the details of *El Mercurio's* journalistic history, AGUSTÍN'S NEWSPAPER raises profound questions about the newspaper's role and responsibilities in Chile's history, politics, and society.



## Impunity

A Film by Juan Jose Lozano & Hollman Morris



What is the cost of truth for families damaged by Colombia's violent past?

In 2005, Colombia's new "Commission for Peace and Justice" started gathering evidence about the horrific violence carried out by illegal paramilitary groups. A highly controversial justice and peace process was designed to allow paramilitary leaders to hand in their weapons and give themselves up voluntarily in exchange for reduced sentences. IMPUNITY documents the hearings in which paramilitary commanders, such as "HH" describe atrocities they have committed in detail, as the families of their victims listen and watch on projected screens.

Through a series of commission testimonies, footage of paramilitary crimes, and interviews with victims and experts, IMPUNITY shines a light on the brutal history of paramilitary violence. Yet due to serious irregularities in the justice and peace process, many families express their fear that they will never know the truth surrounding the deaths of their loved ones, and that the perpetrators will escape punishment. In an era where many countries are tempted to sacrifice justice in the name of "peace", what happens in Colombia will resonate beyond its borders.

**"The Camera Justitia Award is for a film that deals with serious crimes against humanity and the sheer impossibility of getting justice despite overwhelming evidence. It is a deeply emotional film, which bravely accuses at least two countries of collusion with impunity for the perpetrators. Starting with a heart-breaking opening scene, the film skillfully follows the chronology of those seeking truth and justice, narrowing the complex range of issues down to a specific case, overwhelming the audience with the same desperation that threatens to crush the victims and survivors. The Camera Justitia Award 2011 goes to IMPUNITY"**

—Movies That Matter Festival, The Netherlands

85 minutes | color | 2010  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398



## The Siege

Directed by Angus Gibson & Miguel Salazar

2011 Human Rights Watch Film Festival (New York)

2011 Cartagena Film Festival (Colombia)

88 minutes | color | 2011  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398



**new** THE SIEGE deftly captures the inconceivable story of the siege of Bogotá's Palace of Justice, home to Colombia's Supreme Court, on November 6, 1985. When 35 heavily armed members of the M-19 guerrilla movement storm the building that day, hundreds are taken hostage, including nearly all of Colombia's Supreme Court judges.

For 27 hours, the country is transfixed as the military moves in to regain control and a fiery battle ensues. When the smoke clears, close to a hundred people are dead including nearly all the Supreme Court judges, and twelve others are unaccounted for, their bodies vanished without a trace. The family of Carlos Rodriguez, like many others, believes their loved ones have been "disappeared"—removed from the building by government forces, accused of aiding the guerrillas, tortured, and then killed.

Twenty-five years later the families of the disappeared demand answers, no matter how devastating the truth may be. Colonel Plazas Vega, a leader of the operation, is indicted for the disappearances. In the course of his highly charged trial, the lawyers, prosecutors and the judge all face death threats and fear for their lives. The case becomes a touchstone for reclaiming the integrity of justice in Colombia.

## Stolen Land

A Film by Margarita Martinez & Miguel Salazar

On December 16, 1991, 20 members of the indigenous Nasa community were killed at a Colombian plantation while trying to claim their land rights. It was a turning point in the Nasa resistance to both the Colombian Army and the FARC guerrillas, both of whom occupy their traditional lands.

Following the massacre, Colombia pledged 39,000 acres to the Nasa. Fifteen years later, the community had control of only a third of that land, and their traditional agrarian way of life was at risk.

STOLEN LAND tells the history of the Nasa resistance movement, highlighting the role of charismatic leader Lucho Acosta. An imposing tactician descended from Indian warriors, he hopes to "liberate Mother Earth" with non-violent methods. But his beliefs are tested to their very core as the government attacks peaceful Nasa protestors blocking the Pan-American highway with tanks, helicopters, guns and tear gas.

STOLEN LAND documents this decades-long battle over land. It is a story that is commonplace among indigenous populations in Colombia—a country in which less than one percent of the population owns over half the land.



"STOLEN LAND strikingly conveys the integrity and perseverance of the Nasa people....Viewers of this film will learn about reparations, civil disobedience, conflict resolution, land claims, land tenure, and Native American social movements. It could support a broad range of curriculum in the social sciences."

—Educational Media Reviews Online

Special Jury Mention, 2011  
Havana Film Festival New York

2010 Hot Docs  
Film Festival

73 minutes | color | 2009  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398



## Trinkets and Beads

A Film by Christopher Walker



"An important film that should be seen by anyone concerned about the environment, first-third world relations, globalization, ethnology, and the role of missionaries. This film...helps us move closer to understanding how the common good [the entire earth and all its peoples] is to be incorporated into our decision-making. Unfortunately, it also makes you want to weep."

—Bridges, An Interdisciplinary Journal

1998 Award of Merit in Film,  
Latin American Studies Association

Best Documentary,  
1998 Paris International  
Environmental Film Festival

Best Cultural Survival Film, 1998  
Telluride Mountainfilm Festival

52 minutes | color | 1996  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348

Dallas-based MAXUS promises to be a new kind of oil company: one that protects the rainforest and respects its inhabitants. That includes the Huaorani—known as the fiercest tribe in the Amazon.

Filmed over two years in Ecuador and the U.S., TRINKETS & BEADS tells the story of how MAXUS set out to convince the Huaorani to allow drilling on their land. Meanwhile Moi, the Huaorani leader, tries to unite the tribe against the company. The result is a funny, heartbreaking and thrilling story of the battle waged by indigenous people to preserve their way of life.



## Between Midnight and the Rooster's Crow

A Film by Nadja Drost



66 minutes | color | 2005  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$298

Oil company EnCana wants to build a heavy crude-oil pipeline from the Amazon, across the earthquake-prone Andes, to the Pacific coast. The government of Ecuador embraces the plan, disregarding protests about property destruction and contamination.

Nadja Drost follows the cross-country route of the pipeline, interviewing farmers, indigenous community representatives, environmental activists and others. They recount stories of forced relocation, imprisonment, and intimidation, including shootings and beatings by the Ecuadorian police and army.

BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND THE ROOSTER'S CROW is a case study of the social, economic and environmental devastation caused by insatiable Western consumers and multinational corporations that undermine local well-being.



## Guañape Sur

A Film by János Richter



Guañape Sur. A barren rock island off the coast of Peru. No soil, no water. Nothing is growing here. Around its shores a restricted area has been established. The island serves hundreds of thousands of sea birds as a breeding ground.

One of its peculiarities is that for a period of ten years only two men may live on it, in the eleventh year though, hundreds of men simultaneously pounce on its slopes in order to recover the bird's bequests: dried excrement, an acrid mixture of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds, potassium oxide and quicklime, which blunts one's sense of smell. It can be used as a fertilizer or for producing dynamite. Its name is one of the few words the world borrowed from the language of the Incas: guano.

A war has been fought over guano. And even during peacetime, harvesting it from the sharp rock is a brutal fight. Everything on the island is done by hand.



"A barren island off the coast of Peru is the breeding ground for thousands of sea birds that are its sole inhabitants. Once every eleventh year, hundreds of men make their way to the island to harvest the birds' dried excrement, which is then used as valuable fertilizer. Through gorgeous cinematography and patient observation, János Richter offers an intriguing look at a most unlikely of jobs, in the most unlikely of places." — AFI Discovery Silver Docs

2011 Thessaloniki Documentary  
Festival (Greece)

2011 Visions du Réel  
(Switzerland)

2011 London Documentary  
Film Festival

27 minutes | color | 2010  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$248

# Rapayan

A Film by Francis Delfour



The slopes overlooking the tiny Peruvian village of Rapayan are dotted with the remarkably well-preserved ruins of an indigenous settlement that predates the Inca conquest. It is a virtual city, complete with homes, a castle, a fortress, mausoleums, murals, subterranean galleries and mummified remains of its ancient inhabitants. As an archeological discovery, it is larger, richer and older than the celebrated Machu Picchu.

RAPAYAN follows the efforts of archaeologist Alexis Mantha, who “discovered” the historic ruins, and his Peruvian colleagues Hernando Malea and Jorge Cotrina, as they uncover and research this unknown civilization.

Through interviews with the archaeologists, village residents, school children, the mayor and local politicians, the film reveals the uneasy relationship between villagers and scientific outsiders, who are suspected of stealing historical artifacts and profaning graves.

RAPAYAN exposes an intriguing cultural conflict between Rapayan’s residents, who must contend with the forces of modernization and globalization, and archaeologists eager to examine and preserve an ancient cultural patrimony.



2010 Award of Merit in Film,  
Latin American Studies Association

2010 Audience Award, Rassegna  
Internazionale del Cinema  
Archeologico (Italy)

2009 Archaeology Channel Film &  
Video Festival

2009 Globians Doc Fest  
(Berlin)

52 minutes | color | 2008  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390



# Lucanamarca

A Film by Carlos Cárdenas & Héctor Gálvez

In early 1980s Peru, the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) Maoist rebels attempted to recruit Quechuan peasants to join their struggle. When the peasants rejected the movement’s brutal methods and dictatorial style, the guerrilla movement launched a campaign of violence throughout the Andean region. In April 1983 they massacred 69 people, including children and pregnant women, in the farming village of Santiago de Lucanamarca.

Some 20 years later, LUCANAMARCA shows the arrival of Peru’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission to exhume the bodies of the victims in order to establish their identities and causes of death both as evidence in a trial of Shining Path leaders, and to return the remains for proper burial. But the commission’s efforts also reawaken old enmities among some of the villagers.

As LUCANAMARCA shows, after the victims’ remains have received a mass ceremonial burial, other after-effects of years of violence become apparent. Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman is serving a life sentence in prison, but the history of Lucanamarca shows just how elusive justice can be, and how the effects of political violence can be felt for more than a generation.

2010 Award of Merit in Film,  
Latin American Studies Association

2009 Guadalajara  
Film Festival (Mexico)

2008 International Documentary  
Film Festival (Amsterdam)

69 minutes | color | 2008  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390







## Oblivion

A Film by Heddy Honigmann


"A masterpiece... you feel a direct, easygoing and warm approach from the director to her characters."

—Dox Magazine

"A multilayered cinematic cocktail which reveals a poetical and Chaplinesque vision of the resilience of humanity."

—International Film Critics Federation

 Mayor's Prize, 2009 Yamagata Documentary Film Festival (Japan)

 Silver Dove & Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, 2008 Leipzig Festival for Documentary & Animated Films

93 minutes | color | 2008  
Sale/DVD: \$398



This latest documentary from Heddy Honigmann focuses on Peru's capital city of Lima (where she was born and grew up), revealing its startling contrasts of wealth and poverty. Many of its poorest citizens have survived through decades of economic crisis, terrorism, government violence, denial of workers' rights, and political corruption.

Demonstrating anew Honigmann's talent as one of the most empathetic filmmakers at work today, OBLIVION provides intimate and moving portraits of street musicians, singers, vendors, shoeshine boys, and gymnasts (some mere children) and jugglers who perform at traffic stops. The film visits with small business owners, from a leather-goods repairman and a presidential sash manufacturer to a frog-juice vendor, and contrasts the work and home environments of servers who are employed at Lima's finest restaurants and hotels, but who live in hillside slums surrounding the city.

OBLIVION introduces us to the everyday reality of Lima, celebrating a people who, albeit politically powerless, have resisted being consigned to oblivion.



## Can't Do It in Europe

A Film by Charlotta Copcutt, Anna Weitz & Anna Klara Åhrén

"A visit to the cooperative mines will almost surely be one the most memorable experience you'll have in Bolivia, providing an opportunity to witness working conditions that should have gone out with the Middle Ages." —Lonely Planet

Already visited Paris, Berlin, Madrid and the other great cities of Europe? Looking for a truly unusual tourist spot? Then how about the silver mines of Potosi, Bolivia, where you can don helmets, gloves and overalls and descend into the dark, stiflingly hot and polluted mines, to watch real Bolivian miners at work?

CAN'T DO IT IN EUROPE portrays the new phenomenon of "reality tourism," whereby bored American or European travelers seek out real-life experiences as exciting tourist "adventures." The film follows a group of such tourists as they visit the mines in Potosi—the poorest city in the poorest nation in Latin America—where Bolivian miners work by hand, just as they did centuries ago, to extract silver from the earth.

Led by their Bolivian tour guide, and walking through muddy and poorly ventilated tunnels, breathing fetid air laced with asbestos and toxic gases, the tourists take in the "sights." Although they give the miners recommended gifts of coca leaves and soft drinks, the cultural encounter is no less awkward, with the miners cracking jokes about the "gringitos" and wondering, "God knows why they come to see us."

"Accessible to those first being introduced to anthropology, it is also provocative and engaging for senior students able to address more fully themes of post-colonialism, the tourist gaze, authenticity, commodification, globalization, and discourses of Orientalism and 'imperialist nostalgia.'"

—Anthropologica

"An excellent film for provoking classroom discussion on the role of contemporary tourism in the developing world." —Pegi Vail, Anthropology Dept., Columbia University

 2007 MoMA Documentary Fortnight

46 minutes | color | 2005  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348

# Devils Don't Dream

A Film by 3' Vd/Se: aVde[



"Required viewing for the young generation, and for the historical memory of Guatemala."

—Eduardo Antonio Velásquez Cerrera, Prensa Libre (Guatemala)

 **Peace Film Prize, 1996**  
Berlin Film Festival

 **First Prize, 1996 Valladolid**  
Documentary Film Festival (Spain)

 **1997 Human Rights Watch**  
Film Festival

90 minutes | color | 1995  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

DEVILS DON'T DREAM is a poetic documentary about Jacobo Arbenz: the son of Swiss immigrants who, in 1944, overthrew the military dictatorship oppressing Guatemala. In 1950 he was elected president. Only four years later, after a CIA-led coup, he was stripped of power, humiliated, and exiled from the country.

With Cold War paranoia rampant, Arbenz was seen as a threat to US hegemony in the Western hemisphere. Richard Nixon called him "a foreigner, manipulated by foreign powers." In rare archival footage, Nixon and Winston Churchill are seen discussing "what should be done" with Guatemala.

Their solution would lead to the reestablishment of old power structures—and to a civil war that raged across the country for the next 40 years.



# Killer's Paradise

Directed by Giselle Portenier

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada

Over the last 25 years, more than 2,000 women have been murdered in Guatemala. It is a horrendous human rights crisis made possible by indifferent lawmakers and government officials, and by an inept justice system.

When 13-year-old Stephanie Lopez was found killed, any evidence was buried with the body. In the three months since Jorge Velasquez's daughter was murdered, the case file has shuffled from desk to desk with no real progress. After five years of hunting down her sister's killers, Maria Elena Peralta is no closer to the truth. No one knows who is behind these atrocious acts and nothing is being done to find the culprits.

But there are traces of hope: Human rights activist Norma Cruz travels across Guatemala to educate women on their rights and how to protect themselves. Jorge finally obtains DNA testing for two suspects in his daughter's death. Maria Elena travels to Washington, D.C. to garner support for her long-standing fight.

In KILLER'S PARADISE we hear from friends and family of victims, as well as police officers, investigators, rapists, gang members—and even a serial killer who continues to roam free.

"Highly Recommended."

—Educational Media Reviews Online

 **Award of Commendation,**  
American Anthropological  
Association

83 minutes | color | 2007 | CC  
Sale/DVD: \$348 ~~now~~ \$298





## A Mayan Trilogy

Three Films (on one DVD) by Olivia Carrescia



**"These films deserve to be shown in every college campus with a Latin American department, and in every community that cares about the fate of the threatened indigenous communities of the Americas."—Victor Perera, Guatemalan-American author**

155 minutes | color | 1982-1994  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

These three documentaries focus on the Mayan Indians of Guatemala. Filmed over 15 years, they record indigenous culture and provide acute observations on how it has survived through Guatemala's tumultuous history.

The trilogy starts with **TODOS SANTOS CUCHUMATAN** (1982). Shot in the village of Todos Santos, the film provides an intimate look at everyday life before the civil war of the mid 1980s.

Seven years later, Carrescia returns, to find the quiet village she had documented changed forever by political turmoil. **TODOS SANTOS: THE SURVIVORS** (1989) is a haunting look at the legacy of a bloody civil war, and the wounds that remain unhealed even after the guns have stopped firing.

Finally, **MAYAN VOICES: AMERICAN LIVES** (1994) looks at Mayan families who fled the violence of their homeland for the United States. Set in Florida and Massachusetts, the film contrasts their experiences as refugees with the struggles of those continuing to arrive in search of better lives.

Now available on one DVD, this is a unique, essential document of the recent history and evolving society of an indigenous Central American community.



## A Better Life (Una Vida Mejor)

A Film by Olivia Carrescia

**new** After 30 years of war, fraught peace, migration, and social upheaval, Olivia Carrescia returns to Todos Santos, Guatemala, to examine the changes that have taken place. The Todos Santos now have cell phones, TV's and large cinderblock houses, but are they better off?

The civil strife of the 1980's ended in the Peace Accord of 1996, but many of the underlying problems were unresolved. Now many Todos Santos, rather than traveling to the coastal cotton plantations for work, began traveling to the U.S. They sent back cash that those left behind, used for household necessities, and later for clothes and electronics. Before long, homes similar to those the migrants saw in the United States began springing up. Todos Santos grew and prospered, becoming a commercial hub in the northwestern mountains of Guatemala.

But the prosperity was not to last. Long term migration and the U.S. economic crisis of 2008, had severe repercussions.

In **A BETTER LIFE** we again meet Santiago, the weaver and resourceful homemaker, Benito, the former school teacher, and Desiderio, the wise environmentalist—all familiar to those who have seen the earlier films. Along with returning migrants and new villagers, the impact of the changes is explored with the sensitivity, awareness and insight that characterize this remarkable documentary series.



40 Minutes | color | 2011  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$298



## The Sugar Curtain

A Film by Camila Guzmán Urzúa

**"Highly recommended... An endearing and intimate reverie... distinguished by its refusal to conclude or preach... it helps the audience contemplate mixed and multiple Cuban realities."**

**—Holly Ackerman, Educational Media Reviews Online**

 **Best Documentary, 2007**  
**Havana Festival of New Latin American Cinema**

 **Louis Marcorelles Prize, 2007**  
**Cinéma du Réel (Paris)**

 **2007 San Francisco Film Festival**

80 minutes | color | 2006  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398



Director Camila Guzmán Urzúa grew up in Cuba in the 1970s and 1980s—the “golden years” of the Cuban Revolution. In those days, Cuba seemed like a paradise, where the state provided everything: education, healthcare, housing and work, and young people like Urzúa were enthusiastically dedicated to building a new society.

In this revealing autobiographical portrait, she returns to Cuba, the country she left in 1990, before its economic collapse. Urzúa revisits her childhood haunts and meets with former classmates. They have had to adapt to food rationing and many other social and personal privations. To survive, many work at illegal jobs.

Although Camila and her former classmates have largely become disillusioned, they remain nostalgic about the days when the Revolution had promise. *THE SUGAR CURTAIN* blends these alternately fond and disenchanted reminiscences with historical footage and photos, views of the sad remnants of deserted or decaying buildings in Havana, and scenes of the boisterous vitality of today's Cuban schoolchildren.



## Presumed Guilty

Directed by Roberto Hernández & Geoffrey Smith

In December 2005, Toño Zuniga was picked up off the street in Mexico City, Mexico, and sentenced to 20 years for murder based on the testimony of a single, shaky eyewitness. *PRESUMED GUILTY* tells the heart-wrenching story of a man who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Two young lawyers, Roberto Hernández and Layda Negrete, get involved in the case. They have tracked an alarming history of corruption in the Mexican justice system, where 93 percent of inmates never see an arrest warrant, and 93 percent of defendants never see a judge.

Hernández and Negrete manage to get Zuniga a retrial—on camera—and enlist the help of filmmaker Geoffrey Smith (*THE ENGLISH SURGEON*) to chronicle the saga. Shot over three years with unprecedented access to the Mexican courts and prisons, this dramatic story is a searing indictment of a justice system that presumes guilt.

**"Showing to the world in vivid detail the deep flaws in the system, undermining the most basic ideals of justice, this film has the potential to blow the lid on the Mexican criminal justice systems."**—**Jack Glaser, Associate Professor at Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley**

**"Highly Recommended... an indictment of the entire Mexican criminal justice system"**—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

 **2010 Humanitas Award, International Documentary Association (Los Angeles)**

 **Best Documentary & Audience Award, 2010 Documenta (Madrid)**

 **Best Feature Documentary, 2010 East End Film Festival (London)**

 **Audience Award, 2010 Los Angeles Film Festival**

 **Best Documentary, 2010 Guadalajara Film Festival (Mexico)**

88 minutes | color | 2009  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398





## El Velador (The Night Watchman)

A Film by Natalia Almada

"EL VELADOR is an unsettlingly quiet, even lyrical film about a world made and unmade by violence."

—The New York Times

"Hypnotically detailed."

—Wall Street Journal

"Mesmerizing."—Time Out

 **2011 New Directors/  
New Films**

 **2011 Cannes Film Festival:  
Directors' Fortnight**

 **2011 Los Angeles  
Film Festival**

72 minutes | color | 2011  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398



Martin, the night watchman, arrives with the setting sun. The cemetery mascots, El Negro y La Negra, greet him with wagging tails. The sound of construction fades away as the day-time workers leave and Martin is left alone, looking out over the skyline of mausoleums where Mexico's most notorious drug lords lie at rest.

As night descends luxurious cars fill the dirt roads. Mercedes, a sexy young widow, arrives with her little girl in a pristine white Audi. A portrait of her husband, a corrupt policeman holding a machine gun, watches over them as they sweep and mop the shiny marble floors. The coconut vendor's radio blasts a gory list of the day's murders: "Culiacán has become a war zone." The buzz of cicadas fills the air with anticipation. Through Martin's vigilant eyes we watch time pass in this place where time stands still.

A portrait of the daily life of the cemetery, EL VELADOR lingers at the threshold of violence, the violence that is wounding Mexico, and reminds us of the socio-economic conditions in which that violence flourishes. But by refusing to show the graphic images that the press feverishly disseminates, Almada asks us to dwell in the moment when violence has just left its mark and when violence is imminent. Her camera enters into the intimate and ordinary routines of this world with patience, restraint and tenderness.



## El Sicario, Room 164

A Film by Gianfranco Rosi & Charles Bowden  
Directed & photographed by Gianfranco Rosi



The term sicario goes back to Roman Palestine, where a Jewish sect, the Sicarii, used concealed daggers (sicae) in their murders of Romans and their supporters. In modern language, a sicario is a professional killer or a hit man.

In an anonymous motel room on the U.S./Mexico border, a Ciudad Juárez hit man speaks. He has killed hundreds of people and is an expert in torture and kidnapping. He was simultaneously on the payroll of the Mexican drug cartels and a commander of the Chihuahua State Police.

There is currently a \$250,000 contract on his life and he lives as a fugitive, though he has never been charged with a crime in any country. With his face obscured by a black mesh hood, he tells his story to the camera inside the very hotel room he once used to hold and torture kidnapped victims. Aided only by a magic marker and notepad, which he uses to illustrate and diagram his words, the sicario describes, in astounding detail, his life of crime, murder, abduction and torture.



"A minimalist study in maximum violence, Gianfranco Rosi's EL SICARIO, ROOM 164 offers viewers the rare chance to meet a Mexican narco hit man and to live to tell the tale."

—Variety

 **FIPRESCI Prize, 2011  
Venice Film Festival**

 **Best Documentary, 2011  
Doc Lisboa, (Portugal)**

 **Best Documentary, 2011  
Docaviv Film Festival (Israel)**

84 minutes | color | 2011  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

## A Massacre Foretold

A Film by Nick Higgins

"Locates the Acteal massacre within the Mexican government's dual strategy toward the Zapatista conflict; observes the reality both in the light of the San Andres agreements, and also in the context of the paramilitary strategy of terror for which nobody has taken responsibility or yet faced justice."

—La Jornada Michoacan

"A useful addition to courses on globalization, Mexico, Latin American studies, and in surveys of political violence and terrorism."—Anthropology Review

Database

58 minutes | color | 2007

Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390 ~~now~~ \$348



On December 22, 1997, 45 indigenous residents of Acteal, in the province of Chiapas, took refuge in the village church. Most were children and women. Soon after, they were massacred by paramilitary troops. The Acteal villagers were pacifists—supporters of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation, but who rejected the group's call for armed conflict. No serious government investigation of the atrocity was ever conducted.

A MASSACRE FORETOLD documents the Acteal massacre and offers historical and social context, highlighting the role of clandestine death squads, government negotiations with the Zapatistas, and racial and economic discrimination against Mexico's indigenous population.

## From the Other Side

A Film by Chantal Akerman

"A spare, painterly and scrupulously unsentimental look at the plight of illegal Mexican immigrants massed at the United States border. Both eerily beautiful and filled with a quiet compassion."—The New York Times

"Stunning! As human testimony [it's] unforgettably forceful."—The Nation

2005 Film Festival, National Women's Studies Association

2003 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

99 minutes | color | 2002

Sale/DVD: \$398

In FROM THE OTHER SIDE, Chantal Akerman shifts her focus between the Mexican border towns of Agua Prieta and Sonora, where people wait in limbo before crossing to the United States, and neighboring Douglas, Arizona, a town ringed by mountains and desert plains. The INS calculated that the hardship and danger—the cold and the heat in Arizona—would deter illegal crossings. But thousands are desperate enough to attempt it—and many don't survive.



## The Inheritors

A Film by Eugenio Polgovsky

THE INHERITORS takes us into Mexico's agricultural fields. Here, children barely bigger than the buckets they carry work long hours, in often hazardous conditions, picking tomatoes, peppers, or beans. Infants in baskets are left alone in the hot sun, or are breast-fed by mothers while they pick crops.

One of the most highly-praised and awarded Mexican documentaries in many years, THE INHERITORS immerses us in the daily lives of children and families who survive only through unrelenting labor.

The film also observes other labor routines, including the production of earthen bricks, cutting cane, gathering firewood, ox-plowing fields and planting by hand, as well as artistic endeavors, such as carving wooden figures and weaving baskets to sell.

In the world the film chronicles, everyone—from the frailest elders to the smallest of toddlers—must work, and the cycle of poverty is passed on from one generation to the next.

"Poetic yet quietly challenging... beautifully shot images."

—The Georgia Straight

★★★★½ "Offers a remarkable example of cinema vérité, trusting in the power of its images... Highly recommended."—Video Librarian

2010 Award of Merit in Film, Latin American Studies Association

Best Documentary, 2009 Mexican Academy of Film Arts and Sciences

Grand Prize, 2008 Havana Festival of New Latin American Cinema

Feisal Prize, 2009 Guadalajara Film Festival (Mexico)

Best Documentary, 2009 Festival de la Memoria

90 minutes | color | 2008

Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398



## Seeds of Hunger

A Film by Yves Billy & Richard Prost

★★★½ "A powerful look at a timely and important topic, this is highly recommended" — Video Librarian

**Best Documentary, 2009**  
Bourges International Festival of Environmental Films

52 minutes | color | 2008  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390



With more than 3 billion people suffering malnutrition and a billion starving, the world food system is clearly in trouble. SEEDS OF HUNGER exposes the contradictions in the industrial model of agricultural production. North American ethanol requirements leave poor Mexicans unable to afford corn for tortillas. Chinese peasants stop growing soy in order to raise corn for livestock, and Argentina becomes the world's largest producer of soybeans—most exported to China.

With 20th-century farming techniques no longer sustainable, and with widespread drought caused by climate change, are we on the brink of a global food crisis?

## Energy War

A Film by Shuchen Tan, Ijsbrand van Veelen & Rudi Boon



"In a time when grand amounts of attention are being paid to the environmental consequences of fossil fuel use, this documentary gives the viewer a much needed look into the worldwide daily consequences on the political level. Highly Recommended."

—Educational Media Reviews Online

78 minutes | color | 2007  
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390

Profiling newly emergent energy superpowers such as Venezuela—which boasts the largest untapped oilfield in the world—ENERGY WAR investigates how the economic importance of fossil fuels affects international politics and becomes a powerful tool of foreign policy.

Thomas Friedman looks at petro-authoritarianism, while analyst Kenneth Deffeyes discusses peak oil—the point at which the earth's oil supply goes into terminal decline.

How long can power backed by oil last? As the world prepares for a green future, it's clear that a world of new energy sources will once again reshape the global balance of political power.



## More Films & DVDs... from & about Latin America

### Americas in Transition



1980s. Academy Award® nominee.

29 minutes | color | 1982 | \$248

A concise and fast-paced history of U.S. relations with and the volatile forces at work in Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua in the

### The Battle of Chile



1973. Now a special edition 4-DVD set (including Chile, Obsolete Memory).

320 minutes | b&w | 1976 | \$440

Patricio Guzmán's epic three-part chronicle of Chile's open and peaceful socialist revolution, and of the violent counter-revolution against it in

### Choropampa



emerges to lead his people on a quest for healthcare and justice.

75 minutes | color | 2002 | \$390 now \$348

When a mercury spill by the world's richest gold mining company hits a quiet village in the Peruvian Andes, a young mayor



### Denial

An investigation into the 1981 El Mozote massacre in El Salvador, and the Reagan administration's cover-up of it.

57 minutes | color | 1993 | \$348

### El Dia Que Me Quieras (The Day You'll Love Me)

A haunting meditation on the last picture taken of Che Guevara, as he lay dead on a table surrounded by his captors.

30 minutes | color | 1998 | \$248



### El Salvador: Another Vietnam

Examines the civil war in El Salvador in light of the Reagan administration's decision to "draw the line" against "communist interference" in Central America. Academy Award® nominee.

53 minutes | color | 1981 | \$298



### FALN

A remarkable time capsule of Venezuelan political and social history, and valuable background to the ongoing social conflicts in that country.

30 minutes | b&w | 1965 | \$248



### Justice and the Generals

Investigates the human rights and legal issues involved when two Salvadoran generals are sued in an American court for atrocities (such as the murder of four American churchwomen) committed during El Salvador's civil war.

86 minutes | color | 2002 | \$348



## More Films & DVDs... from & about Latin America

### Machito: A Latin Legacy

The Cuban band leader Frank "Machito" Grillo.

58 minutes | color | 1987 | \$348

### Metal and Melancholy



Roving the city of Lima, Peru, Heddy Honigmann (*Oblivion*) meets teachers, actors, professionals, civil servants and many

others who have turned to taxi driving to earn enough to get by.

80 minutes | color | 1993 | \$348

### Montaña de Luz



**new** The children of the Montaña de Luz orphanage in Honduras are HIV positive, and a living testament to the beauty and innocence of childhood. This is a stirring portrait of a loving community.

40 minutes | color | 2008 | **CC** | \$248

### The Passion of Maria Elena



Following the hit-and-run death of her son, Maria Elena, a young woman from Mexico's Raramuri community, embarks upon an

eye-opening journey from grief to unexpected spiritual resolution.

76 minutes | color | 2003 | \$398

### Paulina

As a young girl in a small Mexican village Paulina was traded for land by her parents, and raped by the town boss. But today a vital, resilient woman, she returns for a visit ...

90 minutes | color | 1997 | \$348



### Sacred Soil

The Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation exhumes up to 1,000 bodies a year to identify them, and return the remains to their families.

22 minutes | color | 2008 | \$225

### Scars of Memory

An oral history of the 1932 massacre of 10,000 El Salvadorans, a trauma that has resonated through six decades of military rule, until the 1992 peace accords ended a brutal, 12-year civil war.

53 minutes | color | 2002 | \$390 *now* \$348



### Tambogrande

Follows the efforts of a small Peruvian town over five years as they fight government efforts to sell the mineral rights under their homes to a multi-national mining company.

85 minutes | color | 2006 | \$398



### Tracing Aleida

Thirty years after being separated when their parents, "disappeared" during Mexico's "Dirty War" in the '70s, Aleida searches to uncover the truth, and to find her brother.

88 minutes | color | 2007 | \$348

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