

The Second Annual ISU LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

CHAC

Admission: \$1.25

Thursday January 12

8 p.m. Gallery

Saturday January 14

9:30 p.m. Sun Room

Directed by Rolando Klein

1975

95 minutes

In Color

Mexico

In Mayan Indian myth, CHAC is the God of Rain. He is known to all descendants of that people as the fearsome god who rides the four paths of heaven on a white horse. Based upon these ancient Mayan legends and the current traditions and beliefs of their Mayan descendants, CHAC was filmed entirely on location by Chilean film director Rolando Klein, using native Mayans for the entire cast. In a very real sense, CHAC is their film. For not only are they the principals in the dramatic tale, they rewrote much of the dialogue, declaring it badly written and waiting to express it in their own words.

A mystical quest, an odyssey which resembles the films of Alexander Jodorowsky, CHAC is closer in spirit to the works of Carlos Castaneda. Elegaic in its rich imagery, complex in its form, CHAC ostensibly is a search for a Mayan holy man, a diviner who can placate the gods and bring rain to a drought-stricken village. But like Greek myth, it is about more than its narrative encompasses, for it is a tale about faith, belief, endurance and perseverance.

AWARDS: Festival of the Americas, U.S. Virgin Islands, November 1975:
Silver Venus Award for Best Feature
Americas Award for Best Latin American Film
Special Jury Award
Best Director



REBELLION IN PATAGONIA

Saturday January 14

7 p.m. Sun Room

Directed by Hector Olivera

1974

109 minutes

In Color

Argentina

One of the most popular and critically acclaimed Argentine films of recent years, REBELLION IN PATAGONIA dramatizes the historic massacre of workers in the vast and lonely land of Southern Argentina. The film focuses on a tragic episode in the 1920's when gauchos and other employees of the local sheep barons went on strike for better living and working conditions. The story is set in a detailed socio-historic context and features insightful character studies of the main protagonists, including the anarchist leaders of the workers' movement as well as the military commander.

"Superb...a powerful epic directed with a taut and profound brilliance and magnificently photographed." --Judy Stone, San Francisco Chronicle

"A stunning period piece, glowing with a sense of time and place. A film of remarkable power and quiet passion...a noteworthy cinematic accomplishment." --Judith Crist, Saturday Review



THE BATTLE OF CHILE

Sunday January 15

7 p.m. Sun Room

Directed by Patricio Guzman

1973 - 1976

191 minutes

B/W

Chile/Cuba

THE BATTLE OF CHILE is a powerful portrait of the passions of a people divided and a nation on the brink of civil war. It has been acclaimed by critics here and abroad as an epic historical documentary in the tradition of THE SORROW AND THE PITY combined with the on-the-spot urgency and compelling human drama of THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS. Divided into two parts-- "The Insurrection of the Bourgeoisie" and "The Coup d'Etat" -- the film examines the escalation of rightist violence following the left's victory in the congressional elections of March 1973.

The motion picture camera thrusts us into the midst of a society in crisis, allowing us to become witnesses to history-in-the-making. We are seemingly everywhere, from intense debates in the halls of congress to the smoke and violence of street demonstrations, from the army's raids on industrial centers for "stockpiled weapons" to mass political rallies in the streets of Santiago, and from the horrifying sequence in which a cameraman records his hown shooting death to the devastating aerial bombardment of the presidential palace.

VIDAS SECAS

Monday January 16 12 noon Sun Room

Directed by Nelson Pereira dos Santos 1963 115 minutes Brasil

The key formative work of Brasil's Cinema Novo: an overwhelmingly powerful story of life from day to day among the very poor in Brasil's interior.



UNDERSTANDING LATIN AMERICAN CINEMA

Lecture and discussion

Monday January 16 7 p.m. Sun Room (followed by film ANTONIO DAS MORTES)

Guest speaker Carlos Boker is a filmmaker, playwright, journalist and professor. Born in Chile, he has travelled extensively and has held guest professorships in Chile, India and Germany. He is currently an instructor in Broadcasting and Film at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, where he has taught, among other courses, "Third World Cinema: Film and Revolution."



ANTONIO DAS MORTES

Monday January 16 7 p.m. Sun Room

Directed by Glauber Rocha 1969 100 minutes Brasil

With ANTONIO DAS MORTES, Glauber Rocha continues as the leader of Cinema Novo, the Brazilian cinema movement that rejects Hollywood and European cultural colonialism in favor of an indigenous national style, linking Latin and Black cultures. Among the young Brazilian directors of the Cinema Novo movement, it is particularly Rocha who has transcended its early neorealism to embrace expressionism and stylization. In ANTONIO, these characteristics assume the flamboyant sweep of a revolutionary folk epic.

ANTONIO is an exuberant and blood-stained radical work, choreographed and wedded by proud young nationalists to Brasil's rich folk heritage, which includes the legends of the "cangaceiros," the fiery bandit-rebels who redressed social injustice by violence. This is the story of Antonio, a former cangaceiro who during the forties turned professional killer in the pay of rich landowners and the church to kill his former compatriots. Touched by grace -- his realization of his employers' cruelty and injustice -- he finally rejoins the revolutionary cause with a vengeance. Rocha subtly combines the language of popular religion, myth and music as he charts this transformation of a hired executioner into a political avenger.

AWARDS: 1969 Cannes Film Festival: Best Director
The Prix Luis Buñuel
International Critics Award
1970 Atlanta Film Festival: Special Jury Award

"An awesome primitive, savage epic poem, a nightmare of terminal violence, a paean sung by the poor in worship of their heroes, a unique film made by a unique filmmaker."
--Elia Kazan

"Among all the young cinema-makers in the world, Rocha is the one I like best."
--Luis Buñuel



WITH THE CUBAN WOMEN

Tuesday January 17 12 noon Pioneer Room

A provocative documentary exploration of Cuba's "revolution within a revolution," the profound transformations in the social status of women, and the impact of men's attitudes toward women. Women in a variety of jobs speak about the changes occurring in the society and in their own lives. An emotionally moving tribute to the New Latin American Women.

JANUARY 12-17
1978



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