

WINTER 2008 LATIN AMERICAN FILM SERIES

LOVE, GREED, AND VIOLENCE IN MEXICAN TECHNICOLOR

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
180 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Rd., OSU Campus

All films in Spanish with English subtitles

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

La ley de Herodes/Herod's Law

January 9

A sharp critique of Mexico's long-ruling PRI party, this dark comedy stirred a substantial amount of controversy in its native country upon release. A petty small town politician, Vargas (Damian Alcazar), receives a backwards political education when he's visited by a PRI party member, who teaches him how to rule with violence and corruption. Features director Alex Cox (*Repo Man*) in a cameo. Winner of 9 Ariel Awards and the Latin American Cinema Award at the Sundance Film Festival. Luis Estrada, 2000, 120'.

El crimen del padre Amaro/The Crime of Father Amaro

January 23

Gael Garcia Bernal plays Father Amaro, a new priest assigned to the small rural town of Los Reyes, Mexico. Upon arrival, he discovers that a conspiracy of corruption, sex, and lies has overtaken the local Catholic church. As he tries to separate himself from the other priests' actions, he finds the temptation too great and is eventually drawn in. *The Crime of Father Amaro* created much controversy upon its release and many Catholic organizations in Mexico and the United States called for a boycott of the film. It eventually went on to become the highest-grossing Mexican film in its native country. Carlos Carrera, 2002, 120'.

De la calle/Streeters

February 6

Gerardo Tort's tale about the rough and dangerous streets of Mexico City and the denizens that call it home won 11 Mexican Academy Awards. The film's stark, gritty feel lends itself well to its story about a teenager and his girlfriend struggling to survive in an environment determined to destroy them. A gripping piece of cinema. Stars Luis Fernando Pena and Maya Zapata. Gerardo Tort, 2001, 86'.

Perfume de violetas: Nadie te oye/Violet Perfume: Nobody Hears You

February 20

"A touching tale with a mortifying climax" (Philip French, *Guardian*), this award-winning Mexican drama surrounds young Yessica (Ximena Ayala), who while barely a teen is raped by a stranger with her own stepbrother's help. Afterwards, her mother continues to neglect her and her peers mock her openly, leading to an emotional breakdown that threatens the only thing that matters in her life--her best friend. Set in Mexico City, *Perfume de Violetas* is as much about one troubled girl as it is about societal neglect and gender oppression. Winner of Ariel Awards for Best Actress, Art Direction, Costume Design, Screenplay (Jose Buil) and Supporting Actress (Arcelia Ramirez). Marisa Sistach, 2001, 90'.

Amores perros

March 5

This explosive, whirlwind of a debut feature from Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu has been compared to *Pulp Fiction* thanks to its intertwining multiple narratives and bold, kinetic style. But where Tarantino's film was inseparable from its movie-obsessed elements and genre-based influences, *Amores Perros* has more gravity--combining morality tales with realistic, visceral portrayals of desperate living and broken dreams. Three separate stories, all somehow involving dogs, connect through a car crash in Mexico City. Despite some scenes of extreme violence, the film is as thoughtful as it is intense. Named Best Film at the Chicago, Tokyo and Moscow International Film Festivals, among many other honors. Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, 2000, 153'.



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