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CINEQUEST FILM & CREATIVITY FESTIVAL 2019 LATINO CINEMA CELEBRATION

There's an incredible amount of talent exuding from the works of the Latino artists featured at the 2019 Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival. These films illuminate the varied and beautiful cultures across Latin America and put their key issues into the heart of the global conversation. This year's works examine some of the significant themes recurring throughout Latin America, such as political unrest, extreme poverty, and the effects of drug cartels on everyday people, but they also tap into the lighter side of Latin cinema through hilarious comedies that explore alien worlds, the inner-workings of marriages, and the hilarious happenings of the strange and stylish elite. Throw in some spine-tingling horror, an uplifting look at the life of Patch Adams, and some compelling family dramas—not to mention Terry Gilliam's eagerly-anticipated adventure-comedy—and you have a Latin recipe for festival gold. Cinequest is proud to represent the following Latino countries in its 2019 lineup: Mexico, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, Guatemala and Spain. Screening and events will occur throughout the March 5th to 17th festival in San Jose and Redwood City, California.

Spanish Language

Feature Films

Buy Me a Gun | Mexico | Drama

Directed by Julio Hernández Córdón

In an unspecified future time, somewhere in Mexico, women are disappearing at an alarming rate and drug cartels run the area. Huck, a 12-year-old girl, lives with her addict father in a trailer, and helps him take care of an abandoned baseball camp where narcos gather to play. Her father tries to protect Huck by disguising her as a boy using a face mask, as daily gunfights erupt all around them, and death and destruction are the norm.

***Tripping-Thru Keta* | Mexico | Comedy | U.S. Premiere**

Directed by Julio Bekhor and Fernando Sma

It's crazy out there today, what with all the drugs, polyamory, and YouTube. Keta, a big girl with bigger dreams, starts selling drugs, and ends up encountering the strange new world that is her neighborhood. From her interactions with swingers, housewives, a telenovela actress, and more, we follow Keta through a world that is sexy, strange, and stylish. Gorgeous cinematography combines with psychedelic editing to make *Tripping Thru Keta* a trip with all the intensity of a week-long bender.

***Little Histories* | Venezuela | Drama | World Premiere**

Directed by Rafael Marziano Tinoco

Set in the eventful five-day period of the 2002 Venezuelan military coup, five fictional stories occur between the start of the coup and the return of President Hugo Chavez. As the coup plays out—often seen on the TV or heard through noises in the background—ordinary lives unfold in extraordinary situations.

***Clean Hands* | USA, Nicaragua | Documentary | World Premiere**

Directed by Michael Dominic

At La Chureca, a massive dump in Nicaragua, young Manuel, Zulema, Chico, and Edgar wait eagerly for the dump trucks, hoping to find leftover food. They work alongside their demanding mother, pulling out any usable discards in order to salvage an existence. Everything they know is this life of extreme poverty until an American philanthropist steps in and buys them a modest home with land to farm.

***The Extraordinary Journey of Celeste Garcia* | Cuba | Comedy**

Directed by Arturo Infante

How about an inter-galactic trip with random strangers to a planet of friendly aliens? Too much? Not for Celeste. A guide at the local planetarium in Havana, Cuba, Celeste has always been curious about life. Her predictable daily routine is boring, hopeless, and devoid of family love. But her compassionate, kind soul has made some unlikely friends—one of whom is her weird next-door Russian neighbor...who turns out to be an alien. When this alien personally invites Celeste to be a part of the expedition to visit her planet, Celeste jumps at the opportunity. Thus begins an incredible journey that's hilarious, exciting, and everything Celeste craved and deserved.

***Original Sin* | Paraguay | Comedy**

Directed by Jean Lee

Day 731 of marriage. Why is Eva counting the days since her wedding? Her marriage to Adrian is not what she expected. She feels neglected and unnoticed and tries to fulfill herself through fantasies. When an unexpected guest, an exceedingly handsome painter, Luis, enters the picture, all hell breaks loose. Caught in the crossfire between Eva's frustration and Adrian's anger, Luis tries to play peacemaker. But once the flood gates open, only bedlam ensues.

Webisode

M | Argentina | Horror | U.S. Premiere

An exhilarating horror-thriller from Argentina, *M* follows Diane and Tim, a young American couple who travel to Patagonia to search for Tim's father, a biologist who disappeared 10 years earlier. With the help of Alejandro, a con man who knows the area well, they enter the woods with the remote hope of finding him, but soon discover that something supernatural is lurking.

English Language with Latino Focus

Feature Films

***Bring Me an Avocado* | Drama | World Premiere**

Directed by Maria Mealla

Robin and George are a loving couple raising two lovely daughters. On Robin's birthday, the family's life is suddenly thrown in turmoil when Robin is shot by a robber. George desperately tries to maintain a normal life for the daughters, while Robin's sister, Greece, and best friend, Jada, step in to help. Everything runs smoothly for a while, but as the time goes by, George's frustration and a series of miscommunications begin to complicate and sour relationships.

***Lupe* | LGBT | Drama | World Premiere**

Directed by Andre Phillips and Charles Vuolo

Rafael, a Cuban boxer, desperately looks for his sister Isabelle—believing her to have fallen into prostitution in New York City. The city's underworld turns bloody as Rafael continues his quest to liberate his sister from a life of exploitation. And then...something changes, as he begins to present himself as a transgender woman.

***The Man Who Killed Don Quixote* | Spain**

Directed by Terry Gilliam

Cinequest's grand Closing Night gives the audience one of the most anticipated films—a film almost 30 years in the making—iconic director Terry Gilliam's adventure-comedy *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote*. Brimming with imaginative ideas from the very beginning, Gilliam's magnum opus celebrates its source material with delight—as it takes on the classic adventures of Don Quixote and infuses it with a reflective commentary on art and the madness of our own world. Adam Driver (*Girl*, *Star Wars*) is Toby, a young artist who has lost the zeal for his craft and is working in advertising. One night, while in a Spanish tavern, he is given a copy of a student film he made ten years ago about Don Quixote. Realizing he is not far from where he shot it, he revisits the small village and discovers the profound effects the movie has had there. In fact, the shoemaker (Jonathan Pryce, *Brazil*) he had cast as his lead actually believes he IS Don Quixote and is now convinced Toby is his Sancho Panza. Thus begins a strange and magical journey across Spain.

Documentary

Clownvets | Guatemala | Documentary | World Premiere

Director: Esteban Rojas

Reconnect with yourself, love your inner self, and, by humanitarian clowning, heal yourself and others. This is a powerful concept put into practice by the legendary and inspiring Patch Adams. For decades, Patch and his team of extraordinary volunteers have traveled the world and helped heal veterans suffering from PTSD—constantly working to relieve invisible wounds. *Clownvets* follows Patch and team on one of their journeys to Guatemala, immersing themselves into the world of “humanitarian clowning.”

Latino Luminaries

Feature Films

***The Hummingbird Project* | Salma Hayek | Drama**

Directed by Kim Nguyen

Jesse Eisenberg (*The Social Network*) and Alexander Skarsgård (*True Blood*) play scheming cousins Vincent and Anton Zalesky in Academy Award–nominated director Kim Nguyen's (*War Witch*) *The Hummingbird Project*. In the hopes of striking it rich, the cousins try to build a thousand-mile-long, four-inch-wide tunnel from Kansas to New Jersey that will give them a one-millisecond edge on transactions at the New York Stock Exchange. They end up in the crosshairs of their ruthless former employer Eva Torres (Salma Hayek, *Frida*), a Wall Street lion willing to devour anyone in her path. Time is rapidly running out on the guys' outrageous plan.

Virtual Reality

***CROW: THE LEGEND* | Diego Luna**

From an old American Indian legend, follow the story of a few early animals who are introduced to their first winter. They must now quickly change their lives in order to survive and bring back summer.

Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival 2019 occurs March 5 – March 17, 2019 in San Jose and Redwood City (Silicon Valley).

Complete lineup, passes, and tickets at www.cinequest.org

About Cinequest

The story and legacy of Cinequest is bringing together the Silicon Valley's technologies and spirit of innovation with the arts to empower great creations—and connecting audiences, youth, artists, and innovators with these creations and with each other, improving our lives and our future. Cinequest's uniqueness and impact result from being ahead of the curve in the powerful integration of creativity and innovation. Cinequest does this through the Cinequest

Film & Creativity Festival ([Voted Best Film Festival by USA Today Readers](#)) and [Picture The Possibilities](#) by Cinequest.

Cinequest 2019 Partners:

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