Latin American films to be featured in Skidmore series

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SARATOGA SPRINGS >> The Latin American Studies Program at Skidmore College will present a series of four films and related discussions that explore contemporary Latin American culture and social issues.

The series is a component of the Skidmore course “Documenting Latin America,” and is open to the public free of charge. The films will be screened on successive Wednesdays from Feb. 18 through March 11, 7–9 p.m., in Emerson Auditorium of Palamountain Hall, on the Skidmore campus.
Feb. 18

“From the Land to Your Table”

This documentary presents the perspectives of seven Latin American filmmakers as they capture the conditions and cultural diversity of popular produce markets in their individual countries. Each segment has its own unique style and tone, highlighting the fascinating stories of the foods that eventually wind up on our tables.

Feb. 25

“The Eternal Amazonia”

The film provides a critical analysis of how the world’s largest tropical rainforest is understood and utilized. Exploring the Amazon’s five million square kilometers—home to 20 percent of the world’s freshwater reserves—the film features nine successful projects for sustainable forest use and asks whether such projects are possible on a larger scale. The movie portrays the daily lives of the forest people as the guardians of this great resource.

March 4

“The Facilitator”

This film is a political thriller about human rights. When Miguel, a successful businessman, learns he is ill, he asks his estranged and troubled daughter, Elena, to come back to Ecuador. While there, she becomes actively involved in the indigenous community’s struggle for water access rights, and learns of dark family secrets of crimes and corruption.

March 11

“Marimbas from Hell”

Exploring the boundaries between fiction and documentary, this film follows three unlikely characters from Guatemala City as they attempt to fuse improbable musical styles—the traditional music of the marimba and heavy metal. With many humorous moments, the movie is a unique story of the fusion between tradition and modernity that conveys a moving and authentic sense of Guatemalan life.

The “Documenting Latin America” series is sponsored by three Skidmore College programs—Latin American Studies, the John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative, and Project VIS—and by the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports of Spain and Pragda Spanish Film Club.

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