



PRESS RELEASE
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“TEN YEARS CELEBRATING THE CULTURES AND PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS”

The 10th The Americas Film Festival New York opens Thursday, June 15 with the NY premiere of the award-winning film THE BEASTS by maverick Rodrigo Sorogoyen at the Instituto Cervantes New York.

The Festival closes with the New York premiere of FANCY DANCE by Seneca/Cayuga director Erica Temblay on Thursday, June 22 at the National Museum of the American Indian.

All the screenings are free and open to the public and foreign language films are subtitled in English.

New York, May 15, 2023 – The 10th edition of The Americas Film Festival New York (www.TAFFNY.com) presents eight feature films and more than 30 shorts, celebrating the rich diversity of the stories, languages, and cultures of the Americas. The Festival opens on **Thursday, June 15, 6:00pm at the Instituto Cervantes New York** (211 E 49th Street, NYC) with the New York premiere of **As Bestas (The Beast)**. Hailed among the 10 best-rated films by critics at Cannes 2022, Oscar-nominated director Rodrigo Sorogoyen’s third feature film took home nine Goya Awards this year, including Best Film, Best Director, and Best Original Screenplay, making it one of the most heavily awarded Spanish films of recent years. TAFFNY events are free and open to the public, and all foreign language films are subtitled in English.

Antoine and Olga are a French couple who settled long ago in a village in the interior of Galicia. There they lead a quiet life, growing vegetables and remodeling abandoned houses, although their coexistence with the locals is not as idyllic as they wish. Featuring tour-de-force performances by Denis Ménochet Foïsand and multi-Cesar-Award-nominee Marina, this rural thriller will make you wonder if living in the city might be safer after all.

TAFFNY closes Thursday, **June 22 at 6pm** with its awards ceremony for short films in competition at the **National Museum of the American Indian** (1 Bowling Green, NYC), followed by the NY premiere of **Fancy Dance** by Seneca/Cayuga filmmaker, Erica Tremblay. Following her sister's disappearance, Jax, a Native American hustler (Lily Gladstone) kidnaps her niece Roki (Isabel Deroy-Olson) from the child's white grandparents and sets out for the state powwow in hopes of keeping what is left of their family intact. Premiering at Sundance this past winter, Fancy Dance establishes director/co-writer Erica Tremblay as a filmmaking talent to watch.

Dr. Juan Carlos Mercado, Dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE) of The City College of New York, and TAFFNY's co-founder says of this year's Festival: *"We are celebrating 10 years, and reaching this milestone we can say with certainty that we are an artistic reference in the vast cultural richness of the city. With TAFFNY we continue to fulfill our mission of CUNY and City College, which is to support emerging talent in the Americas."*

The Americas Short Film Competition is dedicated to the promotion and exhibition of short audiovisual works by emerging filmmakers that portray the contemporary concerns of filmmakers living in the region. This year, TAFFNY shows over 30 short films competing for the Americas Award in the categories of Animation, Documentary, Experimental and Fiction. The jurors of the Documentary and Animation categories consist of director **Izabel Acevedo**, Queens College Professor Joe Rollins and La Guardia College Professor **Ana Maria Hernandez**. In the categories of Fiction and Experimental the jury consists of actress **Tata Lopera**, art curator **Kevin Moore** and multi-disciplinary artist **Willard Morgan**.

Over the course of 8 days, 17 countries will show part of their identity, culture and diversity through the seventh art. The Americas Panorama is a dynamic program that brings the richness of the cultures of the Americas through seven award-winning fiction and documentary feature films. *"Every year we find in the filmmakers and their films, the endeavors and concerns of the societies in which they live. On this occasion we wanted to emphasize issues such as migration, women in their struggle and the communities of native peoples who each time have a stronger voice to claim their visibility,"* says Diana Vargas, TAFFNY's Artistic Director.

TAFFNY was created with the purpose of generating a cinematographic appreciation space focused on multiculturalism, diversity, and new societies around Las Americas, as well as encouraging the work of new film directors. The Festival is an initiative of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education of the City College of New York (CUNY), with the generous support of CCNY President Vincent Boudreau and VP Dee Dee Mozeleski, CUNY-CCNY Quest, A Lifelong Learning Community, and the collaboration of prestigious institutions such as the Cervantes Institute, the National Museum of American Indian and the Argentine Consulate in New York.

TAFFNY is also made possible with tremendous support of its partners and sponsors: the CCNY Division of Humanities and the Arts, the CCNY Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, Ron Barceló, Consulate General of Argentina in NY, the NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment, the MFA in Film Program at the City College of New York (CUNY), Alta Expresión COVAP, Empanadas Café, the CUNY Center for Dominican Studies, and the CUNY Mexican Studies Institute.

TAFFNY PROGRAM 2023

THURSDAY, JUNE 15 | JUEVES, JUNIO 15

INSTITUTO CERVANTES NEW YORK

***By Invitation Only**

6:00 PM: Opening Night Film | Noche de Apertura

In partnership with Instituto Cervantes

THE BEASTS / AS BESTAS - NY Premiere

Rodrigo Sorogoyen | Spain | Fiction | 2022 | 137 min

Antoine and Olga are a French couple who settled long ago in a village in the interior of Galicia. There they lead a quiet life, growing vegetables and remodeling abandoned houses, although their coexistence with the locals is not as idyllic as they wish. Their refusal to install a wind farm will accentuate the disagreement, especially with siblings Xan and Lorenzo, leading their possibilities of coexistence to a point of no return.

***Reception to follow sponsored by Ron Barceló**

FRIDAY, JUNE 16 | VIERNES, JUNIO 16

INSTITUTO CERVANTES NEW YORK

5:00 PM: SHORT FILMS IN COMPETITION | CORTOMETRAJES EN COMPETENCIA - Program I

6:00 PM: RECLAIMING OUR POWER - World Premiere

Marta Bautis | U.S.A-Canada | Documentary | 43 min | 2023

The filmmaker travels to Manitoba, Canada, to document a Sundance of Women in honor of the many indigenous women who have been missing or murdered in Canada and in the United States. Through action sequences of the activities in preparation for the Sundance ceremony and testimonies of some of the participants, the film reveals what could be a model of an alternative community, where both women and men support each other in their different roles.

Director present for Q&A

7:00 PM: LAS ABOGADAS - NY Premiere

Victoria Bruce | USA | Documentary | 2022 | 90 min

This incisive documentary follows a group of immigration attorneys over a multi-year odyssey as the U.S. Government under President Trump upends every law meant to protect those fleeing from persecution, violence and war. *Producer Carreen Shannon present for Q&A*

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 | SATURDAY, JUNIO 17

CWE – CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION

3:00 PM: SHORT FILMS IN COMPETITION | CORTOMETRAJES EN COMPETENCIA - Program II

4:30 PM: HOME IS SOMEWHERE ELSE - NY Premiere

Jorge Villalobos, Carlos Hagerman | Mexico-U.S. | Animation | 2022 | 87 min

This beautifully animated documentary from Mexican directing team Jorge Villalobos and Carlos Hagerman tells three personal stories, each narrated by a real-life protagonist, which reflect the complex emotional experiences of undocumented children and families in the U.S. — their fears, hopes and struggles for a better future. Official Selection, 2022 Annecy and Guadalajara film festivals.

MONDAY, JUNE 19 / LUNES, JUNIO 19

INSTITUTO CERVANTES NY

6:30 PM: SHORT FILMS IN COMPETITION | CORTOMETRAJES EN COMPETENCIA - Program III

TUESDAY, JUNE 20 / MARTES, JUNIO 20

INSTITUTO CERVANTES NY

5:30 PM: TAFFNY HONORS CITY COLLEGE'S MFA IN MEDIA AND FILM

THE (OTHER) 700 CLUB

Juan Blanco | US | Documentary | 2022 | 10 min

CUANACAQUILITL (DANDELION)

Lorena Valencia | US | Fiction | 2022 | 17min

THE BATON / EL BASTÓN

Nemo Allen | US | Documentary | 2022 | 15 min

EL CHUZALONGO

Julie Neira Campoverde | US | Fiction | 2022 | 14 min

THE MONK AND THE REBEL

Prabhat Gurung | US | Fiction | 2022 | 15 min

Directors present for Q&A

7:00 PM: LEYENDA VIVA

Martin Nova | Colombia | Documentary | 2022 | 113 min

A musical journey hand in hand with some of the great composers of the vallenato region. What is Vallenato? Where was it born? What is the vallenato triphony? What were the so-called juglares? What is the role of women in vallenato? Is it true that "Cien años de soledad" is a vallenato? What is the

future of vallenato? Featuring Carlos Vives, Fonseca, Beto Murgas, Ivo Díaz, Deimer Marín, Julio Oñate, Chabuco, and Andrés 'El Turco' Gil.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 / MIÉRCOLES, JUNIO 21

CONSULADO GENERAL DE ARGENTINA EN NUEVA YORK

5:30 PM: SHORT FILMS IN COMPETITION | CORTOMETRAJES EN COMPETENCIA - Program IV

6:30 PM: SUBLIME

Mariano Biasin | Argentina | Fiction | 2022 | 100 min

In a small coastal town, 16-year-old Manuel plays in a band with his best friends, and shares an unbreakable bond with Felipe who he's known since childhood. Manuel is also dating Azul, but he begins to feel something unexpected when it comes to their first time together, and it makes him see things in a brand-new light and tests his relationships.

***Reception to follow**

THURSDAY, JUNE 22 / JUEVES, JUNIO 22

CLOSING NIGHT AND THE AMERICAS AWARD CEREMONY / NOCHE DE CLAUSURA

***In partnership with the NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN**

6:00 PM: The Americas Award-winning Ceremony

6:30PM: Screening Presentation

FANCY DANCE

Erica Tremblay (Seneca/Cayuga) | USA | Fiction | 2022 | 90 min

Following her sister's disappearance, Jax, a Native American hustler (Lily Gladstone) kidnaps her niece Roki (Isabel Deroy-Olson) from the child's white grandparents and sets out for the state powwow in hopes of keeping what is left of their family intact. The pair hit the road and scour the backcountry to track down Roki's mother. What begins as a search gradually turns into a far deeper investigation into the complexities and contradictions of how Indigenous women at the mercy of a failed justice system move through a colonized world.

***Reception to follow sponsored by Ron Barceló**

FESTIVAL VENUES

- **Instituto Cervantes NY**
211 E 49 Street (Bet 2 & 3 Aves)
- **CWE @ City College NY (Downtown Campus)**
25 Broadway, NYC 10004
- **Consulado General de Argentina**
12 W 56 Street (Bet 5 & 6 Aves)
- **National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI)**

1 Bowling Green, NYC 10004

Admission: Free and Open to the Public

More info: www.TAFFNY.com For interviews with any of the special guests please contact TAFFNY Press Office: C: 917.658.7748; E: taffny11@gmail.com