

Selections from the CLACS Media Collection

<http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/media/index.cfm>

Children

Guatemala/El Salvador *If the Mango Tree Could Speak* (1993)

This documentary intimately portrays ten boys and girls growing up in the midst of war in Guatemala and El Salvador.

Feature Films

Argentina *Chronicle of an Escape* (2006)

In 1977, the goalie of Team B is sent to "Mansion Sere," a detention center. After months of heinous torture, he and three other prisoners plan their escape.

Moebius (1996)

An investigation of the disappearance of a subway train inside the closed labyrinth of tunnels under Buenos Aires. The issue of "disappeared" political dissidents lies at the heart of this existential puzzle.

Noche de los Lapices/Night of the Pencils (1986)

A film based on the testimony of Pablo Diaz, the sole survivor of seven kidnapped student leaders who were "disappeared" after a protest for cheaper bus fare.

Official Story (1986)

A woman comes face to face with a legacy of terror when she discovers that her adopted daughter might have been stolen from "desparecidos" and her husband's involvement in the corrupt government scheme.

Central America *Men with Guns* (1997)

A doctor from the city goes on a quest to locate his medical students that may have been killed by guerillas.

Chile *Amnesia* (1994)

Ramírez and Zúñiga discover each other fifteen years after serving together in an army prison camp during the height of the Chilean political repression. Zúñiga vicious and cruel personality and Ramírez's tortured soul must learn to deal with their bitter memories. The film was made to "counter general amnesia" in Chile.

Frontera (1991)

Ramiro Orellana is sentenced to La Frontera, a desolate island for the world's castaways, for internal exile during the military dictatorship.

Machuca (2004)

Machuca explores Chile's bloody 1973 coup through the astonishingly intimate coming-of-age story of a pair of 12 year-old boys. From opposite extremes of society, Gonzalo and Pedro from an unlikely friendship as politics rip their world apart.

Missing (1982)

Based on an actual event, the political thriller follows the story of a wife and father looking for a disappeared American journalist.

El Salvador *Romero* (1989)

Once promoted to archbishop, a quiet priest is forced to take a stand against the political turmoil surrounding him. His actions result in his 1980 assassination.

Haiti *The Agronomist* (2003)

Documentary following the life of photo journalist and radio pioneer Jean Dominique. The film includes historical footage of the human rights activist and interviews with him and his wife before Dominique's assassination in April 2000.

Peru *La boca del Lobo* (1988)

This story revolves around a Peruvian military unit that is sent to garrison the community of Chuspi after a raid by Shining Path guerrillas. Violent incidents and misunderstandings increase the tension that finally leads to a massacre of dozens of villagers.

Coraje/Courage (1998)

A true story based on the last months in the life of Maria Elena Moyano, an activist who was eventually killed by the Shining Path.

History

Chile *Battle of Chile: The Coup d'Etat* (1976)

This film begins with the attempted military coup of June, 1973 and ends with a violent coup d'etat. The documentary includes Allende's last radio messages, footage of the military assault on the presidential palace, and that evening's televised presentation of the new military junta.

Battle of Chile: The Insurrection of the Bourgeoisie (1976)

This film examines the tactics of the wealthy rightist minority (including a USA economic boycott) to destabilize Allende's government

Battle of Chile: Power of the People (1976)

This film, completed by Guzman in exile in Cuba, records the positive changes of the Popular Unity period. It also deals with the creation by ordinary workers and peasants of thousands of local groups of "popular power" to distribute food, occupy, guard and run factories and farms, oppose black market profiteering, and link together neighborhood social service organizations.

National Stadium (2001)

After the military coup that overthrow the newly elected Socialist government in September 1973, the National Stadium was used to house more than 12,000 suspected rebels. Here, these men and women were brutally tortured and executed.

Dominican Republic *Trujillo: El Poder del Jefe I* (1991)

This is a documentary about the politics and economic policies during the reign of Trujillo in the Dominican Republic

Trujillo: El Poder del Jefe II (1994)

A continuation of Trujillo: El Poder del Jefe I.

Guatemala *Devil's Don't Dream* (1995)

The film documents the political role of former Guatemalan president Jacobo Arbenz from his military dictatorship in 1944 to his overthrow in September 1954.

Latin America *Death Squadrons—The French School* (2003)

The film documents the role of the French government trained many of the Latin American dictators that tortured and massacred their own population during the 1970s and 1980s.

Paraguay *Paraguay: The Forgotten Dictatorship* (1988)

The documentary shows the political situation immediately before the fall of Stroessner in the 1980s.

Indigenous Culture

Guatemala *Amargos Recuerdos/Bitter Memories* (2000)

Told through testimonies by survivors of the massacres committed by the Guatemalan Army in 1982, this film documents the exhumation of the graves of the victims in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, and the Mayan religious ceremonies held to honor the dead.

Mayan Voices: American Lives (1994)

Hundreds of Mayan people escaped the violence of Guatemala's civil war by immigrating to Indiantown, Florida. The document tells their story in a predominantly white town.

Rigoberta Menchu: Broken Silence (1992)

The woman who has become a symbol for indigenous rights shares her own experiences as the survivor of the Guatemalan dictatorship.

Rigoberta Menchu Tum (2005)

In October 2005, indigenous rights activist Rigoberta Menchu Tum visited the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus. This live recording shares Mench Tum's views of the current state of indigenous communities in Guatemala.

Todos Santos: The Survivors (1989)

The documentary expresses how the 1980s political turmoil affected this quiet indigenous village.

When the Mountains Tremble (1993)

Centered on the experiences of Rigoberta Menchu Tum, the film portrays the struggles of Mayan peasants in Guatemala against foreign and political oppression.

Literature

Chile *Ariel Dorfman* (2004)

After fleeing Chile in 1973, Ariel Dorfman's writing reflects the sorrows of tyranny and exile, while promoting human rights.

Political/Social

Argentina *Los Rubios/The Blonds* (2003)

Carri lost her parents during the country's violent military junta when she was a child. Now she and her film crew travel through Buenos Aires desperately trying to discover the truth behind her parents' disappearance and death.

Chile *Chile: Obstinate Memory* (1997)

The film chronicles the open and peaceful election of President Salvador Allende in 1973, and the following violent counter revolution led by Augusto Pinochet.

I Wonder What You Remember of September (2004)

Cecilia Cornejo presents a haunting personal response to the events of September 11, 2001, informed and complicated by her status as a Chilean citizen living in the U.S.

The Pinochet Case (2001)

The documentary presents the legal proceedings held in Spain two years prior to Pinochet's arrest.

El Salvador *Crisis in Central America: Battle for El Salvador* (1985)

This documentary examines the social and economic conditions which resulted in a civil war and drew the U.S. into the center of controversy

Testimony: The Maria Guardado Story (2001)

Now living in Los Angeles, Maria Guardado has become a political activist and tells the story of her own tragic experiences that drove her from her native El Salvador.

Guatemala *Dirty Secrets: Jennifer, Everado, and the CIA in Guatemala* (1998)

After her husband Evarado became a victim of the human rights abuses committed by the CIA-backed Guatemalan Army, Jennifer Harbury tries to discover the truth behind his death.

Honduras *Rosalina* (1987)

Spending her days in a refugee camp, Rosalina dreams of returning home to her native village in El Salvador.

Latin America *Hidden in Plain Sight* (2003)

Narrated by Martin Sheen, the film examines the role of the U.S. in Latin American politics. In particular, the film brings light to the School of the Americas, a controversial military training school on U.S. soil.

School of Assassins (1994)

Many former dictators from throughout South America received their training at the U.S. Army School of the Americas. This documentary explores the connection between this school and the human rights offenses committed by its graduates in El Salvador.

Nicaragua *Crisis in Central America: Revolution in Nicaragua* (1985)

The film depicts the Somoza dictatorship and Sandista victory in July 1979.

Something Remains (2001)

Twenty-two years after the revolution, survivors share their experiences and stories.

The World Stopped Watching (2001)

Fourteen years after the the US-financed Contra war against Nicaragua's revolutionary government, filmmakers return to Nicaragua to discover what became of the first revolution to be conducted in the glare of the world media. The film revisits the mothers and children in the barrios, the taxi drivers, and of course, the politicians. What has happened to their lives since 1987.

Peru *State of Fear: The Truth About Terrorism* (2005)

How can an open society balance demands for security with democracy? This video dramatically documents the human & societal costs a democracy faces when it embarks on a "war" against terror, potentially w/out end, all too easily exploited by unscrupulous leaders seeking personal political gain.

Women

Argentina *Madres de la Plaza de Mayo* (1986)

Each week, the mothers of the dirty war's victims protest the human rights abuses and demand information of their "disappeared" family members through protest in Buenos Aires's Plaza de Mayo.

Chile *Cueca Sola* (2003)

La Cueca Sola, the country's traditional courtship dance. Now forced to dance alone, the women have used the dance as a symbol of protest against the government that "disappeared" their husbands.

Peru *Daughters of War* (1998)

Ravaged by Civil War in the 1980s, the Guerilla stronghold of Ayacucho, Peru, is home to Gabriela. As her story unfolds, we learn more about the war, drugs, and poverty that have influenced a generation of Peruvians and will continue to impact future generations.