

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Margot Gerber  
Tel.: 323.461.2020 x 115  
Email:  
publicity@americancinematheque.com



**THE AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE PRESENTS**  
**THE 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CONTEMPORARY MEXICAN FILMS SERIES**

*Presented in association with the Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles*

*Sponsored by KAZA TV 54 – Azteca America*

**October 4 - 7, 2002**

HOLLYWOOD – The **American Cinematheque** in association with the **Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles** presents **CONTEMPORARY MEXICAN FILM SERIES/JORNADAS DE CINE MEXICANO (October 4 - 7, 2002)**. This four-day event includes seven features, (five are West Coast Premieres) and seven short films, plus in person appearances by actress **Salma Hayek & Claudia Bollain Y Goytia**; filmmakers **Juan Antonio de la Riva, Beto Gómez, Ignacio Ortiz Cruz Roberto Rochin, Fernando Sariñana; and art director Gloria Carrasco**. The films, all explorations of the new modern Mexico and its roots, include: Beto Gómez 's entertaining crime comedy **THE CAIMAN'S DREAM (EL SUENO DEL CAIMÁN)**; Carlos Reygadas astonishing début in super-Cinemascope, the lyrical **JAPÓN**; Juan Antonio de la Riva's ballad **EL GAVILÁN DE LA SIERRA**; Fernando Sariñana's urban drama **CIUDADES OSCURAS** and Ignacio Ortiz Cruz's mesmerizing tale revisiting Mexican folk heritage and history **CUENTO DE HADAS PARA DORMIR COCODRILOS**. The series is also highlighted by a special spotlight tribute to Hollywood and Mexican icon, actress **Salma Hayek**, with a **Sneak Preview** of Julie Taymor's **FRIDA** (soon to be released by Miramax Films), as well as the acclaimed **MIRACLE ALLEY (EL CALLEJÓN DE LOS MILAGROS)**. The recent popularity of Mexican films such as **AMORES PERROS** and **Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN**, and the recent surge in film production, promises a new golden age of Mexican filmmaking and these selections are the fine vintage from this year. Most of the films will be presented in-person by the filmmaker. All prints are in Spanish with English subtitles, unless otherwise noted. All guests are subject to their availability. **All screenings are at the newly renovated Lloyd E. Rigler Theatre at the historic Egyptian (6712 Hollywood Boulevard between Highland and Las Palmas) in Hollywood.**

### **Friday October 4, 2002**

The **Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** program begins at **7:00 PM** with **West Coast Premiere** of **THE CAIMAN'S DREAM (EL SUENO DEL CAIMÁN)**, (2001, InterMedia/Latina, 102 min., black & white) directed by Beto Gómez. A highly entertaining, low-budget crime caper/ black comedy -- a bouquet of Mexican eccentricity, superstition and surrealism. After a failed robbery, Inaki quickly leaves Spain for Guadalajara where his father, Patxi (Kandido Uranga) rents a room from drag queen landlord, Aunt Carmen. He shares it with El Caimán (Rafael Velasco), who is frequently visited by the ghost of his mocking mother (Patricia Reyes Spindola). Caught up in the Caimán's dream, Inaki and Paxti join his gang for an improbable bank robbery. This most unlikely heist is put together by inept thieves, and helped by oblivious cops and an accommodating bank staff. **Discussion following with director Beto Gómez.**

**Following at 9:30 PM** is the **West Coast Premiere** of **JAPÓN**, (2001, The Coproduction Office, 122 min.) directed by Carlos Reygadas. An astonishing debut in super-Cinemascope, written, directed and produced by **Carlos Reygadas**, who won a special mention for the film at the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes. **JAPÓN** is a lyrical, poetic meditation, a cross between a landscape film and an existential drama about death, sex, love and religion: Kiarostami's **TASTE OF CHERRY** meets Andrei Tarkovsky. A depressed painter (**Alejandro Ferretis**) leaves the city to prepare for his suicide. He retreats to a tiny remote mountain village where a caring old Indian widow (**Magdalena Flores**) gives him shelter. The cruel beauty of the deprived land, and the humanity and simplicity of his host, slowly awaken him to a new sense of life. An official selection of the Toronto Film Festival and a critic's favorite.

### **Saturday October 5, 2002**

The **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** program, **A TRIBUTE TO SALMA HAYEK**, begins at **7:00 PM** with **FRIDA**, (2002, Miramax, 127 min.) Acclaimed film and theater director **Julie Taymor** (**TITUS**, "The Lion King") chronicles the life of Mexican icon, bigger-than-life artist Frida Kahlo -- incarnated by Mexican goddess and Hollywood star **Salma Hayek**. From Kahlo's stormy relationship with husband muralist, Diego Rivera, her many lovers (both male and female) including the exiled Leon Trotsky, her struggle for acceptance as an artist to her love for Mexico, Salma Hayek offers a complex portrait of Frida moved by passion and sensuality, proud of her "mexicanidad". With a great cast including Alfred Molina (Diego Rivera), Antonio Banderas (David Alfaro Siqueiros), Ashley Judd (Tina Modotti) and many others. Featuring an hallucinatory sequence by the Brothers Quay that is not to be missed! *"Frida belongs to many people around the world [...] but it is very important to state this is not an American movie, it's a Mexican one and that is because of Salma. The movie was shot in Mexico, most of the cast is Mexican and it was made with workers from that country"* -- Director Julie Taymor. **Discussion following with actress Salma Hayek.**

**Special Ticket Price of \$20.00 General, \$18.00 Students/Seniors, \$15.00 Members for this screening only. \* Please note that this event is almost sold out. No press tickets are available.**

**Following** at **10:15 PM** is **MIRACLE ALLEY (EL CALLEJÓN DE LOS MILAGROS)** (1995, Imcine, 140 min.) directed by Jorge Fons. Based on Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz's novel, transposed to contemporary Mexico City to narrate the life of the El Callejón de los milagros' inhabitants, **MIRACLE ALLEY** is one of the most highly acclaimed Mexican films of the past 10 years. The narrative is structured in four episodes, each focusing on one individual in the same place and the same time frame. Salma Hayek offers a compelling portrait as Alma, a strong willed beauty in a freefall from grace, as she succumbs to drugs and prostitution. With Ernesto Gómez, Bruno Bichir.

### **Sunday October 6, 2002**

The **Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>** program begins at **3:00 PM** with a **Short Film Program**. The following films will screen, although not necessarily in this order. Fernando Eimbcke's "**La Suerte De La Fea...A La Bonita No Le Importa**" (Weightwatch, 10 min.) A woman is granted 3 wishes to become the "perfect woman" after losing weight. Javier Patron's "**La Maceta**" (The Flowerpot, 18 min.) A seemingly simple tale about an old woman's quest to get her flower pot up the stairs of her apartment building. Carlos Cuarón's "**Juego De Niños**" (Child's Play, 5 min.) A teenage girl understands why her father is opposed to her romantic obsession. Roberto Rochin's "**Paso Del Norte**" ( Passage North, 30 min.) Powerful film about one man's story during the mass migration from rural to urban Mexico during the 1940's. Patricia Carrillo Carrera's "**Gertrudis Blues**" (10 min.) Fascinating documentary on a little-known group of Afro-Indigenous people known as the Mascogo. Sergio Umansky's "**Aquí Iba El Himno**" (Here Was The Anthem, 22 min.) Gripping thriller about two wealthy teenage boys who get more than they bargained for when they go to score drugs. Salvador Aguirre & Alejandro Lubezki's "**De Mesmer Don Amor Ó Te Para Dos**" (From Mesmer With Love or Tea For Two, 10 min.) Funny tale about a young man who resorts to an extreme practice to fulfill his desires. All films in Spanish with English subtitles. **Discussion following with director Roberto Rochin ("Paso Del Norte").**

**Following** at **5:30 PM** is the **West Coast Premiere** of **CIUDADES OSCURAS**, (DARK CITIES, 2001, IMCINE, 113 min.) With his latest film director **Fernando Sariñana** (EL SEGUNDO AIRE, HASTA MORIR) returns to a more personal vision portraying modern Mexican street life. From hookers, corrupt policemen, homeless junkies and teenagers, he assembles twelve striking stories crossing paths in the street. With Bruno Bichir, Jesús Ochoa, Hector Suárez and Dolores Heredia. Special Mention from the Critics Jury at the Guadalajara Film Festival 2002. **Discussion following with director Fernando Sariñana.**

**Following** at **8:30 PM** is the **West Coast Premiere** of **CUENTO DE HADAS PARA DORMIR COCODRILOS**, (STORIES TO PUT THE CROCODILES TO SLEEP, 2002, IMCINE, 100 min.) directed by **Ignacio Ortiz Cruz**. Arcángel (**Arturo Ríos**) suffers from a sleep disorder, and his wife, pregnant with their second child, is ready to leave him. Unfortunately, a curse runs in the family since great grandfather, Tranquilino, looked into the eyes of a demon coyote! Arcángel knows something terrible is going to happen

when he travels with his son to the abandoned family house, looking for his salvation. "It's said that only love can save the family from disgrace, but that's crap. Love doesn't exist." A complex and mesmerizing saga, combining the lives of Arcángel and his ancestors, as well as folk tales and historical moments from The Reform War and the Mexican Revolution. Winner of 2002 Golden Ariels for Best Direction and Best Actor. **Discussion following with director Ignacio Ortiz Cruz and art director Gloria Carrasco.**

### **Monday October 7, 2002**

The **Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** program begins at **7:30 PM** with the **West Coast Premiere** of **EL GAVILÁN DE LA SIERRA**, (THE SPARROW HAWK OF THE SIERRA, 2001, Imcine, 100 min.) directed by **Juan Antonio de la Riva**. Rosendo ([Guillermo Larrea](#)), a singer in the Mexican public transportation system, returns to his hometown in northern Durango after the brutal police killing of his brother, Gabriel (Juan Ángel Esparza), and friends. As Rosendo questions friends and family about his brother's life and composes a ballad/ corrido to his brother's memory, the past unfolds and melts with the present, sometimes in the same frame. An unusual and beautiful film where Gabriel appears - depending on the speaker - both as selfless Robin Hood as well as cruel, greedy gangster. **Discussion following with director Juan Antonio de la Riva and actress Claudia Bollain Y Goytia.**

**Double features are one ticket price for both films. Discussions between films listed as double features are generally about 20 minutes long.**

**\* PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE DIGITALLY UPON REQUEST. EMAIL YOUR REQUEST TO [publicity@americancinematheque.com](mailto:publicity@americancinematheque.com) \***

**A complete calendar/flyer listing of these films is available on our website.**

**NO THEATRICAL PRESS SCREENINGS ARE PLANNED. FILMS AVAILABLE FOR PRESS PREVIEW IN OUR OFFICES ON VIDEOTAPE (NTSC) (WITH SUBTITLES) ARE LISTED BELOW. CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO VIEW TAPES IN OUR OFFICE. 48 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE TO VIEW FILMS REQUIRED. SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS. CALL FOR DETAILS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL MARGOT GERBER 323.461.2020, ext. 115. THANK YOU.**

THE CAIMAN'S DREAM (Cinematheque office with English subtitles)

JAPON (Not Available for press preview)

MIRACLE ALLEY (Cinematheque office with English subtitles)

CIUDADES OBSCURAS (Cinematheque office with English subtitles)

CUENTO DE HADES PARA DORMIR COCODRILOS (Cinematheque office with English subtitles)

EL GAVILAN DE LA SIERRA (Cinematheque Office with English subtitles)

FRIDA (Not Available for press preview. Call Karen Paul at Miramax for info. 323/822-4200 x-4376)

SHORT FILM COMPILATION TAPE (Cinematheque office with English subtitles)

- *If you prefer to watch films without subtitles please let us know.*

**PRESS MATERIALS, PRESS CONFERENCE & INTERVIEWS:**

- WRITTEN PRESS MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST IN ENGLISH & SPANISH.
- BROADCAST QUALITY CLIPS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM CERTAIN FILMS.
- TO INTERVIEW A SERIES ORGANIZER IN SPANISH, PLEASE CALL ALEJANDRO PELAYO AT 323-351-6824 OR [Agregadocultural@aol.com](mailto:Agregadocultural@aol.com) FOR PRESS INQUIRIES IN SPANISH PLEASE CALL AGUSTIN PRADILLO AT 323.351.6840 or [preconsu@pacbell.net](mailto:preconsu@pacbell.net) OR FABIOLA EUGENIA BALLESTEROS AT [Fabiola.Ballesteros@ual.com](mailto:Fabiola.Ballesteros@ual.com) THIS PRESS RELEASE IS AVAILABLE IN SPANISH.
- THERE WILL BE A PRESS DAY ON SATURDAY, OCT. 5 IN THE MORNING. FILMMAKERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW. AFTER WE ANNOUNCE THE EXACT TIME WE WILL ASSIGN PRESS OUTLETS 20 MINUTE TIME SLOTS. SEND A FAX TO RESERVE A SLOT. SPECIAL NOTE: *director Juan Antonio de la Riva and actress Claudia Bollain Y Goytia will only be available on Sunday, Oct. 6 or Monday, Oct. 7 for interview. Salma Hayek will not be available at this press day. Please call Karen Paul at Miramax. 323/822-4200 x-4376 to find out about junkets for Frida.*
- A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE MEXICAN CONSULATE WILL BE ORGANIZED FOR MONDAY, SEPT. 30<sup>th</sup>. DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS THEY ARE CONFIRMED.
- WE DO NOT HAVE GUARANTEED PRESS PASSES TO PUBLIC SCREENINGS. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ADVANCE PRESS SCREENINGS ON TAPE.

**REQUESTS FOR PRESS TICKETS TO PUBLIC SCREENINGS AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS:**

TICKET REQUESTS MUST BE IN WRITING AND SHOULD BE FAXED TO 323.461.9737 ATTN: MARGOT GERBER, 24 HOURS PRIOR TO SHOW TIME. THURSDAY AT 6 PM IS THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR REQUESTS FOR WEEKEND SCREENINGS. PLEASE INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT WHEN YOUR COVERAGE WILL APPEAR AND A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR MEDIA OUTLET. JOURNALISTS WISHING TO AUDIO OR VIDEOTAPE DISCUSSIONS MUST ALSO SEND A FAXED REQUEST. IF YOUR REQUEST IS ACCEPTED, YOU WILL PICK UP YOUR TICKETS THE NIGHT OF THE SHOW AT THE BOX OFFICE. Details at: <http://www.americancinematheque.com/pressreleases/pressticketpolicies.htm>

**THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.**

- **Ticket Prices: \$8 General; \$6 Cinematheque Members. \$7 Seniors (65+ years) and students with valid ID card. Must be shown at box office at time of purchase.**
- **If you would like to receive press screening notices, schedule changes and press releases by e-mail, please e-mail [publicity@americancinematheque.com](mailto:publicity@americancinematheque.com) and you will be added to our e-mail list.**

- **Our permanent daily attraction film FOREVER HOLLYWOOD is screens Saturdays & Sundays at 2 PM & 3:30 PM. For press passes to see it for review purposes, please call Margot Gerber at 323.461.2020, ext. 115.**