Latin American Films Need Our Attention

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Latin American Films Need Our Attention
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Michigan Library Scholars
Capstone Project
August 21st, 2020
Mentors: Sheila McFolley, Laurie Shaw Smith, Chloe Herl
Project Overview

- Expand the usage and awareness of the Latin American films in the Askwith collection
- Create marketing material for students, faculty, and the community to learn more about the films in the collection
- Find ways to promote the collection
- Collaborate with the mentors, library professionals, and challenge myself in new ways
Challenges

1. Establishing a plan
2. Omeka
3. Working from home and how it affected communication
4. Creating a new theme for my deliverable

Spanish

L'affaire Coca-Cola (doc.) 54023
Aleida Guevara remembers her father, Che (doc.) 44330
Barroco (drama) 63791
El Benny (feature) 54023
Black in Latin America: Spain, Spain, Spain. Track 5: 54645
Buscando a Miguel (drama) 57434
Caracoles: new paths of resistance (doc.) 72398
Chávez, Venezuela and the new Latin America (doc.) 44044
Che [drama] 51175, 54717-8
Che Guevara, donde nunca jamás se lo imaginaban (doc.) 49533
Cine a contracoriente: un recorrido por el otro cine latinoamericano
A journey through the other Latin American cinema (Portuguese) 7212
Como agua para chocolate: like water for chocolate (rom.) 26899
Corazón del tiempo: Heart of time (doc.) 611350
Coyula: 5 shorts (experimental) 42501
El cuerno de la abundancia = Horn of plenty (comedy) 54974
Los derechos (doc.) 54637
Entrelíneas (drama) (Punpiche dialogue) 50180
Fresa y chocolate = Strawberry & chocolate (drama) 36878
Guantamarana (rom-com) 29889
Hija de la laguna= Daughter of the lake (doc.) 67914
Historias de ficticio: Sacer stories (drama) 73867
El hombre, cuándo es hombre= Man when he is a man (doc.) 63388
La hora de los hombres= Hour of the furnaces (doc.) 56940

Spanish

L'affaire Coca-Cola (doc.) 54023:

- Indictment against the empire which was suspected of being involved in the kidnapping, torture, murder of union leaders who were fighting for the improvement of working conditions
- Follow the labor lawyers and activist as they do what they can to force the industry to answer for their actions in the battle for human rights
- Colombia is the trade union murder capital of the world. Since 2002, more than 470 workers’ leaders have been brutally killed, usually by paramilitaries hired by private companies intent on crushing the unions. Among these unscrupulous corporate brands is the poster boy for American business: Coca-Cola. These unpunished crimes spur U.S. activists David [i.e. Dan] Kovalik, Terry Collinsworth and Ray Rogers into an ambitious crusade against the soft drink giant. A searing indictment of a major corporate brand, The Coca-Cola Case takes us on a riveting legal game of cat and mouse via the U.S. federal court and the Stop Killer Coke! campaign
- About labor unions
- Director: German Gutierrez

Aleida Guevara remembers her father, Che (doc.) 44330:

- Aleida Guevara discusses Che Guevara, her father, and their family. She recounts anecdotes from her childhood and describes coming to terms with her father’s decision to go to Bolivia as well as her own decision to follow in his footsteps as a doctor and social activist.
- About fathers/daughters, biography
- Actor: Aleida Guevara
- Director: Carlos Garcia

Barroco (drama) 63791

- A series of images, music, and sounds, without dialogue, which address the Spanish, Native, and African contributions to Latin American music and culture. Features the opera “Montezuma”.
- Based on the novel Concierto Barroco by Alejandro Carpenter
- About music, singers, history
- Director: Paul Ledes
Final Deliverable: [Link](https://apps.lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits/exhibits/show/askwith-latin/conclusion)

The point of the films in this exhibit are to educate those watching the documentaries on the obstacles the people are facing and what is in the best interest to help them overcome said obstacles. Since the films are coming from the very people asking for help it allows the audience to sympathize and aid them in any way they can. The films emphasized in this exhibit are a great starting point for educating people about where the struggles stem from in Latin America and what the audience can do to help.

Children of Haiti

The Children of Haiti are desperate for help. This film follows three teenage boys caught up in the orphan epidemic. The boys all want the same things: social acceptance, education and government aid but the reality is that Haiti can not provide these essentials for them. The orphans roaming the streets are known as the Sanguine, or the “soulless”, who are wandering without guidance when guidance is the one thing they are searching for.


La Jaula de Oro

“Observes the world through the shining eyes of these teenagers who have yet to be calloused by experience.” - Stephen M. Holden

"Screenshot from the film La Jaula de Oro when the main character finally makes it to the border of the United States." Diego Quemada-Diez. La Jaula de Oro. October 16th, 2013.

These pictures represent the juxtaposition between life for children. One is a little girl off to her first day of school, and the other is an immigrant who just made it to his first day in the US. The American Dream is very different for these two children.
L'Affaire Coca-Cola

Since 2002, more than 470 workers' leaders have been brutally killed, usually by paramilitaries hired by private companies intent on crushing the unions. Among these corporate brands is the poster boy for American business: Coca-Cola. These unpunished crimes spur U.S. activists into a crusade against the soft drink giant. A searing indictment of a major corporate brand, The Coca-Cola Case takes us on a riveting legal game of cat and mouse via the U.S. federal court and the Stop Killer Coke! campaign.

https://umich.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6mW39UX6P7Qe1Cd
What I’ve learned:

- Experience working on a project with extreme autonomy
- How to work remotely - the importance of project management
- How to write for the web using the accessibility and usability training
- Navigate the unknowns

It’s imperative that going into this I stay open-minded and am aware of the danger of a “single-story.” I need to be cautious of what I’m researching and ensure it doesn’t portray the Latin American culture unjustly. With that being said, I’m hoping to go into this project as an outsider to the collection but acquire the knowledge so that in the end I have deliverables that are extensive in covering the various perspectives of the collection and emphasize the information that the community as a whole will appreciate.

A comment I made in my initial write-up.
What’s Next?

- If time permitted I would take the time to…
  - Find the links for non-profits out there already addressing these problems and include them within my exhibit
  - Put in information for how you can get involved with the Latin American community here in Michigan
  - Meet with Laurie in Askwith to make some posters highlighting the exhibit to display in the library:

- For now…
  - Maybe you guys could scroll through my exhibit and educate yourselves on the issues hindering the Latin American community. If the work I did giving a platform for these directors is enough to even affect one of you, then imagine the impact if all of the UM community saw my exhibit.
I thank my mentors, Sheila McFolley, Chloe Herl, and Laurie Shaw Smith for being my biggest cheerleaders throughout this time, Gabriel Dunque for being beyond encouraging as a program coordinator, and my co-intern Effy for the constant support. Thank you!