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**The Americas Film Festival of New York – TAFFNY– opens June 9, 6:30 pm, with the New York Premiere of *El ruiseñor y la noche: Chavela Vargas canta a Lorca* at the Instituto Cervantes**

**Films from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, and the U.S. will honor the rich diversity of cultures, languages and stories of The Americas**

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

**New York, May 12, 2016--** The third edition of The Americas Film Festival of New York (TAFFNY), **June 9-17, 2016**, showcases feature films in fiction and documentary as well as shorts and animations that represent the rich diversity of cultures, languages and stories of the Americas. The Festival begins **Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm**, at the Instituto Cervantes with the New York premiere of box office hit *El ruiseñor y la noche: Chavela Vargas canta a Lorca* (*The Nightingale and The Night: Chavela Vargas Sings Lorca*) directed by Rubén Rojo. The evening wraps up with a cocktail reception at the courtyard of Instituto Cervantes (211 East 49<sup>th</sup> Street).

About the festival, Dr. Juan Carlos Mercado, Dean of CWE, explains: “Thanks to the extraordinary success of past festivals, *The Americas Film Festival of New York* is back for its third edition and this year running a whole week, closing with our Awards Ceremony for our shorts in competition. The Festival aims to provide a dynamic space for the public and artists to meet, reflect on multiculturalism and diversity in our society.”

Opening night film, *El ruiseñor y la noche; Chavela Vargas canta a Lorca* (*The Nightingale and The Night: Chavela Vargas Sings Lorca*) is a documentary featuring Mexican singer Chavela Vargas and Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca. The story

follows Vargas' completion of her final wish in the last year of her life: to pay tribute to Garcia Lorca and meet him in the ranks of death. Director Ruben Rojo will be present for Q&A.

*"The films that are part of this year festival bring to light underexposed sides of the societies of the Americas, with its varied local traditions and cultures, while giving a comprehensive cultural picture of what makes the territory so complex and fascinating,"* says Artistic Director Diana Vargas.

The Americas Panorama is an exciting program that will bring the richness of the cultures of The Americas through award-winning films in fiction and documentary. On **Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>**, the Festival begins at **6pm** at Instituto Cervantes (211 East 49<sup>th</sup> Street) with a selection of short films in competition for The Americas Award and continues at **7pm** with the N.Y. premiere of Chilean documentary *Habeas Corpus*, directed by Claudia Barril and Sebastián Moreno. After the coup d'état in 1973, employees at the Vicariate for Solidarity set out to save the lives of the persecuted and find the fate of the detained. A conversation to follow with director Sebastian Moreno and professor Marcia Esparza.

**Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>** begins at **2pm** at the CWE Auditorium (25 Broadway, 7 Floor) with a selection of short films in competition. At **3pm** *Historias del canal (Panama Canal Stories)* directed by Carolina Borrero, Pinky Mon, Luis Franco, Abner Benaim, Pituka Ortega premieres in New York. This Panamanian box office hit weaves five tales of human destiny, spanning the century.

On **Monday June 13<sup>th</sup>**, at the Time Warner Theater (10 Columbus Circle, 10th Floor, Conference Center) TAFFNY begins at **6pm** with the showcase of short films in competition. Then at **6:45pm** *La ciénaga entre el mar y la tierra (The Cienaga, Between Sea and Land)* a stirring Colombian fiction by Carlos del Catillo screens. This compelling story about the relationship between a man immobilized by muscular dystrophy and his caretaker mother grabbed two awards at Sundance 2016 (Audience Award for World Cinema Dramatic and Special Jury Award for Acting.)

Screenings start on **Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup>**, at the CWE Auditorium (25 Broadway, 7 Floor) at **12pm** with a selection of short films in competition and **2pm**, *Historias del Canal*. Later that evening, **6:30pm**, TAFFNY moves uptown, to City College's Aaron Davis Hall, located on Convent Avenue between West 133rd and 135th Streets, to celebrate Caribbean culture with the New York Premiere of *Playing Lecuona* directed by Pavel Giroud and Juan Ma Villar; a documentary about Ernesto Lecuona, one of the most influential Cuban musicians of the 20th century, featuring Chucho Valdés, Michel Camilo and Gonzalo Rubalcaba.

On **Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup>**, TAFFNY comes to the Consulate of Argentina in New York (12 West 56<sup>th</sup> Street), with a showcase of short films in competition at **5:30pm**. Following is the N.Y. premiere of *Guarani*, an Argentine and Paraguayan film by Luis Zorraquín, at **6:30pm**. A story of tradition and familiar bond, the film follows an older man's desire to have a grandson to transmit the Guarani culture.

On Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> at **noon**, TAFFNY screens the last selection of short films in competition at CWE Auditorium. Following is the **1:30pm** screening of *El ruiseñor y la noche: Chavela Vargas canta a Lorca (The Nightingale and The Night. Chavela Vargas Sings Lorca)*.

The festival keeps the party going at NYU's King Juan Carlos of Spain Center (53 Washington Square South), at **6:15pm**, with a selection of short films in competition followed by the screening of three documentaries at **7pm**. *Una vida dos paises (One Life Two Countries)*, by Tatyana Kleyn and Ben Donnellon, chronicles the lives of those living between two countries, cultures, languages and education systems. *Eu Vi (I Was There)* by Pedro Biava, Patrick Torres and Fabio Eitelberg recounts the story of three journalists who came to Bolivia to report on a trial but ended up witnessing the death of Ernesto Che Guevara. Lastly, *Bienvenidos (Welcome)*, directed by Javier Fesser, depicts the impact that the Internet has in a tiny school in the heart of the Peruvian Andes. Screenwriter Guillermo Fesser and director Tatyana Kleyn will be present for Q&A.

The festival closes on **Friday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 6pm**, with the Awards Ceremony of The Americas Short Films Competition at the National Museum of the American Indian, followed by the New York premiere of **Fire Song**. Adam Garnet Jones' first feature explores themes of love, loss, isolation and longing in a group of First Nations young people. Director Adam Garnet will be present for Q&A

**The Americas Short Film Competition** is exclusively dedicated to the promotion and exhibition of short-length audiovisual works by emerging filmmakers. The Festival's competition will showcase films with a maximum length of 17 minutes, and will be both competitive and informative. Besides the films, the festival will offer workshops, debates and lectures.

TAFFNY is a cultural project of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education of City College of New York (CUNY), in collaboration with the National Museum of the American Indian, Instituto Cervantes, NYU's King Juan Carlos of Spain Center, the CCNY Division of Humanities and the Arts, and the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. TAFFNY is made possible with the generous support of its partners and sponsors: Telemundo 47, Consulate General of Chile in NY, Rum Barceló, Consulate General of Argentina, Ines Rosales (Tortas de Aceite), Aceites Castillo de Canena, Jamones Cinco Jotas, City College Fund, Quest, Mexican Cultural Institute of NY, Aeromexico, Time Warner and Goya.

For TAFFNY information and schedule visit [www.taffny.com](http://www.taffny.com) For screeners, interviews with directors and photos in high resolution please contact Melany Walter at [melywalter@gmail.com](mailto:melywalter@gmail.com) / 646-361-0410

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