

CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PRESENTS JUEVES DE CINE FALL 2016 RUTGERS CINEMA

September 15, 8:00 – 10:00pm ~ *El Abrazo de la Serpiente (Embrace of the Serpent)*, dir. by **Ciro Guerra. Colombia, 2015, 2h 3 min.**



At once blistering and poetic, the ravages of colonialism cast a dark shadow over the South American landscape in *Embrace of the Serpent*, the third feature by **Ciro Guerra**. Filmed in stunning black-and-white, *Serpent* centers on **Karamakate**, an Amazonian shaman and the last survivor of his people, and the two scientists who, over the course of 40 years, build a friendship with him. The film was inspired by the real-life journals of two explorers (**Theodor Koch-Grünberg** and **Richard Evans Schultes**) who traveled through the Colombian Amazon during the last century in search of the sacred and difficult-to-find psychedelic **Yakruna** plant.

October 6, 8:00- 10:00pm ~ *Desde Allá (From Afar)*, dir. by **Lorenzo Vigas
Venezuela/Mexico, 2015, 1 h 33 min.**



Wealthy middle-aged **Armando** lures young men to his home with money. He doesn't want to touch, only watch from a strict distance. He also follows an elderly businessman with whom he seems to have had a traumatic relationship. **Armando's** first encounter with street thug **Elder** is violent, but this doesn't discourage the lonely man's fascination with the tough handsome teenager. Financial interest keeps **Elder** visiting him regularly and an unexpected intimacy emerges. But **Armando's** haunted past looms large, and **Elder** commits the ultimate act of affection on **Armando's** behalf. *Desde Allá* won the prestigious Venice Film Festival: Golden Lion - Best Picture and the Best First Feature at La Havana Film Festival, both in 2015.

November 3, 8:00- 10:00pm ~ *Jauja*, dir. **Lisandro Alonso
Argentina/Denmark/France/Mexico, 2014, TRT: 1h 48 min.**



An astonishingly beautiful and gripping Western starring **Viggo Mortensen**, *Jauja* begins in remote outpost in Patagonia during the late 1800s. Captain **Gunnar Dinesen** has come from abroad with his fifteen year-old daughter to take an engineering job with the Argentine army. Being the only female in the area, **Ingeborg** creates quite a stir among the men. She falls in love with a young soldier, and one night they run away together. When **Dinesen** realizes what has happened, he decides to venture into enemy territory, against his men's wishes, to find the young couple. *Jauja* (the name suggests a fabled city of riches sought by European explorers) is the story of a man's desperate search for his daughter, a solitary quest that takes him to a place beyond time, where the past vanishes and the future has no meaning.

December 1, 8:00- 10:00pm ~ *Ixcánul*, dir. **Jayro Bustamante
Guatemala, 2015, 1h 33 min.**



"*Ixcánul*" by **Jayro Bustamante** won the award for debut film at the Berlin Film Festival and is Guatemala's first Oscar submission. The film tells the story of **Maria** (**María Mercedes Coroy**) who is set to marry a much older foreman at the coffee plantation. However, when she learns she is pregnant from another man, she must make many hard decisions.