

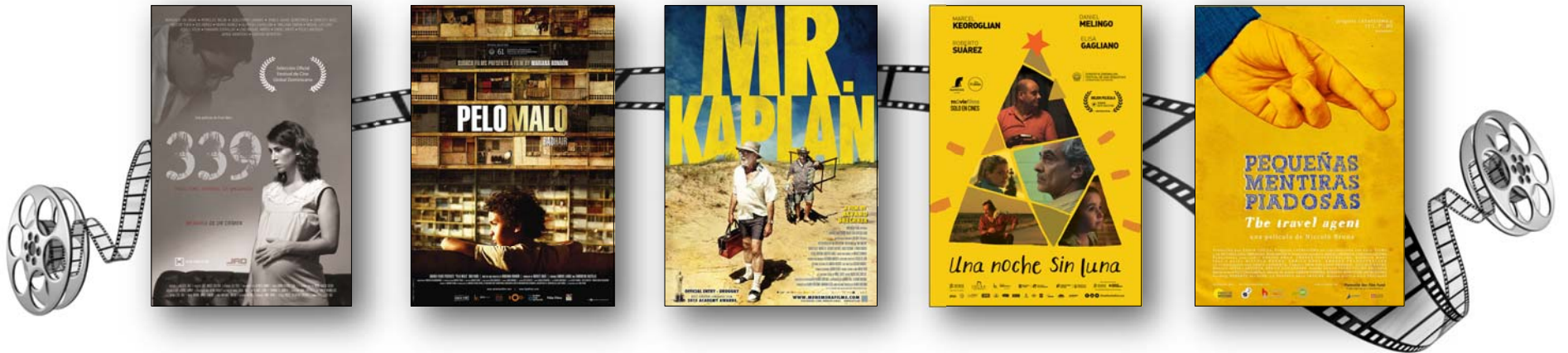


Hispanic Film Festival

MARCH 12 – MARCH 18, 2018

Muhlenberg College, 2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104

Locations: Trumbower 130; Recital Hall (CA); Red Door (Seegers Union)



Hosted by the Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures
In collaboration with Film Studies, the Music Department, Hillel, the Spanish Club

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018—7:00 PM

<https://youtu.be/SCGigf1Ohk4>

TRAILER



Location: Trumbower 130

339 Amín Abel Hasbun / Memory of a Crime (Dominican Republic, 2014)

Etzel Baez, Director—Spanish with English subtitles / 97 minutes

Based on a real story, 339 Amín Abel Hasbun. Memory of a Crime is an intriguing account of the murder of Amín Abel Hasbun, a brilliant student leader in the Dominican Republic accused of kidnapping US Embassy official J. Crowley. Hasbun was one of many young leftists fighting against the government of Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, who favored a repressive regime. Hasbun's death shook the sensibility of the Dominican people to the point that Balaguer had to orchestrate an investigation despite the fact that his government had been responsible for the cold-blooded murder. With a plot that involved the CIA and the Dominican Republic Police Force, the film does an excellent job at deconstructing the events that took place the morning of September 24, 1970, when Amin, his wife and 2-year-old son received the fatal visit of the police and country's District Attorney.



TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018—7:30 PM

<https://youtu.be/lxOZtOyNkTQ>

TRAILER



Location: Recital Hall in the Baker Center for the Arts

Pelo Malo / Bad Hair (Venezuela, 2013)

Mariana Rondón, Director—Spanish with English subtitles / 93 minutes

A nine-year-old boy's preening obsession with straightening his hair elicits a tidal wave of homophobic panic in his hard-working mother, in this tender but clear-eyed coming-of-age tale. Junior is a beautiful boy, with big brown eyes, a delicate frame, and a head of luxurious dark curls. But Junior aches to straighten those curls, to acquire a whole new look befitting his emerging fantasy image of himself as a long-haired singer. As the opportunity approaches to have his photo taken for the new school year, that ache turns into a fiery longing. Junior's mother, Marta (Samantha Castillo), is barely hanging on. The father of her children has died, she recently lost her job as a security guard, and she now struggles to put a few arepas on the table for Junior and his baby brother. Junior doesn't even know yet what it means to be gay, but the very notion prompts Marta to set out to "correct" Junior's condition before it fully takes hold. This is a story of people doing what they feel they have to, partly out of fear, but also out of love.



THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018—7:30 PM

<https://youtu.be/pRZcXd4cSI8>

TRAILER



Location: Trumbower 130

Mr. Kaplan (Spain, Uruguay, Germany, 2014)

Álvaro Brechner, Director—Spanish with English subtitles / 98 minutes

Uruguay's official selection for Best Foreign Academy Award, *Mr. Kaplan* follows Jacob Kaplan's ordinary life in Uruguay. Like many of his other Jewish friends, Jacob fled Europe for South America because of World War II. But now, turning 76, he's become rather grumpy, fed up with his community and his family's lack of interest in their own heritage. One beach bar may, however, provide him with an unexpected opportunity to achieve greatness and recover his family's respect in the community: its owner, a quiet, elderly German, raises Mr. Kaplan's suspicion of being a runaway Nazi. Ignoring his family's concerns about his health, Jacob secretly recruits Contreras, a former police officer whose loyalty far exceeds his honesty, to help him investigate. Together, they will try to repeat the historic capture of Adolf Eichmann: by unmasking and kidnapping the German and secretly taking him to Israel. Rising filmmaker Álvaro Brechner's quixotic quest strikes plenty of comedic spark from its bone-dry humor, taking great delight in the reinvigorated ingenuity and pride of its aging protagonist. Even more potently, the film never loses sight of the existential demons that haunt those on the run from their unresolved past and, ultimately, themselves.



FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018—7:30 PM

https://youtu.be/2uIQH_VHuII

TRAILER



Location: Trumbower 130

Una noche sin luna / A Mooneless Night (Argentina, Uruguay, 2015)

Germán Tejeira, Director—Spanish with English subtitles / 93 minutes

On New Year's Eve, three lonely characters travel to a small town in the Uruguayan countryside. Cesar, a divorced man, arrives at the town, where he will have dinner with his ex-wife's new family in an attempt to win back his daughter's love. Antonio, a small-time magician, is trying to get to the town to perform his routine at the community center, but his car breaks down. Stranded in the middle of the deserted road, he meets Laura, a woman working at the toll station. Miguel, a performer, prepares to sing at the community center's New Year's Eve party. By following their paths to the town, the characters have a chance to change their destinies.



SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018—6:30 PM

<https://youtu.be/ic1iNAJKOGI>

TRAILER



Location: Red Door (Seegers Union basement)

Pequeñas mentiras piadosas / The Travel Agent (Cuba, Spain, Italy, 2015)

Niccolò Bruna, Director—Spanish with English subtitles / 87 minutes

From her tiny office overlooking the U.S. Interests Section, 58-year old Lourdes counsels thousands of Cubans seeking a U.S. travel visa. She coaches them on answering tricky questions, fine-tuning their stories so they have a better chance of succeeding. They come from every walk of life and from all over Cuba to unveil their own life stories at the "Oficina del amor" (Office of Love), as she's baptized it. Despite helping others to travel, she has never been able to visit her own mother, son, brothers, grandsons, and nephews in Florida. "[I] quench the thirst of others every day, yet there is not a drop of water for me," she says sadly. After a long wait, Lourdes' time has finally come: her interview is set. Her dream to visit her dying mother, who emigrated during the sixties, has never been so close. Will she be able to travel and finally overturn her destiny of forced separation.



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