

Classics of Mexican Cinema



Macario

Sunday, 22 October 2017 at 4:30pm

Roberto Gavaldón | Mexico 1960 | 90 min | Spanish with English subtitles

This dark colonial fairy tale centres on a poor peasant named Macario (Ignacio López Tarso) whose wife (Pina Pellicer) presents him with the gift of a stolen turkey on the Day of the Dead. While eating the meal, Macario is visited by Satan, God and Death, each of whom asks for a share of the food. Macario strikes a bargain with Death in exchange for a gift with miraculous healing properties. But this gift turns into a curse for Macario.

Nominations: Best Foreign Language Picture, Academy Awards; Palme d'Or, Cannes Film Festival, 1960



Black Wind (Viento Negro)

Sunday, 29 October 2017 at 4:30pm

Servando González | Mexico 1964 | 127 min | Spanish with English subtitles

The black wind is a desert dust storm regarded as the worst enemy of the men building a railroad across the Great Altar Desert in Mexico. The film explores the dangerous adventures of Manuel Iglesias (David Reynoso), a rough figure-of-circumstance trapped by conflicting devotion to his son and his own ambitions, and the hazards of the construction work.

"An exceptional film...enhanced by its realistic background. Such a tale depends on its central figure and the distinguished actor, David Reynoso, succeeds in giving the foreman, Manuel, something of the epic qualities of a modern Job." (*Melborne International Film Festival*)

Macario



Canoa: A Shameful Memory

Sunday, 5 November 2017 at 4:30pm

Felipe Cazals | Mexico 1976 | 115 min | Spanish with English subtitles

One of Mexico's most highly regarded works of political cinema, which reimagines a real-life incident that had occurred just eight years before the film's release, when a group of urban university employees on a hiking trip were viciously attacked by residents of the village of San Miguel Canoa who had been manipulated by a corrupt priest into believing the travellers were Communist revolutionaries. The resulting film is a daring commentary on ideological manipulation, religious fanaticism, and mass violence, as well as a visceral expression of horror at the specific events.