

# Festival offers a variety of Latin films

FILM buffs will be in heaven when the third Sydney Latin American Film Festival comes to Club Marconi from March 14 to 16.

The festival opens tomorrow at the Chauvel Cinema, and will give Sydney audiences a chance to sample a wide array of the latest films, documentaries and shorts coming out of Latin America and the local Latin film scene.

The festival is an event run by a dedicated group of volunteers who work to not only showcase some of the best contemporary cinema coming out of Latin America, but also the less commercial productions highlighting social and economic issues in Latin America.

This year's screenings will take place at the Chauvel Cinema (March 6-10), the Microcinema at Eastside Arts (March 11-12) and Club Marconi (March 14-16).

Many of the films selected for this year's program will be presented by their creators. This year there are five visiting filmmakers from Latin America plus surprise guests.

Throughout the festival, visiting and local directors and crew will participate in question-and-answer sessions and panel discussions.

Tickets for the opening night and the Australian premiere are \$28 for adults and \$22 for concessions. A single-session adult ticket is \$12 or \$8 for a concession.

Visit website [www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org](http://www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org) for more details.



Secretos de Lucha director Maiana Bidegain.

## Four neighbours and loneliness

IF you are heading out to the Sydney Latin American Film Festival this year, you will be privileged to see the Australian premiere of *672 Chile*.

Directors Pablo Bardaul and Franco Verdoia said *672 Chile* was a fiction feature film.

"It's about the life of four neighbours who live in deep loneliness and fight to reach their dreams – sometimes just their basic needs – in a hostile environment crossed by the economic, social, religious and moral crisis," Bardaul said.

"The plot takes place in San Telmo, the oldest district in Buenos Aires.

"An important part of the scenes were shot in the building whose address gives the title to the movie thanks to the neighbours' generosity, who allowed us to get involved in shared and private places and even participated – in a mix of fiction and reality – in several scenes of the film."

*672 Chile* will screen on Sunday, March 16 at 8pm at Club Marconi and will be presented by a surprise guest.

Full program details are available at [www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org](http://www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org) and tickets are available now.

## Story of family's tortured past on screen

SHE was on a quest to learn her family's history and along the way Maiana Bidegain created a documentary that has been seen around the world.

*Secretos de Lucha*, or *Secrets of Struggle*, which will screen at the Sydney Latin American Film Festival at Club Marconi, began as a search for the memory of what happened to her father and his brothers and sisters during the

dictatorship in Uruguay in the 1970s.

She said it was hard getting her family to talk to her because the country still lived in fear.

"I had to convince my aunts, uncles, and my own father that it was worth talking and being seen on screen."

Bidegain said her father, a former priest, was an important element of the film.

"He was a priest in the Catholic

Church and decided to be a worker priest in the sugar plantations in the north of the country," she said.

"He became a leading figure in the community, and had to leave the country when he became involved in some unions and political movements. The military had him put in jail and tortured him. I never knew before that he had been tortured."

The film will screen on Sunday, March 16 at 6pm.



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