In 2014 the festival focused on the way music/rhythm is intertwined within the social, cultural, and historical constructions of the region. Sound-scapes and rhythm-scapes that represent the joys and sorrows and the individual and collective voices of peoples across the hemisphere encapsulated the fundamental relationship between life and music in the Americas. Audiences enjoyed the presence of filmmakers, musicians, and artists.

9/25. THURSDAY. Nelson Mandela Auditorium. UNC-Chapel Hill. 7:00pm

SIETE CAJAS | SEVEN BOXES. Juan Carlos Maneglia & Tana Schémbori / Paraguay / 2014 / 105 min. In Spanish, Guaraní and Korean with English subtitles

It’s Friday night in Asunción, Paraguay, and the temperature is sweltering. Víctor, a 17-year-old wheelbarrow delivery boy, dreams of becoming famous and covets a fancy TV set in the infamous Mercado 4. He’s offered a chance to deliver seven boxes with unknown contents in exchange for a quick one hundred US dollars. But what sounds like an easy job soon gets complicated. Something in the boxes is highly coveted and Víctor and his pursuers quickly find themselves caught up in a crime they know nothing about. (PRAGDA Series)
FESTIVAL WEEK

10/4. SATURDAY. Richard White Auditorium, Duke. Durham. 4:00pm

CHICO & RITA. Fernando Trueba, Javier Mariscal & Tono Errando / Cuba, Spain, UK, Argentina / 2012 / 94 min. Spanish and English with English subtitles

Oscar winning director Fernando Trueba (The Age Of Beauty) and famous Barcelona designer and artist Javier Mariscal, have teamed up to make Chico & Rita, an animated love story starring the music, culture, and people of Cuba.

Chico is a dashing piano player and Rita is an enchanting and beautiful Havana nightclub singer. When they meet, the sparks fly and they fall madly in love. In Chico & Rita, Trueba and Mariscal pay tribute to a vibrant and colorful time in the history of both Cuba and jazz, an epic romance unfolds as the pair travels the glamorous stages of 1940s and 1950s Havana, New York City, Las Vegas, Hollywood, and Paris. To accompany them is an amazing soundtrack featuring the music of jazz legends Thelonious Monk, Cole Porter, Dizzy Gillespie and Freddy Cole (brother of Nat King Cole), performed by a range of contemporary singers including Idania Valdés, Carlos Sarduy, Horacio Hernández, Rolando Luna, Germán Velazco and Jorge Reyes. In addition, the story of Chano Pozo, one of the first Latin percussionists to grace a major American jazz band, is fluidly interwoven within the narrative.

10/4. SATURDAY. Richard White Auditorium, Duke. Durham. 7:00pm

*Special Screening with live-score performance, featuring Bradley Simmons, guitarist David Castranio, and participation of the Film Director, Robert Pietri.

SEMPER FIDEL. Robert Pietri / Cuba, USA / 2014 / 90 min. English and Spanish with English subtitles

Spinning a classic, multifaceted story against an uncommon backdrop, Semper Fidel tells the tale of a U.S. Marine who investigates the life of his father, a Cuban sports star. Featuring the astonishing Havana City, the film creates a city-landscape that propels this character-driven drama forward, highlighting the conflict of place and identity the protagonist feels, and allowing the viewer to take the journey alongside him.
10/6. MONDAY. Carolina Theater (cinema 1). Durham. 7:00pm

*Special musical introduction by Chilean composer and interpreter Carlos Salvo

**VIOLETA SE FUE A LOS CIELOS | VIOLETA WENT TO HEAVEN.** Andres Wood / Chile / 2011 / 110 min. Spanish with English subtitles

_Violeta Went to Heaven_ tells the story of famed Chilean singer and folklorist Violeta Parra, tracing her evolution from impoverished child to international sensation and Chile’s national hero, while capturing the swirling intensity of her inner contradictions, fallibilities, and passions. From the marquee that she built in Santiago, Chile, people who shaped her life visit Violeta Parra to gradually share her secrets, fears, frustrations and joys, not only through performances of her multiple works but also through her memories, her loves, and her hopes. Her achievements are suspended in a passionate journey with the characters that made her dream, laugh and cry.

“Write as you like, use the rhythms that come out, try different instruments, sit at the piano, destroy the metric, shout instead of singing, blow your guitar and ring the horn. Hate mathematics, and love eddies. Creation is a bird without a flight plan, that will never fly in a straight line” – Violeta Parra

10/7. TUESDAY. Full Frame Theatre, American Tobacco Campus. Durham.
7:00pm

**BAIA DE TODOS OS SANTOS | BAY OF ALL SAINTS.** Annie Eastman / US/Brazil / 2012 / 74 min. Portugese with English subtitles

In Salvador, Bahia, next to one of Brazil’s wealthiest cities, generations of impoverished families have lived in a community of palafitas, shacks built on stilts over the ocean bay. Under a government program to reclaim and restore the bay, hundreds of families face forced relocation. As their community is almost completely torn down and paved over, each begins to fight anew for the future. Filmed over six years, this extraordinary documentary offers fresh insights into environmental justice and notions of home for citizens bypassed by Brazil’s economic boom. With the 2014 World Cup and the Olympics ahead, this is an essential film for understanding a country that is in the world spotlight.

* Introduced by Gustavo Furtado, Romance Studies. Duke University
10/8. WEDNESDAY. Nelson Mandela Auditorium. UNC-Chapel Hill. 7:00pm

*Special screenings with presence of the director and participants on the films, Q&A following the screenings

**ROSTROS DEL TIEMPO | FACES OF TIME.** Charles D. Thompson / Mexico, USA / 2014 / 15 min. Spanish and English with English subtitles

These are the faces of ex-Braceros (or sometimes their widows who stand for them) who worked in U.S. fields, harvesting crops and providing food for American consumers between the years 1942-1964. They gather every Sunday in Ciudad Juárez to protest because they still have not received the retirement benefits they earned half a century ago.

*In conjunction with the exhibit: Rostros del Tiempo | Faces of Time | September 30 – December 19, 2014. Presented by the John Hope Franklin Center.*

Followed by a screening of:

**VIDA PROPIA.** Sarah Garrahan / USA-Latino / 2014 / 52 min. Spanish and English with English subtitles

*Vida Propia* is an intimate portrait of Nora Méndez, a 43-year-old mother of three living in Durham, North Carolina. Nora works as a cook in a Latino-fusion restaurant; lately she is starting her own food truck. In words of Nora, “the way I see [the film] is very simple. It is about a person who is here for a dream. Little by little, their dreams begin to unfold and progress. More importantly, they share a part of their life. Not everything – but the most essential parts… It’s about what it means to be a human being on an emotional level.”

* Nora Méndez present at the screening

10/9. THURSDAY. Carolina Theater (cinema 1). Durham. 7:00pm

**MERCEDES SOSA. LA VOZ DE LATINOAMERICA | THE VOICE OF LATIN AMERICA.** Rodrigo Villa / Argentina / 2013 / 52 min

*Spanish with English subtitles*

Journey into the world of Argentina’s most famous musical artist in Mercedes Sosa: The Voice of Latin America. Over a career that spanned 50 years, Sosa sold millions of records, performed thousands of concerts all over the world, and left behind an incredible legacy as an artist who went beyond the borders of music to become one of the most influential – and loved – personalities of the 20th century. This intimate documentary reveals Sosa’s early life and her
rise to worldwide stardom, and explores the impact she had on the musical, and political, heritage of Latin America... and the world.

10/10. FRIDAY. Nelson Mandela Auditorium. UNC-Chapel Hill. 7:00pm

Musical introduction by LOS TEPUYEROS (Venezuelan music trio)

**PELO MALO | BAD HAIR.** Maríana Rondón / Venezuela / 2013 / 93 min. Spanish with English Subtitles

A nine-year-old boy, Junior, lives in a Caracas; shanty-town, he is obsessed with becoming a singer and having straight long-hair, which elicits a tidal wave of homophobic panic in his hard-working mother. Junior aches to straighten those curls, to acquire a whole new look befitting his emerging fantasy image of himself as a long-haired singer. The boy’s grandmother (Nelly Ramos), encourages and nurtures his behavior even though she knows why he visits the same newsstand every morning — the one tended by a handsome, slick young man. 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. (PRAGDA SERIES)

10/11. SATURDAY. Nelson Mandela Auditorium. UNC-Chapel Hill. 4.00pm

**TROPICALIA.** Marcelo Machado / Brazil / 2012 / 87 min. Portuguese and English with English subtitles

This carefully researched film investigates the cultural movement dubbed Tropicália, which began in Brazil during the 1960s as a reaction to the popular music and nationalism of the period. Caetano Veloso, Gilberto Gil, Tom Zé and others mull over their experiences from that time, while magnificent archive footage brings to life the sheer inventiveness and political reach of “Tropicalism."

Reception: Atrium Global Education Center. UNC-Chapel Hill. Presented by EL CENTRO HISPANO | LIVE MUSIC JAM WITH LATIN ROCK BAND L.E.T.A.L | 6:00pm

**GIMME THE POWER.** Olallo Rubio / Mexico / 2012 / 90 min. Spanish with English subtitles

*Gimme the Power* presents a version of the history of Mexico by using popular culture, in particular the work of the rock band MOLOTOV. The members of the band become informants of such reality by sharing the stories of the lyrics of their songs while they were developed. Both, history and storytelling (from the perspective of the musicians) are intertwined. A country
in constant crisis, a search for a real democracy after the hegemony of the PRI and a band that gives the “soundtrack” of discontent.

**10/17. FRIDAY.** Farrison-Newton Building Theatre. North Carolina Central University, Durham. 7:00pm

**LA PLAYA DC.** Juan Andrés Arango / Colombia / 2013 / 90 min. Spanish with English subtitles

Tomás, an Afro-Colombian teenager who fled the country’s Pacific coast pushed out by the war, faces the difficulties of growing up in a city of exclusion and racism, Bogota DC. When Jairo, his younger brother and closest friend disappears, Tomás plunges in the streets of the city. His search becomes a coming of age journey that compels him to face his past in order to find his own identity. Through this journey, Tomas uses his “hair-cut” as a map, revealing a unique perspective and practice of “free slaves” in a contemporary setting.

**10/23. THURSDAY.** ERC Media Resource Center, Durham Technical Community College. 6:00pm

**VIDA PROPIA.** Sarah Garrahan / USA-Latino / 2014 / 52 min

Spanish and English with English subtitles. Special event with the presence of the director

*Vida Propia* is an intimate portrait of Nora Méndez, a 43-year-old mother of three living in Durham, North Carolina. Nora works as a cook in a Latino-fusion restaurant; lately she is starting her own food truck. In words of Nora, “the way I see [the film] is very simple. It is about a person who is here for a dream. Little by little, their dreams begin to unfold and progress. More importantly, they share a part of their life. Not everything – but the most essential parts... It’s about what it means to be a human being on an emotional level.”

Thanks to to Student Senate at Durham Technical Community College, **FARE**.

* Nora Méndez present at the screening followed by a FOOD TRUCK meal at the parking lot. Reception at the **FARE** food truck | Food provided by **DOS PERROS RESTAURANT**. Durham.

**TRANSFUSION.** Robert D. Lemon / USA-LATINO/ 2013 / 102 min. English and Spanish with subtitles

Transfusión is a cinema verite documentary that traces taco trucks across the city of Columbus, Ohio, uncovering the complex and contentious circumstances encompassing Mexican cuisine in the United States. While the west side of the City (the Greater Hilltop Area) struggle to come to
terms with how to handle the emergence of taco trucks, a black neighborhood on the East side (the King-Lincoln district) has invited a taco truck into one of the most impoverished areas of Columbus to help revitalize the community. For the City of Columbus the trucks are more than just about food, they’re about immigration, race, community acceptance, and the exchange of life in the inner city.

10/24. FRIDAY. Farrison-Newton Building Theatre. North Carolina Central University, Durham. 7:00pm

*Special event with presence of the director

**OCCUPY THE IMAGINATION. Tales of Seduction and Resistance.** Rodrigo Dorfman / Chile, USA / 2013 / 90 min. English and Spanish with English Subtitles

Inspired by the uprisings of the Arab Spring and the Occupy Wall Street movement, Durham-based filmmaker Rodrigo Dorfman embarks on an exploration of 1970s Chile, where as a child he witnessed in the streets of Santiago the first peaceful socialist revolution in history. Fascinated by the transformative power of art, Dorfman uncovers the power and legacy of his father’s controversial book *How to Read Donald Duck* (written in 1971), which the military junta burned and banned for exposing Disney’s hidden capitalist messages. But when Occupy Wall Street explodes in New York City, Dorfman, camera in hand, begins a new quest — for the spirit of the Chilean Revolution in the euphoria of the Occupy Movement.

10/30. THURSDAY. Nelson Mandela Auditorium. UNC-Chapel Hill. 7:00pm

**EL FACILITADOR | THE FACILITATOR.** Victor Arregui / Ecuador / 2014 / 83 min. Spanish with English subtitles

In this political thriller about human rights, Elena comes back to Ecuador to help her father, Miguel, overcome his illness. They keep a cold and distant relationship. Elena spends most of her time between drugs and alcohol so Miguel asks her to go to her grandpa’s estate on the Andes. Elena gets involved in the political organization of the community. She finds out Miguel is involved in a project that will deny water access to the indigenous people she’s working with. Elena gradually understands that among family secrets, corruption and dark perversions commitment and beauty can emerge.
ARRUGAS | WRINKLES. Ignacio Ferreras / Spain / 2014 / 89 min. Spanish with English subtitles

The story opens with former bank manager Emilio being dispatched to a retirement home by his family. His new roommate is a wily, wheeler-dealer named Miguel, who cheerfully swindles small amounts of cash from the more befuddled residents but is also full of handy insider tips that are crucial to survival. An eccentric cast of characters who rebel against institutional authority, while doing everything in their power to avoid being assigned to the dreaded top floor assisted living wing – a dwelling place for lost souls from which there is no return. The hand-drawn animation style allows the film to move freely between the reality-bound daily lives of the ‘inmates’ and their more colorful dementia-induced fantasies, leaving plenty of room for both tears and laughter and pulling no punches in its critique of society’s attitude towards the Elderly. Based on Paco Roca’s National Award-winning graphic novel, Wrinkles illustrates the visual beauty and tender emotion that can be created by traditional animation, as it tackles a universal subject matter with humor and acerbic wit.

PRAGDA SERIES. Co-curated by Cristina Carrasco and Sam Amago, UNC-CH Romance Languages with Miguel Rojas-Sotelo, NC LAFF. In cooperation with the Spanish Film Club initiative.


Thanks to LASA Film Festival, Durham Technical Community College Student Senate; FARE project, Tootie’s Mobile Catering, and DOS PERROS RESTAURANT