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NEWSLETTER

A VISION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER COVERING LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ISSUES A PROJECT BETWEEN GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION AND TELESUR

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UNESCO Declares Two Opera Houses in the Amazon as World Heritage Sites.



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On Monday, UNESCO declared two iconic opera houses built in the Brazilian Amazon as World Heritage Sites: the Amazonas Theater in Manaus and the Peace Theater in Belem.

Both represent the “rich cultural heritage” of the Belle Epoque in the world’s largest rainforest. The World Heritage Committee made the decision during its annual assembly in Busan, South Korea, and marks the first time a cultural site from the Brazilian Amazon has been added to the list.
The Brazilian delegation emphasized the importance of this inscription, highlighting that the Amazon is not only a paradigm of natural heritage but also a producer of cultures, memories, and identity.

These theaters not only host opera and theater, but also carimbo dance, jazz, and film, becoming spaces for broad artistic expression and symbols of cultural exchange.

Both were built in the late 19th century thanks to the rubber boom, when global demand for latex transformed the Amazon into an economic hub capable of importing European styles and materials.

The “odyssey” of constructing them in an isolated region, with materials transported by ship across the Atlantic and up the Amazon River, even inspired the celebrated German film Fitzcarraldo (1982).

Deyvesson Alves, president of the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage, described the recognition as a “historic achievement” that showcases the region’s cultural diversity to the world.



Poet Antonio Maria Florez to Present His Anthology at the Medellin Book Festival.

He was a finalist for the Colombian National Poetry Prize in 2015.

Spanish-Colombian writer Antonio Maria Florez will present his poetry anthology “My Mother Gave Me Kisses” in Colombia during the 20th Medellin Book and Culture Festival and in Bogota.

The work, published in 2026, is aimed at teenagers and young adults. It brings together poems about childhood, love, justice, the passage of time, dreams, and social issues, with a pedagogical and cultural focus.

The book originated from a project with teachers and students at the Reyes Catolicos Spanish Cultural and Educational Center, affiliated with the Embassy of Spain, through reading and writing workshops and direct contact with authors.

The publication features illustrations by artists Rodrigo Diaz and Esther Raindo and received publishing support from the Junta de Extremadura, the Spanish regional government, for its cultural and literary value.

Florez will participate in the Medellin Book and Culture Festival, held from September 11 to 20 at the Botanical Garden and other venues in the city’s northern part.

Later, he will present the book at the auditorium of the Reyes Catolicos Spanish Cultural and Educational Center in Bogota, further strengthening Spanish-Colombian cultural cooperation.

The writer won the 2003 Bogota Poetry Prize for “Displaced from Paradise” and was a finalist for the Colombian National Poetry Prize in 2015. His literary career reflects a close connection to Colombia and Extremadura.



The Bolivian Film Archive Celebrates 50 Years of Memory.

Children dressed as Chaplin pay tribute to the largest audiovisual archive in this Andean country.

On Tuesday, the Bolivian Film Archive marked its 50th anniversary with a colorful tribute that brought together dozens of children and adolescents dressed as Charlot, the iconic character created by Charlie Chaplin.

The event was held at the institution's headquarters in La Paz and formed part of a broader program honoring the archive's half-century of work preserving the country's audiovisual memory.

With bowler hats, tailored suits, canes, umbrellas, and the unmistakable painted mustache, the young participants arrived with parents and teachers to join an homage that mixed cinema, theater, and education. Inside the archive's screening rooms, a small theatrical performance introduced the tribute to Chaplin, followed by screenings of several of his short films, while each child received a piece of chocolate wrapped in a commemorative image celebrating Bolivian cinema.

The initiative sought to honor the symbol of Chaplin as a figure of cinema while also recognizing the people who helped build and sustain the archive over five decades. Cultural journalist Mabel Franco said the tribute also remembered key promoters of the institution, including critic and filmmaker Pedro Susz, priest Renzo Cotta, cultural organizer Amalia de Gallardo, former La Paz mayor Mario Mercado, and Argentine actress Norma Merlo.

Franco recalled that Merlo used to dress as Chaplin to raise awareness in the streets about the need for a film law in Bolivia and later to help gather support for a permanent headquarters for the Bolivian Film Archive. That effort, she noted, was part of a broader campaign to defend the country's cinematic heritage at a time when preservation was still a difficult and underfunded task.

The Bolivian Film Archive was founded in July 1976 and initially operated in a space inside the House of Culture in La Paz. It later moved in 1978 to a small property belonging to the Society of Jesus before finally opening its own building in 2007. Recognized by the state as the National Archive of Moving Images in June 1978, the institution today operates through a trustees' council, a board of directors, and an executive office.

Alfonso Gumucio, president of the board of the Bolivian Film Archive Foundation, described the 50th anniversary as "a very important milestone" and said the institution has made major progress in reorganizing and cataloguing its holdings. Under the executive direction of filmmaker Mela Márquez, the archive now preserves around 8,000 reels of Bolivian films and another 33,000 reels of international cinema, making it one of the most significant repositories in the region.

Gumucio emphasized that part of the archive's "magnificent" collection includes nitrate film, a highly flammable material that must be stored in a special vault. Among the treasures safeguarded by the Bolivian Film Archive is a copy of The Gold Rush, one of Chaplin's most celebrated films. He said the archive is more than a storage site: it is a repository of national memory and a guardian of identity, history, and collective heritage.

The anniversary program will continue through the end of the year with exhibitions, talks, film cycles, tributes, a symphonic concert, and a major presence at the 30th La Paz International Book Fair, which opens this week.

For supporters of the Bolivian Film Archive, the celebration is not only a look back at the past but also a reaffirmation of the role archives play in protecting the cultural memory of a nation and keeping its film history alive for future generations.



Honduras Inaugurates 13th Central American Inter-University Festival of Culture and Art.

The event will run for four days, featuring music, dance, theater, literature, and visual arts activities.

On Monday, Honduras inaugurated the 13th Central American Inter-University Festival of Culture and Art (FICCUA 2026), an event bringing together 940 artists from twelve public universities at University City in Tegucigalpa.

Organized by the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), the festival will run for four days, featuring music, dance, theater, literature, and visual arts activities on 11 stages set up for the participating delegations.

UNAH Rector Odir Fernandez emphasized at the opening ceremony that FICCUA is a space created for higher education students in Central America and underscored that art and culture are essential elements in academic training.

Fernandez thanked the young people for highlighting the importance of culture in research, teaching, and university outreach, and invited the delegations to experience the event with pride and represent their countries.

The festival features the participation of universities from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, strengthening regional integration through artistic and cultural expressions.

The previous edition was held in Panama in 2024, with representatives from higher education institutions throughout the region, and now Tegucigalpa becomes the epicenter of university culture.

The program includes folk dance performances, choral and popular music concerts, theatrical works, literary recitals, and visual arts exhibitions.





Predominant themes include the climate crisis, identity, gender, and the preservation of Indigenous languages.

On Wednesday, the DOQUMENTA International Film and Non-Fiction Narrative Festival presented its 14th-edition program, to be held from August 5 to 9 in Queretaro, Mexico.

Aaron Garcia, co-director of the festival, explained that the event will feature more than 90 non-fiction films, 64 of which are Mexican productions. Approximately 48% of the films are directed by women, while 33% are international, primarily from Latin America.

Predominant themes include the climate crisis, identity, gender, the defense of territory, and the preservation of memory and indigenous languages.

Among the featured titles is “Put Your Soul in Your Hand and Walk,” a documentary about life in Gaza during the height of the Israeli offensive, narrated from the perspective of a Palestinian photojournalist.

Another noteworthy film is “The Place of Absence,” produced by Erika Archaga, which addresses the disappearance of Central American migrants in Mexico and the role of mothers in the search for their loved ones.

In addition to the film screenings, DOQUMENTA will include talks and cultural activities, with the participation of experts such as the Swiss-American documentary filmmaker Alexandre O. Philippe.

On behalf of the Mexican government, Marcela Duana, Deputy Director of National Promotion at the Mexican Film Institute, emphasized that the festival strengthens national cinema and “brings to light” stories outside of the dominant narratives.


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