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NEWSLETTER

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



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The Condor Daughter Premieres in Bolivia

The film was presented at the Toronto International Festival in September 2025.

On Thursday, the film “The Condor Daughter”, directed by Alvaro Olmos, premiered in Bolivia after winning more than 20 awards at international festivals such as Malaga, Biarritz, and Guadalajara.

The film explores the duality between city and countryside, tradition and modernity, through the story of two midwives: Ana Lindaura, a wise elder and community authority, and Clara, her adopted daughter who seeks to explore beyond the mountains.

Filmed in Cochabamba and spoken primarily in Quechua, the film reflects a culture that transcends borders and has generated worldwide interest. Olmos highlighted the connection with Bolivian audiences in Spain and other countries.

The film is a Bolivian, Peruvian, and Uruguayan co-production and will continue its run in France, Germany, Switzerland, the United States, and Canada.

The Condor Daughter premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2025 and has since toured Europe, India, and New Zealand. Among its awards are the Abrazo Prize in Biarritz and Best Performance for Actress Maria Magdalena Sanizo in both Guadalajara and Malaga.

Sanizo, of Quechua origin, highlighted the importance of midwives in rural areas without access to hospitals, where they can save lives in emergencies.

Bolivian cinema has gained international visibility in recent years with productions that explore identity, territory, and memory.



Panamanians Celebrate Congo Festival



The Afro-Caribbean festival combines music, dance, and theatrical performance

On Saturday, Panamanians celebrated the Congo Festival in Portobelo, evoking the resilience of enslaved Black people during colonization and their struggle for freedom.

The Afro-Caribbean festival combines music, dance, and theatrical performance, recreating historical episodes linked to slavery, resistance, and emancipation through symbolic characters and traditional rhythms passed down through generations.

Irma Pinilla, Congo Queen and folklorist, said she felt proud to wear the Congo pollera (traditional dress) and to participate in national festivals that honor Afro-descendant heritage. The costumes, made from scraps of colorful fabrics, along with masks and characters, constitute a symbolic language that reflects resistance and survival strategies of Afro-descendant communities.

Congo culture highlights the leading role of women, especially through the figure of the queen, who plays a central role in the organization and transmission of tradition, reaffirming its matriarchal nature.

Pinilla emphasized that the queen decides on collective actions, comparing herself to the mother of the community, and expressed concern for preserving the authenticity of the cultural practice.

In 2018, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) inscribed the Congo tradition on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, recognizing its historical value.

This year, the queen was accompanied by King Manrique Alonso Pacheco, who celebrated his Afro-descendant roots, highlighting the lineage inherited from his father and mother, and linking the celebration to the abolition of slavery.

The Panamanian Congos serve as a vehicle for collective memory, preserving the history of resistance and reaffirming Afro-descendant identity in the Central



The Mexican Charro is the Foundation of the Cowboy

The American figure became popular in the 19th century with the traveling Buffalo Wild West Shows.

Long before the American cowboy, there was the Mexican charro: its techniques, clothing, and culture crossed the border, influencing one of the most recognizable icons of American national identity.

Charreria, Mexico's national sport, originated on colonial haciendas in Hidalgo and Jalisco in the 16th century. Migration and territorial annexation brought this equestrian tradition to the United States, especially Texas.

The cowboy figure became popular in the 19th century with the traveling Buffalo Wild West Shows, which inspired the Western film genre. Charros actively participated in these events.

Vicente Oropeza (1858-1923), a charro from Puebla, introduced trick roping to the United States. He was the only Latino honored in the Rodeo Hall of Fame.

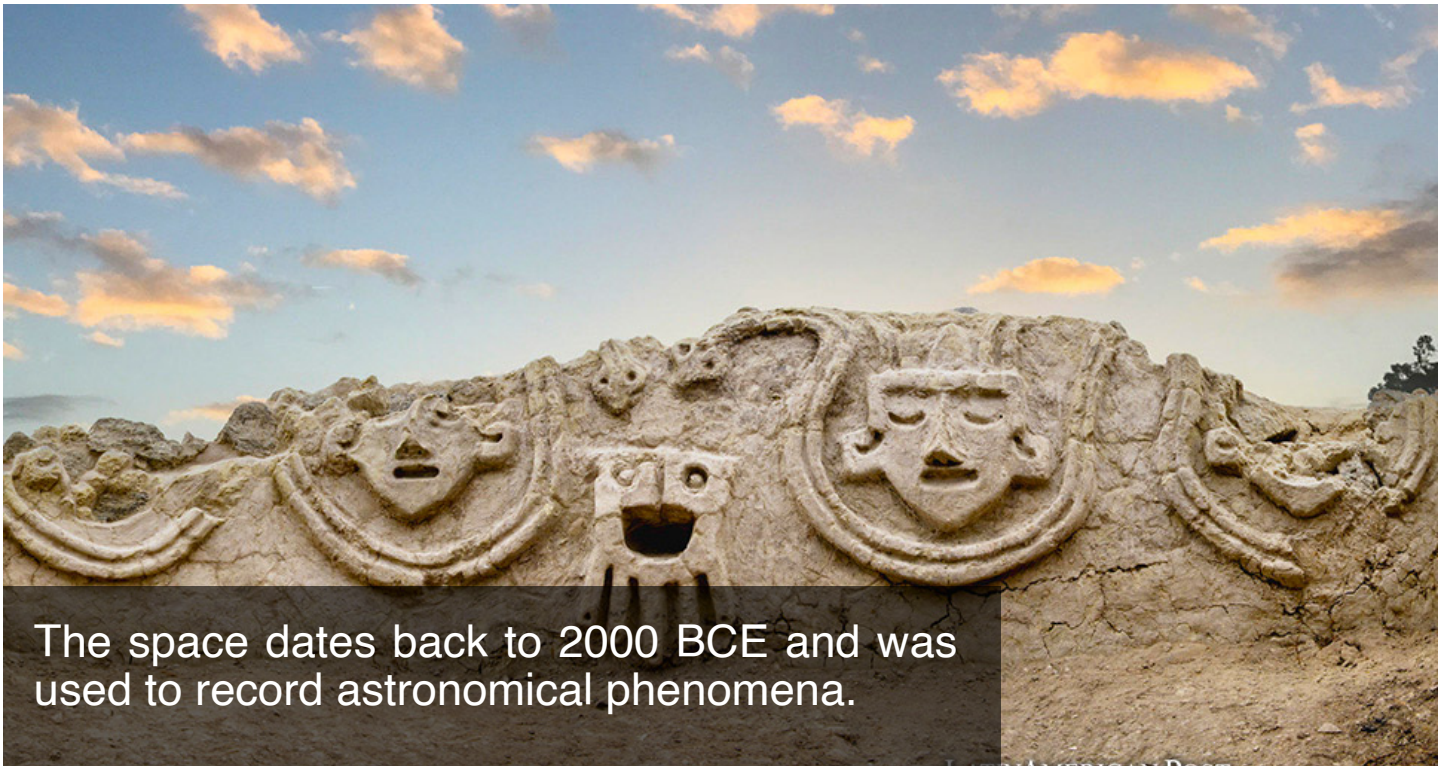
Gary Moreno, a professor at Austin Community College, stated that "the Mexican charro is the foundation of the cowboy." The influence encompasses rodeo practices, such as roping and tack, as well as clothing, such as pants and sombreros.

Oropeza and other Mexican migrants traveled on trains of the nascent railroad industry, bringing equestrian traditions to the U.S. He explained that this exchange of knowledge is "uncomfortable" for some in American society.

The Charro Association, founded in 1947 and presided over by Edmundo Rios, brings together 41 families. For him, passing on the tradition to children is vital to preserving identity and humility.

Young people like Alejandro Garcia, a migrant from Hidalgo, and Cervantes remember Mexico through charreria. For them, being a charro means "pride, happiness, and cultural resistance" against being forgotten in the United States.

Peru Discovers Ancient Structure Linked to the Caral Civilization



The space dates back to 2000 BCE and was used to record astronomical phenomena.

Archaeologists have discovered a two-story circular structure linked to astronomy and marine observation at the fishing settlement of Aspero, belonging to the Caral civilization on the Peruvian coast.

The Caral culture, considered the oldest in the Americas, flourished in the Supe Valley of the Lima region between 3000 and 1800 BCE.

The discovery, led by Dr. Ruth Shady, dates back to 2000 BCE and reveals a space used by specialists to record astronomical phenomena and their relationship to the natural environment.

This knowledge allowed them to make decisions about fishing, shellfish gathering, and trade with agricultural populations in the Supe Valley, demonstrating the integration of productive activities with astronomical observations.

Research suggests that the inhabitants observed the sun, moon, and stars to anticipate changes in tides, weather, and marine resources, all of which were essential factors in planning their economy.

David Palomino, director of Aspero, explained that the oval, double-level structure includes a huanca, a vertical stone used in the Andes to measure time, spatial references, and solar rituals.

The structure is located in a high area, near pyramids and temples, where elite burials have been found that reveal links with Andean and Amazonian peoples, which demonstrates networks of cultural exchange.

In 2025, the tomb of a young girl was discovered with textiles, a macaw feather mantle, an inlaid toucan beak, and agricultural products from the highlands.

At the moment, a multidisciplinary team is evaluating architectural orientation, stratigraphy, and materials using radiocarbon dating to refine the chronology and astronomical knowledge of Caral.

Peru to Host International Documentary Film Festival

Limadocs will inaugurate its competition for short and medium-length films.



From May 14 to 23, the Peruvian capital city will host the second edition of the Limadocs festival, focusing on gastronomy and the Amazon, with an international section and a tribute to American documentary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman.

The opening will feature the Peruvian premiere of "Memories for Anyone Who Asks About Me," a Spanish documentary directed by Fernando Vilchez, about letters written by prisoners before their execution in the Spanish Civil War.

The Cinema and Cuisine section will also debut as a meeting place for filmmakers, chefs, and the public, featuring themed screenings and free gastronomic tastings that integrate documentary film with culinary experiences.

Within this framework, Frederick Wiseman's "Menus-Plaisirs" will be screened, about a family of French chefs who maintained three Michelin stars for over 50 years, solidifying their cultural and gastronomic legacy The organizers emphasized that exhibiting Wiseman's work celebrates his perceptive and respectful style towards the viewer. The filmmaker received an honorary Oscar for his career in documentary filmmaking.

The Amazonian Horizons initiative, promoted by Rio Abierto and SONTRAC, will showcase historical and contemporary short films about the Peruvian Amazon, including works created by Amazonian communities and presented by their own filmmakers.

In the international category, notable titles such as Lucrecia Martel's "Our Land," Ben Rivers' "Mare's Nest," and Alex Ross Perry's "Videoheaven" will be screened.

Thanks to the Spanish Cultural Center, Jose Luis Guerin's "Stories from the Good Valley," winner at San Sebastian, and Albert Serra's "Afternoons of Solitude," about the Peruvian bullfighter Andres Roca Rey, will be shown.

Limadocs inaugurates its international competition for short and medium-length films, as well as a section for young documentary filmmakers. It will also offer an animated documentary workshop led by Ukrainian filmmaker Polina Piddubna.


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