Newsletter

A vision of Latin America and the Caribbean countries

5 June 2024

Weekly Newsletter covering Latin America and the Caribbean issues. A Project between Green Zone Foundation and Telesur.

Bogota Hosts Foro Gastronómico Alimentarte

More than 25 experts, including renowned chefs such as Anthony Vásquez, Floriano Pellegrino, Tomás Treschanski, Leonor Espinoza, and Álvaro Clavijo, among others, will participate in the Forum.

On 28 and 29 May 2024, in Bogota, the International Food Forum Alimentarte will be held. This event is an industry-leading platform and brings together leading national and international food leaders to explore crucial issues for the sector.



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More than 25 experts, including renowned chefs such as Anthony Vásquez, Floriano Pellegrino, Tomás Treschanski, Leonor Espinoza, and Álvaro Clavijo, among others, will participate in the Forum.

Topics such as the gastronomic evolution of Latin America and social gastronomy will be addressed, with the presence of sommeliers, mixologists, room professionals and journalists.

The Forum will highlight the Caribbean region as a central theme, recognizing its importance as a culinary treasure that fuses diverse influences, ingredients and flavors.

It will be held on May 28 and 29, 2024 at the Gimnasio Moderno Cultural Center in Bogotá,

In addition, they will taste the emblematic dishes of this region reflect a unique cultural fusion, with the abundance of seafood and tropical fruits that add freshness and flavor, consolidating the Caribbean as a gastronomic epicenter in Colombia.

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Festival Viva Venezuela Opens in Style.

IThe celebration is a tribute to the armed and anti-slavery rebellion, in favor of equality that the Zambian José Leonardo Chirino undertook, according to its organizers.

The World Festival Viva Venezuela, Mi Patria Querida was inaugurated this Friday at the Simón Bolívar Monumental Stadium in Caracas, in honor of Afro-Venezuelan Day.



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The celebration is a tribute to the armed and anti-slavery rebellion, in favor of equality that the Zambian José Leonardo Chirino undertook, according to its organizers.

The Venezuelan Minister of Culture, Ernesto Villegas, told local media that the Viva Venezuela World Festival will bring together cultural manifestations from all over the country, thus generating a diversity among indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant movements.

In that direction, he invited the Venezuelan people to participate in the varied program of activities of the forum, which will take place in Caracas, Miranda and La Guaira.

Villegas also said, "Here we go, full of energy for our first meeting of culturers that also enhances our Afro-descendant roots and our talents. Here we will all highlight our culture, to highlight what we are in the Monumental stadium of Caracas".

According to the organizers, during this festival, there will be activities such as the elaboration of a four and a drum, instruments that will then be tuned live, as well as other handmade pieces.

The inauguration was attended by President Nicolás Maduro and had a Drones show in the sky of Caracas.

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Exhibition "Ecuador in Images": A Journey Through Biodiversity

According to the agenda, next Wednesday, the emblematic Teatro Sucre, in Quito, will be the stage for the first part of the exhibition.

The photographic exhibition "Ecuador in images" is a tour of the biodiversity of the Andean country, which will be presented in the cities of Quito and Riobamba, as part of the global commemoration, on May 22, of International Biodiversity Day.



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"Five Ecuadorian researchers, biologists and photographers will show visitors their catalogues with impressive images to transport them through magical places, considered habitats of the most amazing biological biodiversity that make Ecuador a megadiverse country," says an Ecuadorian media.

Naia Andrade Hoeneisen, Julio César Carrión, Paul Tito, Paulina Naranjo and Lucas Bustamante, while exposing their images, will tell the experiences through their photography, as well as the anecdotes lived each time they pressed the button of their cameras to capture the incredible natural wealth and fortune of living in a megadiverse country.

"Each image will be a reminder of the fragility of our ecosystems and the importance of preserving them," insisted Inabio, who explained that it is a digital photo exhibition, similar to a film that, for 60 minutes and with dim light, leads those who see it on a magical and realistic journey through an amazing diversity of landscapes and wildlife.

Meanwhile, Andrade has captured with his camera the unique biodiversity of the Chocó Andino; Carrión has ventured to photograph the treasures of the cloud forests of Ecuador; Tito has documented unique wildlife stories and moments in Sangay National Park and the Chimborazo Wildlife Production Reserve.

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The exhibition is one of the activities which under the slogan "Be part of the plan", the Alliance will develop until 31 May several events and activities, for the month of biodiversity that will make the Alliance for Biodiversity -made up of more than 35 institutions, civil society organizations and international cooperation entities-.

According to the agenda, next Wednesday, the emblematic Teatro Sucre, in Quito, will be the stage for the first exhibition of Andrade and Carrión, while on May 29, The Teatro León in Riobamba will open its doors to Tito and Naranjo; and on May 30, at the Calderón de la Barca Theater of the San Francisco University of Quito, Andrade and Bustamante will be the protagonists of the third exhibition.

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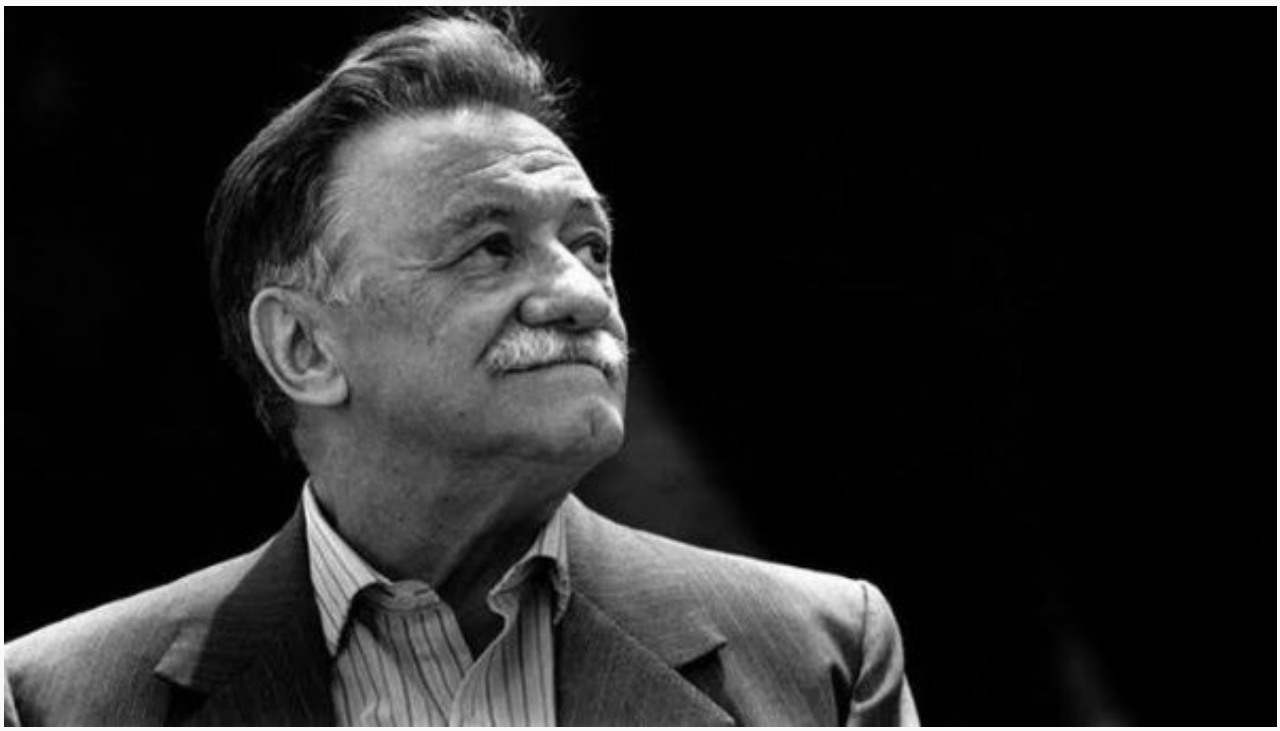
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Fifteen Years Without Mario Benedetti

Benedetti was not only a committed writer, but also a keen observer of human nature.

On May 17, 2009, death took us away from the Uruguayan journalist, novelist, and poet Mario Benedetti. One of the most outstanding writers of contemporary Latin American literature, was born in Paso de los Toros, Uruguay.



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Benedetti became an emblematic figure not only for his prolific literary production, which includes poetry, narrative, essay and theater, but also for his political and social commitment. His work reflects a deep connection with his homeland and an acute observation of the human condition, which has given him a privileged place in the literature.

Benedetti is known for his commitment to social and political causes. Through his literature, he expressed the anguish, hopes and struggles of the Latin American peoples. His poetry, in particular, is a song of resistance and solidarity.

His books of poems like "Little Stones at My Window: Poems" and "Only in the Meantime & Office Poems" are examples of how Benedetti intertwines love and militancy, suggesting that full life involves both the struggle for justice and the cultivation of deep affective relationships between the people.

The novel "The Truce: The Diary of Martín Santomé", (trans. Benjamin Graham (Harper & Row, 1969); also trans. Harry Morales (Penguin, 2015)) is one of his best known works and a point of reference in his career. The story, narrated in the form of a personal diary, explores the monotonous life of an office worker in Montevideo and his brief but intense love affair with a co-worker.

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This work stands out for its critical look at routine and alienation in urban life, while offering a reflection on the search for meaning and the transience of happiness.

In the 1970s, due to the military dictatorship in Uruguay, he was forced to leave his country. He lived in Argentina, Peru, Cuba and Spain, experiences that profoundly influenced his work. During these years, Benedetti continued to write about exile, nostalgia and resistance, always in touch with the Latin American feels.

Works such as "Springtime in a Broken Mirror" (trans. Nick Caistor (The New Press, 2018)) directly address the issue of exile and its effects on family and personal relations. This novel interweaves different perspectives to build a polyphonic narrative that captures the complexity of the diaspora and the struggle to maintain identity and hope in adverse circumstances.

Mario Benedetti's legacy is immense. His ability to combine the intimate with the political, the everyday with the transcendental, has left an indelible mark in literature. His simple and accessible style, full of humanity and empathy, has resonated with readers of different generations and contexts.

Benedetti was not only a committed writer, but also a keen observer of human nature. His work offers a profound look at the human condition, the challenges of modern life and the need for solidarity and love in times of uncertainty.

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