

The Panamanian International Film Festival in Los Angeles (PIFF/LA) is a project of Viva Panama designed to cast a spotlight on the emerging film industry in Panama and the Americas. PIFF/LA features works by up and coming filmmakers from the area.

The first edition of PIFF/LA was launched on Nov. 21, 2015, in association with long-established NewFilmmakers/LA (NFMLA). These two dynamic organizations joined forces to turn the spotlight on one of the fastest-growing and fertile film locations in the Americas.

VPO is a Southern California non-profit organization dedicated for over two decades to showcasing Panamanian arts and culture to North American audiences. Known as "Cultural Ambassadors in the U.S.", the members of the Viva Panama Organization and its Ballet Folklórico have proudly represented their nation and its culture at venues and events as diverse as the Anson Ford Amphitheatre, the Central American Independence parades and the 2015 Special Olympics World Games. VPO also hosts an annual gala to recognize and honor distinguished Panamanians in the U.S. Recent honorees include: Miss Universe 2002 Justine Pasek, Judge Raoul Thorbourne, legendary jockey Laffit Pincay, Jr., and NASA scientist Dr. Luis Rabelo.

NFMLA is a non-profit organization designed to showcase innovative works by emerging filmmakers from around the world, providing the Los Angeles community of entertainment professionals and film goers with a constant surge of monthly screening events. NFMLA provides a forum where filmmakers can be recognized for their contributions, have open audience discussions about their projects and connect with industry professionals for insight on distribution, production, acquisition and representation.

Film Festival Staff

Carlos Carrasco, Festival Director:
Victor Grimaldo, VPO Executive Director.
Maia C. De Zan Hatch, Designer & Social Media.
Alvar Carretero, Public Relations.
Rochelle Newman, Consultant.

New Filmmakers/LA Staff:

Larry Laboe, Executive Director
Susie Kim, Artistic Director
Alexandra Diantgikis, Outreach Director

Special Thanks

Lynnette Valenzuela – Union Bank.
Lic. Raquel Alfaro - Consul of Panama.
Monique Smith, Walton Isaacson
Davina Ferreira, Alegria Magazine
Tery Lopez. WGA
NFMLA Staff and Volunteers
VPO Volunteers

Sponsors:



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LATINO INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS



PANAMANIAN International Film Festival

IN LOS ANGELES

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NOVEMBER 5-6, 2016



DAY ONE: November 5, 2016

1:00 PM (PDT) - Short Film Program #1

Istmo Table, directed by Andy Marshall, Panama.

A young woman rises from the hardscrabble streets of the barrio to become an award-winning chef.

Melody for Ella, directed by Mariana Pulgar, Panama.

An artistic young introvert is caught in a downward emotional spiral.

Drew & Esteban, directed by Paul Laverack, USA.

Two brothers must overcome their own immaturity as they attempt to help their dad buy the pickup of his dreams.

Red Vinyl, directed by Armando Millan, Panama.

A teenager fights a supernatural spirit unleashed by an old recording sent from Panama.

2:30 PM (PDT) - Documentary Feature Program

A Time to Love, directed by Guido Bilbao, Panama.

This is the heartwarming story of a group of young actors who take on the challenge of staging a classic Panamanian folk play while facing a unique challenge: Down Syndrome and its attendant preconceptions.

4:00 PM (PDT) - Short Film Program #2

Keep Your Head Up, directed by Paul Morey, USA.

From the low riding streets of East Los Angeles, comes an uplifting message.

Padre, directed by Ariel Araúz, Panama.

A church confession takes a terrible turn with devastating consequences.

Amor Vale, directed by Annette Reid, USA.

A distraught man goes to the edge of sanity to reclaim his family.

Zachrisson, directed by Abner Benaím, Panama.

An 85 year-old Panamanian painter, living in Madrid, reflects of life, art, music and love.

6:00 PM (PDT) - Premiere, VIP Presentation & Ribbon-cutting Ceremony

Special Guests: Lynette Valenzuela (Union Bank), Maria Antonia Vergara & Gabriel Padilla (MICI & Panama Film Commission), Patricia De León (Madrina) y Lic. Raquel Alfaro (Consul of Panama in Los Angeles).

El Cheque, directed by Arturo Montenegro, Panama.

Diego is looking for a sign to help him decipher the true identity of his soulmate: "Where did she come from? Where did she go?"

9:00 PM (PDT) - Feature Film Program #2

Medusa, directed by Jorge Ameer, Panama.

A dedicated mythology professor finds an evil witch doctor who summons the spirit of the gorgon Medusa.

Day Two: November 6, 2016

1:00 PM (PDT) - Short Film Remix Program

Istmo Table (Panama), *Padre* (Panama) and *Zachrisson* (Panama).

2:30 PM (PDT) - Panama Film Commission Panel.

Learn from the pros about the benefits of Panamanian co-productions and in-country on location filming.

4:00 PM (PDT) - National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP) Panel

Led by NALIP's Projects Director, Ben Lopez, this panel, will share insights on topics ranging from co-production to pitching to financing opportunities for indie filmmakers


5:30 PM (PDT) - Screenwriting Panel

Some of today's most exciting voices in entertainment share insider tips on tapping into the strength of story. Panelists Include: Liglia Villalobos, Tery Lopez, and Davy Perez

7:00 PM (PDT) - Feature Film Program #3

Kenke, directed by Enrique Pérez-Him, Panama.

Josué is a successful young professional who takes on the responsibility of getting his cousin to stop smoking weed, without revealing to anyone that he still enjoys the herb himself.




MINISTERIO DE COMERCIO E INDUSTRIAS

PANAMA FILM COMMISSION


The Panamanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce & the Panama Film Commission congratulate the Viva Panama Organization in its 25th year, supporting and showcasing Panamanian culture with the world.

It is with great pride that we support the 2nd Panamanian International Film Festival in Los Angeles. This is a wonderful opportunity for Panamanian talent to shine and our stories be seen. Keep up the amazing work.



Viva Panama Organization Inc.




PIFF/LA 2



YOU ARE CREATIVE.

You help us see the world in new ways. You enrich, inspire, and move us. You open our hearts and minds with your fresh ideas and creative passion. For your unique vision, we salute you.

Union Bank® is proud to sponsor the Panama International Film Festival.

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