4:00 pm - Festival Opens Door.

4:20 pm - Parade of Queens.
   Inauguration and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
   Special Guests: Lynette Valenzuela, Union Bank.
   Justine Pasek, Miss Universe 2002.
   Lic. Raquel Alfaro, Consul of Panama.

4:30 pm - Program #1
   *Reinas* by Ana Endara Mislov (65 min).

6:00 pm - Program #2
   *Let Me Finish* by Carlos Carrasco (9 min).
   *Heroe Transparente* by Orgán Wagua. (50 min).

7:30 pm – Q &A with Filmmakers.

7:35 pm – Panama Canal Musical: Julio Hansen, entertainer &
   The Naughty Beats Crew: Michael Marinola, Jennifer Stern, Laura Meshel, Shauen Tokayama, Claudia Zurek, Marissa Zugell, Matthew Mannix and Raul Arauz).

7:45 pm - Program #3
   *Caja 25* by Mercedes Arias and Delfina Vidal (72 min).

9:30 pm – Program #4
   *Chance* by Abner Benaín (91 min).

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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 Panamanian International Film Festival.

unionbank.com
Featured Films

**Caja 25.** A film by Mercedes Arias & Delfina Vidal. Duration: 72 min. It examines the complicated relationship between the United States and Panama, cemented since the U.S. participation in the creation of the country and the construction of the Panama Canal. Winner of Best Film from Central America and the Caribbean, and the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2015 International Film Festival in Panama. Featured in Marbella, Milan in 2015 and Miami in 2016.

**Reinas.** A film by Ana Endara Mislov. Duration: 65 min. Comedy that takes us on a tour of the spectacular and complex world of festival queen competitions, an integral part of Panamanian folklore. An elementary student, a supermarket cashier and a nursing home elderly woman have something in common - they want to be queens. They don't want to win a beauty contest; the reigns are another thing. In Panama there is a crown for whom ever dream of it. Panama, a country without official monarchy full of Queens.

**Let Me Finish.** A film by Carlos Carrasco. Duration: 8 min. It examines the lengths to which individuals will go in search of basic companionship. An exchange between two men reveals a secret about their relationship. Shown at Independent Filmmakers Showcase Film Festival on May 2015.

**Heroe Transparente.** A film by Orgun Wagua. Duration: 50 min. This film portrays the life of Victoriano Lorenzo, who successfully waged guerilla warfare against the central government in Panama in the early 1900's. It embarks on a current travel by the historical memory of the Panamanians through a Hero of social struggle at the beginning of the new century XX Victoriano Lorenzo. Who is Victoriano Lorenzo for Panamanians?

**Chase.** A film by Abner Benaím. Duration: 90 min. It is a modern comedy of manners which expertly mines the relationships between the haves and the have-nots for its rich comedic content. Tona and Paquita are the maids of the Gonzalez-Dubois, an aristocratic Panamanian family. For a long time they have been abused and are tired of their situation. When the family organizes a "shopping" trip to Miami, the maids decide to "take" the house seeking to change their destiny. But Tona and Paquita discovered the great secret of the family: despite appearances, the only thing that the Gonzalez-Dubois own are debts.

With Gratitude

Your support, kindness and generosity have made this festival possible.

Thank you to all of you!!

Larry Laboro - New Filmmakers LA
Susse Ran Kim - New Filmmakers LA
Alex Diangtigis – New Filmmakers LA
Lynnette Valenzuela – Union Bank,
Justine Pasek - Miss Universe 2002
Lic. Raquel Alfaro - Consul of Panama,
Carlos Carrasco – Dir. of Film Festival
Annette Reid – Jack Productions,
Maritza Collins – M. Collins Associates
VPO Staff & Ballet Folklorico Viva Pura
Bernardino Claros - Lo Nuestro TV
Mario Oporto – La Prensa de Los Angeles
Eduardo Blancas - FOX Sports Español
Angela Ortiz – Sí Fija! Magazine
Daniel Molina – La Estrella de Panamá,
Daniel Domínguez - La Prensa de Panamá
Abelardo de la Peña - LatinoLA Magazine
Davina Ferreira - Alegría Magazine.
Bel Hernandez - Latin Heat
The Naughty Beats Crew
Julio Hanson, Entertainer.

Viva Panama Organization (VPO) and NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA) welcome you to the 1st Annual Panamanian International Film Festival L.A. (PIFF—LA), presented by Union Bank. PIFF is endorsed by the Panama Film Festival and The Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Panama. PIFF – LA was designed to cast a spotlight on the emerging film industry in Panama and Central America, serving as a platform and display of the works by up and coming filmmakers from the area.

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 Folklorico 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 at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games.

VPO recently managed the coordination and logistics for the participation of the first Panamanian marching band in the world-renowned Pasadena Tournament of Roses. VPO also hosts an annual gala to recognize and honor distinguished Panamanians in the U.S. Recent honorees include: Miss Universe 2002 Justine Pasek, legendary jockey Laffit Pincay, Jr., and NASA scientist Dr. Erika Podest.

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.

Thank you to all of you!!

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Viva Panama Organization
525 E. Seaside Way, suite 1801
Long Beach, CA 90802.
562.363.6312   818.915.2121
www.vivapanama.org

www.PanamaInternationalFilmFestival.us

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