

List of Films - Politics in South America - Summer 2019

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1 Argentina

1.1 Kamchatka

Country: Argentina

Director: Marcelo Piñero

This film tells the story of an Argentinian family after the *coup d'état* in 1976 through the eyes of a ten-year-old boy.

[Watch Trailer](#)

1.2 The Secret in Their Eyes

Country: Argentina

Director: Juan José Campanella

Set in the context of political turmoil during the presidency of Isabel Perón and repression during the Argentine military dictatorship, this movie tells the story of a unresolved crime that happened in 1974.

[Watch Trailer](#)

1.3 Eva Doesn't Sleep

Country: Argentina

Director: Pablo Aguero

Argentina, 1952: The death of Eva Peron sparks a 25-year clash between opposing military coups over the burial of her embalmed corpse, now a beloved and hated political symbol. Evita's posthumous legacy is told through a series of isolated incidents featuring the expert doctor obsessively carrying out her embalming, an army colonel's secret mission to transport the body back to Argentina, and the kidnapping of a military dictator who is forced to reveal the corpse's location.

1.4 Argentinian Mothers Fight for Justice

Country: Argentina

Year: 1985

This Oscar-nominated documentary about the Argentinian mothers' movement to demand to know the fate of 30,000 "disappeared" sons and daughters remains as extraordinarily powerful as when it was first released. As well as giving an understanding of Argentinian history in the '70s and '80s, LAS MADRES shows the empowerment of women in a society where women are expected to be silent. LAS MADRES provides a banner of hope in the international struggle for human rights.

1.5 History of Fear

Country: Argentina

Year: 2014

Director: Benjamin Maishtat

When a heat wave grips the suburbs, blackouts and waves of pollution push the social order to the brink of collapse, forcing each inhabitant to confront his own motives, instincts and fears. The filmmaker sheds light on the Argentinean economic crisis several years ago, focusing on the politicians' exploitation of people's fears in order to foster a general feeling of insecurity.

1.6 The Lips

Country: Argentina

Year: 2010

Director: Iván Fund, Santiago Loza

This subtle and challenging mix of documentary and narrative filmmaking follows a trio of women who deeply inhabit their cinematic roles as social workers interacting with members of an impoverished rural Argentine neighborhood. Facing poverty that threatens to overwhelm even the greatest reserves of calm, humor, and empathy, the three move into makeshift living quarters in a run-down hospital. They then begin the work of recording data on the needs of the community and getting to know each other, while trying to make their living quarters habitable... and still find time for an occasional night out.

2 Bolivia

2.1 Southern District

Country: Bolivia

Year: 2011

Director: Juan Carlos Valdivia

La Paz's Zona Sur neighborhood is Bolivia's most exclusive enclave and has housed the country's affluent elite for generations. In an adobe-tile-roofed castle, a statuesque matriarch reigns over her spoiled offspring and indigenous servants. But social change, however unwelcome, is on its way. The scent of impending decline permeates the air, and the threat of shifting aristocratic privilege heralds a new era in a seemingly interminable class war.

2.2 Sealed Cargo

Country: Bolivia

Year: 2015

With a promotion in his future and his beautiful wife at his side, things couldn't be better for ambitious policeman Hector Mariscal. Before he can enjoy the good life, a final, top-secret assignment must be carried out: to transport-by rail-a highly toxic cargo across Bolivia's high desert backcountry and "dispose" of it in a remote indigenous village. With kind engineer Klinger guiding his beloved steam locomotive Federica, and presented with a crew of hapless cops and an unexpected young stowaway, Mariscal finds that there's much more on the line than he imagined.

2.3 Women of the Mine

Country: Bolivia

Year: 2014 Directors: Loreley Unamuno, Malena Bystrowicz

Portraits of three women who live and work in the infamous mines of El Cerro Rico in Bolivia. Work inside the mines has been limited to men, while the women are forced to work outside searching for mineral scraps on the side of the mountain. The film highlights the women's strength, determination and resilience in the face of struggle and hardship.

3 Brazil

3.1 The Year My Parents Went on Vacation

Country: Brazil

Director: Cao Hamburger

Set in 1970 in Bom Retiro, a neighborhood of the city of São Paulo (Brazil) inhabited mainly by Jewish Brazilians, *The Year My Parents Went on Vacation* shows how the climate of political repression contrasted with the enthusiasm brought by the World Cup from the perspective of Mauro, a 12-years-old boy.

[Watch Trailer](#)

3.2 Four Days in September

Country: Brazil

Director: Bruno Barreto

Four Days in September tells the story of the kidnapping of the US Ambassador to Brazil by the MR-8, a leftist movement, during the military dictatorship.

[Watch Trailer](#)

3.3 The Second Mother

Country: Brazil

Year: 2015 Director: Anna Muylaert

An excitingly fresh take on some classic themes and ideas, *THE SECOND MOTHER* centers around Val, a hard-working live-in housekeeper in modern day São Paulo. Val is perfectly content to take care of every one of her wealthy employers' needs, from cooking and cleaning to being a surrogate mother to their teenage son, who she has raised since he was a toddler. But when Val's estranged daughter Jessica suddenly shows up the unspoken but intrinsic class barriers that exist within the home are thrown into disarray. Jessica is smart, confident, and ambitious, and refuses to accept the upstairs/downstairs dynamic, testing relationships and loyalties and forcing everyone to reconsider what family really means.

3.4 Aquarius

Country: Brazil

Historical Period: Contemporary

Director: Kleber Mendonça Filho

Clara, a vibrant former music critic, avid swimmer, grandmother, cancer survivor, willing lover and widow with flowing tresses, is the only remaining apartment owner in a beautiful older building targeted for demolition by ruthless luxury high-rise developers. As the builders' tactics to remove Clara become increasingly hostile, Clara proves to be a force to be reckoned with.

3.5 Tropicália

Country: Brazil

Year: 2012

Director: Marcelo Machado

In this colorful documentary, director Marcelo Machado takes the audience on a sensory tour into the history of one of Brazil's most iconic cultural movements, Tropicalism. In an affectionate panorama, built up from a miscellany of references, interviews, material dug from archives, images and, of course, music, the viewer travels through the fertile, controversial and violent years of the late 60's that created a movement and musical style that would remain beloved for years to come.

3.6 The Day That Lasted 21 Years

Country: Brazil

Year: 2012 Director: Camilo Tavares

Forty-five years after the 1964 Brazilian coup d'etat, top Secret CIA and White House telegrams reveal how U.S. Ambassador Lincoln Gordon propped up the longest military dictatorships of South America, with the support of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

3.7 The Death of Pinochet

Country: Chile

Year: 2011

Directors: Bettina Perut, Iván Osnovikoff

On December 10, 2006, General Pinochet died unexpectedly. His death reawakened the political divisions that marked Chile's recent history. This documentary exposes the people's reactions during the first 24 hours, constructing an intimate and surprising portrait of Chilean society.

3.8 Xingu

Country: Brazil

Year: 2011

Director: Cao Hamburger

In the '40s, three brothers decide to live a great adventure and enlist in the Roncador-Xingu Expedition, which has a mission to tame the Central Brazil. The Villas Boas brothers: Orlando, 27, Claudius, 25, and Leonardo, 23, engage in a fantastic and incredible saga. Soon start to lead the expedition that opens new paths 1,500 km, navigates over 1,000 miles of unspoilt rivers, opens 19 airfields for airplanes Army, gives rise to the creation of 43 towns and 14 make contact with wild Indian tribes, unknown, as the Xavante, courageous and feared warriors, no casualties on both sides. This adventure allows the Villas Boas brothers the creation of the Xingu National Park, the first major Amerindian reservation in Brazil, the size of Belgium, transforming them into true contemporary heroes.

3.9 Schools in Fight

Country: Brazil

Year: 2018

Directors: Eduardo Consonni, Rodrigo T. Marques, Tiago Tambelli

In one of the richest and most conservative states of Brazil, public education suffers a setback when high school students react to an official decree that determines the closure of 94 schools. Using social media as their main tool, students organize the occupation of 241 schools. Through interviews and cameras operated by them, the film offers an unprecedented glimpse into the birth and growth of a peaceful movement that ultimately succeeded in maintaining the schools open.

3.10 O Prólogo

Country: Brazil

Year: 2014

Director: Gabriel Marinho

Brazil, 1961. The unexpected resign of conservative president Janio Quadros brings a man linked to the left party to occupy his place. A group of entrepreneurs and military create an Institute to warn the population

about the dangers of Communism in Brazil. To make the message spread in such a large country, they choose the most popular media at the time: cinema.

3.11 The Edge of Democracy

Country: Brazil

Year:2019

Director: Petra Costa

A cautionary tale for these times of democracy in crisis - the personal and political fuse to explore one of the most dramatic periods in Brazilian history. Combining unprecedented access to leaders past and present, including Presidents Dilma Rousseff and Lula da Silva, with accounts of her own family's complex past, filmmaker Petra Costa witnesses their rise and fall and the tragically polarized nation that remains.

4 Chile

4.1 Machuca

Country: Chile

Director: Andrés Wood

Starting in the period right before the military coup of 1973 in Chile, Machuca tells the story of Gonzalo and Pedro and how their friendship gets tested by the political turmoil.

[Watch Trailer](#)

4.2 Post Mortem

Country: Chile

Director: Pablo Larraín

The story of a civil servant who works as a transcription clerk in a hospital morgue in Santiago. Mario is not interested much in politics, but the coup in Chile will bring politics into his life.

[Watch Trailer](#)

4.3 No

Country: Chile

Director: Pablo Larrain

This movie tells the story of the campaign for the "No" in the plebiscite of 1988 that ended Pinochet's rule in Chile. It is the last of a trilogy of movies about the dictatorship in Chile by the same director. The other movies that comprise the trilogy are: "Post Mortem" and "Tony Manero".

[Watch Trailer](#)

4.4 Tony Manero

Country: Chile

Director: Pablo Larrain

As Augusto Pinochet holds Chile in the grip of dictatorship, a fifty year old man obsessed with John Travolta's character from Saturday Night Fever imitates his idol each weekend in a small bar on the outskirts of Santiago. A stinging allegory for the corruption and egomania of Augusto Pinochet.

4.5 Post-Mortem

Country: Chile

Director: Pablo Larrain

The second part of director Pablo Larrain's celebrated trilogy about Chile during the dictatorial reign of Augusto Pinochet, POST MORTEM is a "grim, intense, mordantly comic little film" (A.O. Scott, New York Times) about a civil servant transformed by the 1973 military coup. Mario (Alfredo Castro, Tony Manero) is an unassuming state employee who transcribes notes during autopsies. Furtive and lonely, he becomes obsessed with his neighbor, the dancehall girl Nancy (Antonia Zegers), who is involved with a group of left-wing activists. With the coup, and the death of President Salvador Allende, Nancy's friends are hunted down, and Mario's hospital becomes clogged with the bodies of dissenters. Soon the violence filters into Mario's psyche, and he begins to break down, much like his country.

5 Colombia

5.1 Embrace of the Serpent

Country: Colombia

Director: Ciro Guerra

In the early 1900s, a young shaman (Nilbio Torres) in the Colombian Amazon helps a sick German explorer (Jan Bijvoet) and his local guide (Miguel Dionisio Ramos) search for a rare healing plant.

6 Ecuador

6.1 The Facilitator

Country: Ecuador

Year: 2014

Directors: Victor Arregui

A political thriller about human rights, *The Facilitator* is one of the most successful films to come out of Ecuador in the last few years. When Miguel, a successful businessman, learns he is ill, he asks his estranged daughter Elena to come back to Ecuador. She agrees, but maintains a cold and distant relationship with him, opting to spend most of her time with friends using drugs and alcohol. After a close call with the law, Miguel sends her to spend some time with her grandfather at the family's estate. In this nostalgic house that brings up so many memories and nightmares, Elena meets her childhood friend Galo, who now promotes water access rights for the indigenous community. Elena is compelled by their way of life and gets involved with the political organization of the community. When her nightmares intensify, Elena starts digging behind the reports of the car accident that supposedly killed her mother. Elena will gradually understand that among family secrets, crimes, corruption, and dark perversions, commitment and beauty can emerge.

6.2 The Death of Jaime Roldós

Country: Ecuador

Year: 2013

Directors: Lisandra Rivera, Manolo Sarmiento

Ecuador was shaken in 1981 by the suspicious death of President Jaime Roldos and his wife. The film examines the conspiracy generated by his human rights advocacy, and the drama of his three children, faced

with the manipulated image of their parents by a populist party created by their own family.

7 Paraguay

7.1 Seven Boxes

Country: Paraguay

Year: 2012

Victor dreams of becoming famous and covets a fancy TV set in the infamous Mercado 4. He receives an unusual offer to deliver seven boxes with unknown contents in exchange for a quick \$100. With a borrowed cell phone the contractor uses to tell him the way, Victor embarks on the journey to deliver the mysterious boxes within the sprawling Byzantine maze of a Paraguayan market. Crossing the eight blocks doesn't sound like much of a task, but things get complicated in the secretive and dark corridors of the market. There is something in those boxes that starts a high-speed wheelbarrow chase during Victor's delivery, and he gets roped into a crime he knows nothing of.

8 Peru

8.1 Living Without Water

Country: Peru

Year: 2016

What's it like to live without running water? In Peru's sprawling capital, Lima, this is the everyday reality for 1.5 million children and adults, forced to pay up to a week's salary for just one day's water. And the problem isn't confined to the capital, across the country, the shortage of water is putting lives in danger and provoking conflict, as it displaces communities and threatens their agricultural livelihoods. This film goes right to the heart of the water crisis - showing how society's poorest are caught in the middle of a struggle between business, climate change and international politics.

8.2 When Two Worlds Collide

Country: Peru

Directors: Heidi Brandenburg, Mathew Orzel

In this tense and immersive tour de force, audiences are taken directly into the line of fire between powerful, opposing Peruvian leaders who will stop at nothing to keep their respective goals intact. On the one side is President Alan Garcia, who, eager to enter the world stage, begins aggressively extracting oil, minerals, and gas from untouched indigenous Amazonian land. He is quickly met with fierce opposition from indigenous leader Alberto Pizango, whose impassioned speeches against Garcia's destructive actions prove a powerful rallying cry to throngs of his supporters. When Garcia continues to ignore their pleas, a tense war of words erupts into deadly violence.

9 Uruguay

9.1 The Candidate

Country: Uruguay

Year: 2016

A pitch-perfect political comedy that explores the creation of a political persona that is all form and no content. *THE CANDIDATE* tells the story of Martin, the son of a wealthy businessman, who starts prepping his candidacy for office. In order to distance himself from the reputation of his father, he decides to form a new party that speaks for the common man, and hires a team of PR hotshots to craft his new image.

9.2 The Pope's Toilet

Country: Uruguay

Year: 2007

It's 1988, and Melo, an Uruguayan town on the Brazilian border, awaits the visit of Pope John Paul II. 50,000 people are expected to attend, and the most humble locals believe that selling food and drink to the multitude will just about make them rich. Petty smuggler Beto thinks he has the best idea of all—he decides he will build a WC in front of his house and charge for its use. His efforts bring about unexpected consequences, and the final results will surprise everyone.

10 Venezuela

10.1 Bad Hair

Year: 2013

Country: Venezuela

Director: Mariana Rondon

Set in a housing complex of a working-class neighborhood in today's Caracas, this movie discusses growing up in Venezuela and aspects of racial, gender and class prejudice. The background of the story is the political climate and the policies promoted by Chavez's government.

[Watch Trailer](#)

10.2 El Amparo

Country: Colombia/Venezuela

Year: 2016

Based on actual events, this political drama tells the story of the 1988 Massacre of El Amparo. In the Venezuelan town of El Amparo, near the border of Colombia, a group of fishermen set off down the Aruca River. But only two men return, their friends shot down by the military, who claim they were clandestine guerrillas on a mission. The army soon arrives to claim the two survivors, held in the local jail, but they encounter an honorable policeman and fiercely loyal population who will do anything to protect the truth as the pressures to stick to the official story become overwhelming.

10.3 The Broken Country

Country: Venezuela

Year: 2018

Director: Melissa Silva Franco

This documentary plunges right into the epicenter of the current crisis in Venezuela through the voices of its true protagonists. THE BROKEN COUNTRY tells five intertwined stories showing how the citizens are making their way through the remains of a run-down government.

11 Multiple

11.1 Motorcycle Diaries

Country: Multiple

Director: Walter Saller Jr.

Road movie that starts in Argentina, passes through Chile, Bolivia and Peru. This is a movie about the journey of two young Argentinians in 1952. It displays the diversity of landscape and climate of South America and also discusses issues related to poverty and the economic use of natural resources. According to film critic A.O. Scott, this movie is "a lyrical exploration of the sensations and perceptions from which a political understanding of the world emerges."

[Watch Trailer](#)