

EL OBSERVADOR

Latin-American Films Premiere

Four-day festival opens Thursday

The first Portland Latin American Film Festival takes place Thursday, Sept. 20 through Sunday, Sept. 23 in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

The four-day festival features 10 narrative films, two documentaries and over 10 shorts from different countries including Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, México, Chile and the United States. All the films in the festival are Portland premieres.

Highlights include "Antonia" (2006), directed by Tata Amaral. The film tells the story of four black young women living on the outskirts of Sao Paulo who must fight to fulfill their dream of making a living from their music.

For their rap group "Antonia", they find a manager and begin to



The film 'Antonia' tells the story of a group of young women living on the outskirts of Sao Paulo who fight to make a living from their music.

perform in bars and at parties. But just as the dream seems to be coming true, their hopes are dashed by the daily events which accompany poverty, chauvinism and violence which threaten the group and jeopardize their friendship.

The festival also presents "El Benny" (2006), a Cuban film directed by Jorge Luis Sanchez. Cuba's candidate for the 79th Academy Awards portrays the life of Benny More, the greatest Cuban musician of all time, who changed the course of Latin music forever.

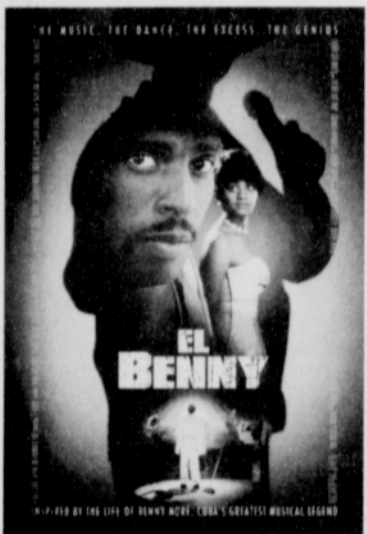
He arranged big band orchestras and combos from the music he heard in his head and felt in his soul without being able to read or write music. The excesses of his night life led this gifted, passionate and charismatic man to an untimely death.

Other highlights are "My Mexican Shiva," set in Polanco, a Jewish quarter of Mexico City, and spoken in Spanish, Yiddish and Hebrew; and "Las Manos" (The Hands), winner of the Best Spanish Language Foreign Film, Goya Awards

2007. The opening night gala is Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 S.W. Park Ave., co-sponsored by the NW Film Center. All other screenings take place at the Living Room Theatres, 341 S.W. 10th Ave.

For a complete list of films and schedules, visit pdxlaff.org.

The Portland Latin American Film Festival is a nonprofit group that wants to celebrate the diversity and spirit of the Hispanic community.



Dinner and Dance Auction

Educate Ya will hold their annual gala, the "Latino Education and Freedom Celebration" on Saturday, Sept. 22 at the Mississippi Ballroom, 833 N Shaver Street at Mississippi Avenue.

The event, hosted by Miss Latina USA Yalena Matos, will

kick off at 5 p.m. with a silent auction. Dinner will be catered by local restaurants Sinju, La Bonita, La Casita, and Porque No.

The night will include performances by local jazz musician Brian Quackenbush, flamenco guitarists Welly Silva, and fiery

Latin band Cuba Ache. Dancers Northwest, the official Belly Dancers for the Portland Marathon, will also be performing. Guests must be at least 21 years old.

Educate Ya is a Latino community based organization organized to empower the Latino community on a variety of levels.

Stamp Honors Early School Desegregation

Ruling came before Brown v. Board

(AP) -- A 1946 court ruling that helped pave the way for the nation's school desegregation is commemorated with a new U.S. postage stamp.

"This stamp captures the vision and inspiration of a group of parents who fought the odds to make a difference for all Americans," Thurgood Marshall Jr., a member of the U.S. Postal Service's board of governors.

The ruling, Mendez v. Westminster School District, opened the way for Mexican-American students to attend public schools in California.

And Marshall's father drew on

that decision in arguing the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka case in 1954 that desegregated schools across the country.

The 41-cent stamp marks the 60th anniversary of the Mendez decision and ceremonies on Friday marked the release of the stamp for the Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School in Santa Ana, Calif.

"My father often spoke of the importance of individuals working together to achieve great things," the younger Marshall said. "The Mendez, Estrada, Guzman, Palomino and Ramirez families certainly proved the power of a small group



A new 41-cent postage stamp commemorates the 1946 court decision, Mendez v. Westminster School District, which paved the way for Mexican-American students to attend public schools in California.

to overcome obstacles. Together, they took some of the first courageous steps on our nation's journey to win equality in education for Americans of every color."

The families charged that children of Mexican and Latino were

victims of unconstitutional discrimination by being forced to attend separate Mexican schools.

A federal court ruled in their favor in February 1946 and a higher court upheld that decision the following year.

New Money Scam Targets English Learners

The Better Business Bureau is warning members of the Hispanic community to be wary of new scams targeting those interested in learning English.

The Oregon Attorney General has filed a lawsuit against a California resident and four California corporations that allegedly targeted

Oregon's Hispanic community by engaging in unlawful trade practices while marketing an English language instruction course called "Ingles con Ritmo" (English with Rhythm).

The defendants targeted members of Oregon's Hispanic community by advertising "free" English-

language instruction courses entitled "Ingles con Ritmo" and later charged exorbitant shipping and handling fees. They're also accused of demanding additional payments for products that consumers never ordered or received.

Named in the lawsuit are the corporations Tono Records, Tono

Publishing, Promo Music and Millennium Three Corporation, and an individual Dulce Ugalde (aka Dulce Rickards).

To avoid becoming a victim of scams similar, the BBB recommends that you avoid claims offering "free products" that have exorbitant shipping and handling costs.

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