



The History Through Cinema



FILM
HOUSTON

Wed, March 27–
Wed, November 13, 2019

Venue

Institute of Hispanic Culture of
Houston, 3315 Sul Ross St.,
Houston, TX 77098

[View map](#)

Admission

Free

More information

[Institute of Hispanic Culture of
Houston](#)

Credits

Presented by Institute of Hispanic
Culture of Houston. Photo: Still
from *1898. Our Last Men in the
Philippines*, directed by Icíar Bollain

This new festival brings some of the best Latin American and Spanish films to Houston to explore the Hispanic-American history from the 15th century to the present.

The History Through Cinema is a new program featuring 16 current Latin American and Spanish films that explore Hispanic-American history from the 15th century to the present.

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, the audience will enjoy the screening of a film, including the following Spanish films:

QUEEN ISABELLA IN PERSON



- On Wednesday, March 27 at 6 pm.
- Directed by Rafael Gordon, Spain, 2000. [Watch a short clip.](#)



Queen Isabella of Castile reflects on her life, her political and social achievements and her struggle against loneliness. Isabella was aware of her obligations, she supported the initiatives of Christopher Columbus, signed important political treaties and married Fernando the Catholic, with whom she had a family life full of misfortunes, such as the death of two children and her daughter's madness. Isabel Ordaz is the only performer of this unusual film and the weight of the plot falls on her. The script examines every part of the life of the queen, a woman ahead of her time.

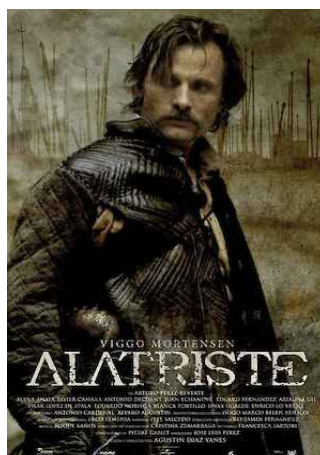
THE BROKEN CROWN



- On Wednesday, April 10 at 6 pm.
- Directed by Jordi Frades, Spain, 2016. [Watch trailer.](#)

At the turn of the 16th century, after the death of Isabel the Catholic in 1504, uncertainty began in which power struggles between Fernando el Católico and Felipe el Hermoso, whose main victim was Juana la Loca, daughter of Isabel and legitimate heir to the throne of Castile.

ALATRISTE



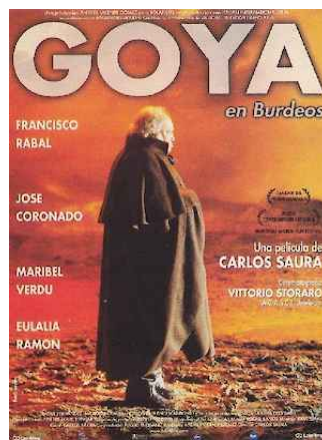
- On Wednesday, May 8 at 6 pm.



- Directed by Agustín Díaz Yanes, Spain, 2006. [Watch trailer.](#)

In 17th century Spain, Diego Alatríste, a brave soldier in the service of his majesty, fights in the Flanders war. In an ambush of the Dutch, Balboa, his friend and comrade-in-arms, falls mortally wounded and makes him a request that Alatríste promises to fulfill: take care of his son Íñigo and keep him away from the trade of arms. Later, Alatríste, who lives by renting his sword, is hired along with another mercenary, the Italian Gualterio Malatesta, to kill two mysterious characters who travel incognito to Madrid.

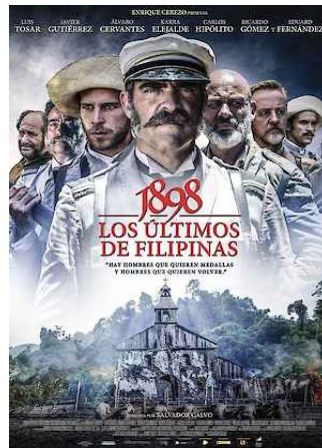
GOYA IN BORDEAUX



- **On Wednesday, June 26 at 6 pm.**
- Directed by Carlos Saura, Spain, 1999. [Watch trailer.](#)

Francisco Goya (1746-1828), deaf and ill, lives the last years of his life in voluntary exile in Bordeaux, a Liberal protesting the oppressive rule of Ferdinand VII. He's living with his much younger wife Leocadia and their daughter Rosario. He continues to paint at night, and in flashbacks stirred by conversations with his daughter, by awful headaches, and by the befuddlement of age, he relives key times in his life, particularly his relationship with the Duchess of Alba, his discovery of how he wanted to paint (insight provided by Velázquez's work), and his lifelong celebration of the imagination. Throughout, his reveries become tableaux of his paintings.

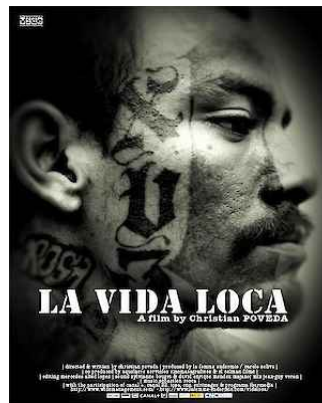
1898. OUR LAST MEN IN THE PHILIPPINES



- **On Wednesday, July 24 at 6 pm.**
- Directed by Salvador Calvo, Spain, 2016. [Watch trailer.](#)

At the end of the 19th century, in the Spanish colony of the Philippines, a Spanish detachment was besieged for 337 days by revolutionary Filipino insurgents in the town of Baler, on the Philippine island of Luzon. In December 1898, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris between Spain and the United States, the war between the two countries was formally ended and Spain ceded sovereignty over the Philippines to the United States. The besieged in Baler are known as “the last of the Philippines.”

LA VIDA LOCA



- **On Wednesday, October 9 at 6 pm.**
- Directed by Christian Poveda, Spain / EL Salvador / Mexico / France, 2008.

This documentary depicts the Mara 18 and, collaterally, on its bitter rival, the Mara Salvatrucha, gangs created from models that emerged in the city of Los Angeles and that sow terror in El Salvador. The story describes the origins of one of the probable founding myths of organized crime. Finally, as a tragic and chilling fact, its director, Christian Poveda, was killed by a



shot in the head in September 2009 by a member of the maras.

14 KILOMETRES



- On Wednesday, October 23 at 6 pm.
- Directed by Gerardo Olivares, Spain, 2007. [Watch trailer.](#)

14 Kilometres, the distance separating Africa from Europe, is a road movie depicting the hardships and challenges some people undertake in order to reach their dream destination, where they believe they can find paradise. The film follows the perilous journey of three characters across the Sahara to Morocco in order to cross the Straits of Gibraltar into Spain, as they attempt to reach the supposedly lavish lands of Europe where there is hope. This trio consists of a young girl, Violet, who lives in a village in Mali, escaping her arranged marriage to an old man; Buba, a mechanic and a skillful footballer, and his older brother Mukela from the neighbouring Niger, who suggests that he go to Europe to try his skills there.

EVEN THE RAIN



- On Wednesday, November 13 at 6 pm.
- Directed by Icíar Bollain, Spain / Mexico / France, 2010. [Watch trailer.](#)



Spanish director Sebastián, his executive producer Costa and all his crew are in Bolivia, in the Cochabamba area, to shoot a motion picture about Christopher Columbus, his first explorations and the way the Spaniards treated the Indians at the time. Costa has chosen this place because the budget of the film is tight and here he can hire supernumeraries, local actors and extras on the cheap. Things go more or less smoothly until a conflict erupts over the privatization of the water supply. The trouble is that one of the local actors, is a leading activist in the protest movement.