



# Consul...ting



## Mexican films at the Toronto International Film Festival

The 38th edition of the prestigious [Toronto International Film Festival](#) (TIFF), running from **Sept 5-15**, is presenting the following Mexican films: Club Sandwich, El Alcalde (The Mayor), Paraíso (Paradise) and Los Insólitos Peces Gato (The Amazing Catfish).

Club Sandwich, by Mexican filmmaker Fernando Eimbcke (Temporada de Patos, 2004), celebrates its world premiere as part of the Contemporary World Cinema programme, which also includes a lecture series by expert speakers on contemporary world issues.

Club Sandwich tells the story of Paloma and her 15-year-old son, who are close until he meets and falls in love with Jazmín. Paloma tries to stop the distance from growing between herself and her son until she accepts that he has grown up. The film will be shown on **September 14**.

The documentary El Alcalde (The Mayor), by Emiliano Altuna Fistolera, Carlos Federico Rossini and Diego Osorno, is about Mauricio Fernández, the mayor of San Pedro Garza García (North of Mexico). Screenings will be on **September 12, and 14**.



*The Mayor, directors Emiliano Altuna Fistolera, Carlos F. Rossini and Diego Osorno*

Directors Fernando Eimbcke and Carlos Federico Rossini are in Toronto to present their films' screenings thanks to support from the Consulate General and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Paraíso (Paradise), by Mariana Chenillo, is a romantic comedy about a couple trying to lose weight. **Screening: September 15**. Los Insólitos Peces Gato (The Amazing Catfish), by Claudia Sainte-Luce, is a personal comedy-



*Club Sandwich, director Fernando Eimbcke*



*The Amazing Catfish, director Claudia Sainte-Luce*

production entitled La Ultima Película, by directors Raya Martin and Mark Peranson, about Mayan mysticism and the last days before the end of the world.

The Wavelengths I programme of short films includes El Adiós Largo, a Mexico - USA co-production by Andrew Lampert, about the reconstruction of a story through film archives.

More information about the Toronto International Film Festival schedule can be found at: [www.tiff.net](http://www.tiff.net).



*La Ultima Película*

drama about a friendship between two women. **Screenings: September 13**.

The festival, which includes over 300 films, will also present the North American premiere of a Mexico-France-Peru co-production entitled El Mudo, by Peruvian directors Diego and Daniel Vega.

Part of the Contemporary World Cinema Programme, El Mudo tells the story of a judge who is nearly killed by a stray bullet, who decides to investigate his own case until he discovers who is behind it.

Another Mexican co-production celebrating its North American debut at TIFF is Kwaku Ananse, by Akosua Adoma Owusu (Ghana-Mexico-USA), which is an interpretation of a Ghanaian folktale.

TIFF will also present the world premiere of the Mexico-Canada-Denmark-Phillipines co-



*Paradise, director Mariana Chenillo*



*El Mudo, directors Diego and Daniel Vega*

## Mexico Pavilion at the Incentive Works trade show

Consul General Mauricio Toussaint, accompanied by the Minister of Tourism for Mexico City, Miguel Torruco, inaugurated the Mexico Pavilion at Incentive Works, a meeting and incentive travel trade show in Toronto. The event was attended by over two thousand specialized travel agents and more than 700 tourist service providers for international conferences, weddings and business meetings.

The pavilion was organized by the Mexico Tourism Board (MTB) in Toronto with the objective of promoting incentive travel to various Mexican destinations.

The ten Mexican exhibitors participating in the pavilion include destination management companies, inbound tour operators, and international logistics companies. The pavilion also presented the campaign "Live it to believe it" which is currently being promoted in the United States and Canada.

Also present at the inauguration were the director of the MTB in Canada, Rodrigo Espoñda, the trade commissioner for ProMexico in Toronto, César Bueno, local tour operators and media agencies.



*Consul General Mauricio Toussaint and Mexico City Minister of Tourism Miguel Torruco*

Mexico City was promoted as a cosmopolitan destination with a wealth of cultural and culinary sites. After London, Mexico City has the most museums of any city in the world, with 175. Mexico City is also one of the four best cities worldwide for eating well, along with Rome, Paris, and Tokyo, according to the Minister of Tourism, Miguel Torruco. Torruco



also noted that Mexico City receives 12.5 million tourists each year, of which 80% are Mexicans and 20% are from abroad, for the most part from the United States and Canada. Annually, tourism to Mexico City generates over 4 billion dollars.

The pavilion also highlighted the Los Cabos International Convention Centre, which can host events for up to 6,400 guests in three exhibition halls and seven convention halls. The centre also boasts the largest green wall in the world (2,700 m<sup>2</sup>).

## The Consul General meets with the Councillor of Milton

The Consul General Mauricio Toussaint met with the Councillor of Milton, Greg Nelson, who is pursuing his project to bungee jump from the Baluarte Bicentenario Bridge. The bridge, located on the Mazatlán-Durango highway, is the highest cable-stayed bridge in the world.

The purpose of the meeting was for Councillor Nelson to update the Consulate on the progress of his discussion with the government of the state of Durango concerning his project. Nelson said that he has scheduled the jump for February 2014. He will follow the same critical path as the base jumping group organized by the Go Fast Games 450 last May at the same bridge. Nelson is currently awaiting a response to his re-

quest for support from the Government of Sinaloa, the state which shares the border at the bridge.

Greg Nelson founded and directs a not-for-profit organization named the Gravity Gives Project. This organization has signed an agreement with the Mexico office of Save the Children so that all funds raised by the project will be given to Save the Children Mexico's programs.



## Recent Achievements of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Program

The Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Program (SAWP), which began in 1974, has changed and grown over the years. By May 2013, 6,314 workers had come to Ontario and 155 to Manitoba. By May 2003, most of them, 4,344, had come to Ontario and 105 to Manitoba, which indicates an increase of 45% for Ontario and 48% for Manitoba over a decade.

But the number of workers is not the only way that the program has changed. The Consulate's role has also expanded in the areas of worker protection and assistance with applying for pension benefits.

Workplace and hospital visits: One important way that the Consulate provides protection is to visit workers at the farms where they work and, when necessary, at the hospitals where they are cared for. From January to May 2003, there were 13 farm visits, while over the same period in 2013, there were 53 farm visits and 11 hospital visits, an in-

crease of 392%. At the visits, workers receive information about their rights and listen to a presentation explaining their insurance coverage and the pension plan that they contribute to. The workers are also offered a medical visit with an interpreter, among other services.

Assistance with pension benefits: Some SAWP workers qualify to receive a pension from the Canadian government when they retire, because of the time that they have worked in Canada. Between January and May 2003, the Consulate assisted with applications for 12 new retirement pensions, while between January and May 2013, the Consulate assisted with 42 such applications. Once the pensions have been processed, the Consulate General continues supporting workers by helping arrange for pension cheques to be sent to Mexico, requesting the reissuance of expired or lost cheques, and applying for the transfer of a pension to the workers' widow or children.

## Mexico at the Hot & Spicy Festival

The Mexican Chef Betty Vázquez won a notable second place in the Iron Chef competition at this year's Hot & Spicy Festival, held at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre from August 30 to September 2.

At the international competition, chef Vázquez made it to the second round after winning against Canadian chef Aaron Bear. In the final round, Vázquez lost to renowned chef Philip "Ippy" Aiona, from Hawaii. Vázquez prepared a traditional dish for the final round using typical Mexican ingredients: three moles garnished with plantains, raw cactus and chile-marinated camote salad.

Vázquez noted that the secret ingredient chosen by the judges, sauerkraut, was very difficult to incorporate in her dish. Chef Vázquez's participation in the competition, sponsored by the Consulate General, undoubtedly brought attention to Mexican culture and Mexico's culinary tradition, and made Vázquez a true promoter of Mexico.

The winners of the second annual Taco Takedown were: Best Overall



*Chef Betty Vázquez and Deputy Consul Santiago Mateos*

Taco: Chef Olivier Le Calvez (El Catrin Destileria); Most Authentic Taco: Indalecio Marroquin (Rebozos Mexican Restaurant); Most Original Taco: Arturo Anhalt (Milagro Cantina Mexicana).

Chef Vázquez also attracted wide coverage in the local media. She was interviewed on two major Canadian television networks, Global News and CTV, as well as on Radio Voces Latinas. On her trip to Toronto, chef Vázquez showed great enthusiasm and knowledge of her topic as she worked tirelessly to promote Mexican cuisine and tourist destinations around Mexico.

## Celebration of the anniversary of Mexican Independence

The Consul General of Mexico in Toronto, Mauricio Tous-saint will give the traditional Cry of Independence at the ceremony commemorating the 203rd anniversary of Mexican Independence.

The Consulate General and the Organizing Committee of the Fiestas Patrias (Patriotic Holidays) will hold the Independence day festival on Saturday **September 14**, from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m., in Nathan Philips Square (Toronto City Hall).

At exactly 6:00 p.m., the official ceremony of the Cry of Independence will begin with the singing of the Mexican national anthem.

Festivities will also include folkloric music, mariachis, Mexican rock music and tradi-

tional dances.

There will also be snacks and Mexican crafts for sale.

Following the annual tradition, the day will include a Mexican regional costume contest. Registration for adults and children will be at the Consulate General's stand between 12 and 3 p.m., and prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

The Consulate General's stand will provide information on how to renew a passport or obtain a Consular identification card, civil registry documents and powers of attorney.

Representatives from the Toronto offices of ProMexico and the Mexico Tourism Board will also be at the event with information on their activities.



## Mexican Pavilion at the Folklorama Festival 2013

The Mexican community in Manitoba recently participated in the 2013 Folklorama Festival. The event is described as the largest and longest multicultural festival in the world. The Mexican Pavilion opened its doors to 15,000 spectators, who enjoyed performances by the Ballet Folklórico El Mazatleco del Cetus 127, La Quebradita Compañía de Danza y Acrobacia Cardoso, and the local group "Little Faces of Mexico."

This week-long event

was made possible thanks to volunteer coordination by members of the board of directors of Mex Y Can

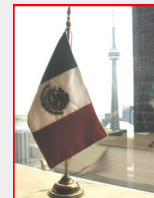
Association of Manitoba Inc, Araceli Rios Nowicki and René García. The Mexican Pavilion, which received wide coverage in the media, included a cultural display featuring Maya replicas created in Manitoba. The replicas were invited to be exhibited at the University of Texas.



### USEFUL LINKS

- Visas and consular services: [consulmex.com](http://consulmex.com)
- Mexican Embassy in Canada
- Secretary of Foreign Affairs: [sre.gob.mx](http://sre.gob.mx)
- ProMexico: [promexico.gob.mx](http://promexico.gob.mx)
- Mexico Tourism Board: [visitmexico.com](http://visitmexico.com)

[www.consulmex.com](http://www.consulmex.com)



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