

Películas en español y documentales

Several of the movies listed below are not rated (NR) although an attempt was made to exclude inappropriate films. Parent advisory is included when available. **Please view with parental permission.**

(SLCL) = St. Louis County Library, (NFS) = Netflix Streaming

El Abuelo (The Grandfather) (SLCL)

Rated PG, 146 minutes, Spain 1998

An elderly man returns to Spain after visiting the US during the Gold Rush and losing his fortune. He returns because his son has died leaving two daughters, and the son has left a note stating that one of the two is a bastard child. The grandfather hopes to find out which is his true granddaughter.

Bananas!* (NFS)

2009, NR, 87 minutes

Nicaraguan laborers are paying a high price to get cheap bananas onto the world's tables, and Southern California personal injury lawyer Juan Dominguez has decided to do something about it. This film tells his story. Director Fredrik Gertten follows Dominguez as he takes on corporate giants Dole Food and Dow Chemical on behalf of 10,000 banana workers made ill by a pesticide used in Nicaraguan plantations years after it was banned in the States.

El Bola (NFS, SLCL)

2000, NR, 87 minutes, Spain

Twelve-year-old Pablo (Juan Jose Ballesta) is stuck in a deeply abusive home ruled by his tyrannical father when he meets a new classmate, Alfredo (Pablo Galan), who befriends Pablo and introduces him to a kinder, gentler version of family life. That life is personified by Alfredo's fun-loving Bohemian father, Jose (Alberto Jimenez). Writer-director Acheró Manas's poignant film won more than 30 international awards, including four Spanish Goyas.

Bombón: El Perro (SLCL)

NR, 97 min - Drama - 23 September 2004 (Argentina)

Life has not been a bed of roses for 52-year-old Juan 'Coco' Villegas. Juan has been a gas station attendant for twenty years in Patagonia and finds himself jobless overnight. One day though, after fixing a vehicle on a farm, he gets paid, not with money, but with a beautiful Argentinian watch-dog. From this blessed day on, things start looking up.

Buena Vista Social Club (SLCL)

DOCUMENTARY (Various countries-1999), 105 minutes, G

Aging Cuban musicians whose talents had been virtually forgotten following Castro's takeover of Cuba, are brought out of retirement by Ry Cooder, who travelled to Havana in order to bring the musicians together, resulting in triumphant performances of extraordinary music, and resurrecting the musicians' careers.

Calle 54 (SLCL)

DOCUMENTARY (Various countries-2000), 106 minutes. G

Fernando Trueba presents his love affair with Latin jazz, his camera following 13 giants into the studio. Trueba drapes walls with single colors - red for Jerry González and the Fort Apache band, white for Tito Puente; his camera is close to faces, instruments, hands, and feet; bands' colors contrast with walls or their leader's clothes. Chucho Valdés does a pyrotechnic solo then joins his aged father Bebo for a subdued duet. Puntilla Ríos takes us to Africa, Chano Domínguez to a marriage of jazz and Flamenco, and Eliane Elias, her shoe-less foot on the pedal, to gorgeous and muscular elegance. With Paquito, Cachao, Patato, Chico, Gato, and Michel Camilo, we travel Calle 54.

Carol's Journey (*El Viaje De Carol*) (NFS)

2004 , 100 minutes, NR

The Spanish Civil War unfolds through the eyes of a child in Imanol Uribe's sensitive coming-of-age drama. Uprooted from her home in New York, 12-year-old Carol (Clara Lago) travels to her mother's native village in Spain. Separated from her adored father, she struggles to adjust to her foreign new life. But through her relationships with her grandfather, a teacher and a local boy, she gains perspective on her situation in a nation divided.

A Class Apart (SLCL)

PBS Home Video (2009) NR – 60 mins.

In the small town of Edna, Texas, in 1951, field hand Pete Hernández killed a tenant farmer after exchanging words in a cantina. From this murder emerged a landmark civil rights case that would change the lives and legal standing of ten of millions of Americans. Tells the story of an underdog band of Mexican American lawyers who took their case all the way to the Supreme Court, where they challenged Jim Crow-style discrimination against Mexican Americans. Lawyers forged a daring legal strategy, arguing that Mexican Americans were "a class apart" from a legal system that recognized only blacks and whites.

De nadie: Border Crossing (SLCL)

2005, Documentary, 80 minutes, NR

Prepárese para dejarlo todo atrás desde Sur y Centro America viajando solo con un vago sentido de dirección y el eco de su familia aún en sus oídos. Prepárese para enfrentarse a la intimidación, corrupción y el peligro en México que eventualmente encontrará en 1,300 millas al norte al tratar de cruzar la frontera y llegar a Estados Unidos = Follow one man as he leaves behind everything in Central America. With little sense of direction and only his family's memories as company, he faces the dangers in Mexico and tries to cross into freedom and the United States

Donkey X (*Donkey Xote*) (NFS, SLCL)

2007 , 87 minutes, animated, PG

Don Quixote's (voiced by José Luis Gil) true story is revealed through the legendary donkey of Castile: Rucio (Luis Posada), who is owned by Sancho Panza (Andreu Buenafuente). Mischief, acts of bravery and adventure abound when Rucio and Don Quixote challenge the Half Moon Knight. Meanwhile, a desire for the stunningly gorgeous Dulcinea (Sonia Ferrer) is revealed. Miguel de Cervantes's classic tale gets the animated treatment.

Even the Rain (*También la Lluvia*) (NFS)

2010 102 minutes, NR

In this provocative film-within-a-film, a director heads to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to shoot a movie about the trespasses of Christopher Columbus in the New World, only to find the locals protesting present-day exploitation of the poor.

Gringuito (SLCL)

100 min - 9 April 1998 (Chile)

Ivan is eight years old and loves New York, but his parents have decided to move back to Chile. His mother is pregnant, and so he is about to lose his privileged status as an only child. His unhappiness in Chile is compounded when everyone starts calling him "Gringuito" or little Gringo. He opts to run away and fend for himself on the streets of Santiago.

Live-in Maid (*Cama Adentro*) (NFS, SLCL)

2004 86 minutes, Argentina, NR

Winner of a Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, this film tells the story of Beba, a spoiled member of the Argentinean upper middle class, and Dora, the maid who's worked for her more than 30 years. When Beba's wealth begins to fade, the relationship between the two women undergoes subtle and not-so-subtle changes, amplifying the cataclysmic transformation occurring in Argentinean society. Norma Aleandro and Norma Argentina star.

The Maid (*La Nana*) (SLCL)

95 min - Drama - 17 July 2009 (Poland) , NR

The story of how a maid called Raquel, who has worked for over 20 years in one affluent Chilean household, rediscovers herself. La Nana is a microcosm of Latin social hierarchy while also focusing on one woman's journey to free herself from a mental servitude of her own making

Machuca (SLCL)

121 min - Biography | Drama - 11 June 2004 (Spain)

Explores Chile's bloody 1973 coup through the coming-of-age story of a pair of 12-year-old boys. From opposite extremes of society, Gonzalo and Pedro form an unlikely friendship as politics rip their world apart."

El Mar Adentro (*The Sea Inside*) Spain 2004 (SLCL)

Rated PG-13 for intense depiction of mature thematic material., 2004, 125 minutes

Ramón Sampedro wants to end his life because a diving accident 28 years before turned him into a quadriplegic. For most of those years he made the most of it: writing, developing a close relationships with his family, who all help to care for him. While grateful to his family and friends for their help, Ramón was always an active person. He has come to see his life as frustrating and pointless and wishes to die with what remains of his dignity. Gené is a friend who works with a "Right to Die" organization who introduces Ramón to Julia, a lawyer he hopes will help him persuade the courts to let him end his own life. As Ramón and Julia work together on his case, Ramón finds himself falling in love with his attorney, but Ramón remains convinced that the greatest gift to himself would be an end to his life.

El matador (SLCL)

2008, NR, Spain, 75 min (make sure you are checking out the right film – the library has two films called “The Matador.”)

Documents David Fandila's three-year journey across Spain and Latin America in his quest to become the top-ranked bullfighter in the world.

Me Too (*Yo, También*) (SLCL)

2009, Spain, 103 minutes

Daniel is the first European with Down's syndrome to graduate from a university. He starts a social services job as an office worker and embarks on a romance with Laura, a neurotic but 'normal' co-worker, drawing the attention of both their co-workers and families. But these rebellious souls refuse to give in to the rules as they find friendship and love as they've never known.

The Other Side of Immigration (NFS, SLCL)

2009 NR, 55 minutes, Documentary

Contemporary immigration issues between the United States and Mexico receive careful study in this documentary, which uses extensive interviews to outline the experiences and perspectives of ordinary citizens in the Mexican countryside. In examining the economic factors prompting Mexicans to seek work in the United States and the social pressures that result, the film presents an affecting look at a complex political and moral issue.

Pelada (NFS)

2009, NR, 91 minutes, U.S., Documentary

Two Americans who love soccer but didn't make it in the pros travel to 25 different countries, where they find people of all backgrounds, races and classes who play the game for the sheer joy of it, regardless of their surroundings or equipment.

Real: The Movie (NFS, SLCL)

2009, NR, 91 minutes

Real game footage is interwoven into a collection of five connected tales that pay homage to Real Madrid, Spain's unparalleled soccer club. Set in various countries, the stories include those of a quiet schoolteacher (Javier Albala) who tries to understand Real's most ardent fans, and a jealous boyfriend (Keiichirou Sakaki) whose lover is obsessed with David Beckham. The action-packed footage features Beckham, Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and others.

Road to the Big Leagues (*Rumbo a Las Grandes Ligas*) (NFS, SLCL)

2008, NR, 52 minutes

Filmmaker Jared Goodman looks at what makes the Dominican Republic a hot training ground for baseball superstars such as homegrown heroes David Ortiz, Vladimir Guerrero and others. On this small Caribbean island, United States Major League Baseball is more than a pastime; it is the pipe dream of many boys and an escape from brutal poverty. This winning documentary spotlights those dreams and this nation's baseball obsession.

Thieves (*Ladrones*) (SLCL)

124 min - 2007 (Spain)

After spending his childhood in an orphanage, Alex is starting a new life as an adult. But it only takes him a few days to remember what his mother taught him before vanishing: how to make a life as a pickpocket. Sara is a college student with a happy life, who occasionally commits petty theft. The morning Alex discovers Sara stealing in a supermarket, his life changes.

La Tragedia de Macario (SLCL)

2005, NR, 75 minutes

Writer, director, editor **Pablo Véliz** brought this immigrant story to Sundance 2006 for its world premiere. In the title role, **Rogelio Ramos** is drawn to the U.S. to find a better life for his wife in this Spanish language film. Joined by his best friend, the two set out on the dangerous journey undertaken by so many each year. Véliz's insight is the desperation that drives them and the spirituality that sustains them as they risk their lives.

Under the Same Moon (*La Misma Luna*) (NFS, SLCL)

2007 PG-13 110 minutes

In this tale illuminating the plight of illegal aliens, Kate del Castillo plays Rosario, a woman working illegally in the United States to provide a better life for her son Carlitos (Adrian Alonso), who remains at home in Mexico. Longing for his mother, Carlitos stows away on a van that's headed for the border. But an already treacherous journey becomes even more so when Carlitos is separated from his smugglers (Jesse Garcia and America Ferrera).

The Violin (*El Violín*) (NFS, SLCL)

2005, NR, 98 minutes

Don Plautarco (Ángel Tavira), his son Genaro (Gerardo Taracena) and grandson Lucio (Mario Garibaldi) earn a living as traveling musicians while also smuggling weapons to rebels fighting the country's oppressive regime. But when they return home to find their town occupied by the army and the residents forced into hiding, they make a bold play to recover the ammunition the troops have seized. Francisco Vargas directs.

Viva Cuba (NFS)

2005, NR, 79 minutes

In this Cuban coming-of-age charmer, preteens Jorgito (Miló Ávila) and Malú (Tarrau Broche) have formed a deep bond, so when they learn Malú's divorced mother plans to remarry and leave the country, taking Malú with her, the two friends go on a quest to prevent their separation. Leaving Havana and traveling on foot and by any available vehicle, the children try to reach Malú's father before he signs papers permitting her to emigrate.

Walkout (SLCL)

2006, NR, 111 minutes - Originally broadcast as a made-for-TV movie on HBO.

The inspiring true story of the 1968 East LA student walkout, where one courageous young woman and thousands of followers stood up against academic prejudices and forever changed their world.

When the Moors ruled in Europe (SLCL)

2005, British television documentary, 101 minutes

A look at the rise and fall of Islamic culture in what is now Spain and Portugal, the ingenious mathematics behind Granada's Alhambra Palace, and a trace of El Cid's lineage to his Moorish roots through interviews with noted scholars.

When the Mountains Tremble (SLCL)

83 min - Documentary - October 1983 (USA) (2004 20th Anniversary Special Edition)

Chronicles the astonishing, true story of Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú, who is a Quiché Indian woman, as she stood up for her people and helped wage a rebellion in the wake of seemingly unconquerable oppression. Shot at the height of the heated battle between the heavily-armed Guatemalan Military and the nearly defenseless Mayan population.

Which Way Home (NFS, SLCL)

DOCUMENTARY (U. S.-2009), 83 minutes, NR

"Which Way Home" is a feature documentary film that follows unaccompanied child migrants, on their journey through Mexico, as they try to reach the United States. We follow children like Olga and Freddy, nine-year old Hondurans, who are desperately trying to reach their parents in the US.; children like Jose, a ten-year old El Salvadoran, who has been abandoned by smugglers and ends up alone in a Mexican detention center; and Kevin, a canny, streetwise fourteen-year old Honduran, whose mother hopes that he will reach the U.S. and send money back to her. These are stories of hope and courage, disappointment and sorrow. They are the children you never hear about; the invisible ones.