

CENTER OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

AMAZON JOURNAL October 28

60 min., 1995. Going beyond the strict documentation of social and political events, Geoffrey O'Connor's Amazon Journal offers a critical, first person analysis of the complex web of misunderstanding that has distanced semi-isolated indigenous societies and Western European populations for centuries.

Some of the other landmark stories woven through this documentary include the impact of a gold rush and ensuing malaria epidemic on the Yanomami Indians between 1987 and 1990, the historic gathering of Indigenous People at Altamira in 1989, Sting's quest to "save the rain forest," the assassination of Chico Mendes, the demarcation of Kayapo lands, the UN's "Earth Summit" in 1992, and the events surrounding the massacre of Yanomami Indians in 1993. The result is a unique, densely crafted personnel essay exploring a dimension of the rain forest story previously untouched by any



SEÑORITA EXTRAVIADA November 4

74 min., 2001. Someone is killing the young women of Juárez, Mexico. Since 1993, over 270 young women have been raped and murdered in a chillingly consistent and brazen manner. Authorities ignore pleas for justice from the victims' families and the crimes go unpunished. Most disturbingly, evidence of government complicity remains investigated as the killings continue to this day. Crafting a film that is both a poetic meditation and a mystery, Lourdes Portillo's *Señorita Extraviada* is a haunting investigation into an unspeakable crime wave amid the disorders and corruption of one of the biggest border towns in the world.

ZAPATISTA November 11

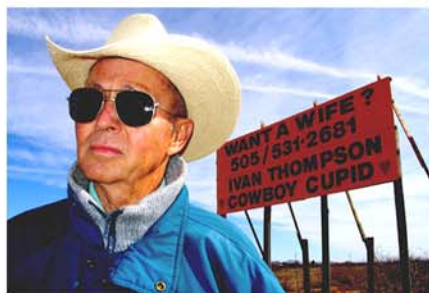
56 min., 1998. January 1, 1994. The North American Free Trade Agreement has just become law. During the night, a small band of Indian rebels rises up in the state of Chiapas demanding local autonomy. In the summer of 1996, three students from the US and Europe make their way deep in the Lacandon jungle to join and document the ongoing rebellion. Combining the raw intensity of footage from the front lines with a hip digital aesthetic, *Zapatista* is the definitive look at the uprising in Chiapas. It is the story of how a few thousand Mayan peasants have transformed the political culture of Mexico.



COWBOY DEL AMOR November 18

86 min., 2005. *Cowboy del Amor* is a documentary comedy about a cowboy-turned-matchmaker who can't manage his own love life. It follows self-proclaimed "Cowboy Cupid" Ivan Thompson, as he finds Mexican brides for disillusioned American men searching for the perfect wife. His clients include Rick, an ex-marine long-distance truck driver, and Lee, a hopeful 70-year-old Vietnam Veteran. They willingly pay \$3,000 for a 600-mile bus ride into the heart of Mexico in a search for true love. For wise-cracking Ivan, love knows no borders.

Filmmaker Michèle Ohayon (Academy Award Nominee 1997 for *Colors Straight UP*) brings an authentic and humorous look at life and love on both sides of the Mexican/US border. Her experienced eye follows this colorful Texan master of humor, as he attempts to lasso hungry hearts into successful marriage matches.



**All films are on Wednesday nights at 7pm in Wescoe 4012
Admission is free and open to the public.**

FALL 2009 DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

For more information contact the Center at latamst@ku.edu or (785) 864-4213