



BURLINGTON FILM SOCIETY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oscar-nominated Foreign Film *Embrace of the Serpent* Presented in March at Main Street Landing Film House

Burlington, VT: (March 15, 2016) Main Street Landing, The Burlington Film Society (BFS), the Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF) are pleased to present an exclusive Vermont theatrical screening of Oscar-nominated, award-winning Colombian film, *Embrace of the Serpent* on Thursday, March 31st at 7pm. Screenings take place at The Main Street Landing Film House, 60 Lake Street in Burlington. The screening is free for VTIFF Members, \$8 general admission, \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at:

<http://vtiffembraceoftheserpent.brownpapertickets.com/>

To learn more about VTIFF Membership and benefits, please visit <http://vtiff.org/membership>.

About the film:

Embrace of the Serpent

Directed by Ciro Guerra

Colombia | Spanish/Portuguese/German/Catalan/Latin w/ English Subtitles | 2015 | 125 min

2016 Academy Award® Nominee – Best Foreign Language Film
2015 Cannes Film Festival – Directors’ Fortnight – Winner – CIACE Art Cinema Award
2015 Toronto International Film Festival – Official Selection
2015 AFI FEST – Official Selection
2015 Mar Del Plata International Film Festival – Winner – Golden Astor
2015 Macondo Awards (Colombian Academy Awards) – Winner – Eight awards including Best Film
2016 Film Independent Spirit Awards – Nominee – Best International Film
2016 Sundance Film Festival – Official Selection

At once blistering and poetic, the ravages of colonialism cast a dark shadow over the South American landscape in *Embrace of the Serpent*, the third feature by Ciro Guerra. Filmed in stunning black-and-white, Serpent centers on Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman and the last survivor of his people, and the two scientists who, over the course of 40 years, build a friendship with him. The film was inspired by the real-life journals of two explorers (Theodor Koch-Grünberg and Richard Evans Schultes) who traveled through the Colombian Amazon during the last century in search of the sacred and difficult-to-find psychedelic Yaktuna plant.

About the filmmaker:

Ciro Guerra was born on Río de Oro (Cesar, Colombia) in 1981 and studied film and television at the National University of Colombia. At the age of 21, after directing four multi-award-winning short films, he wrote and directed *La Sombra Del Caminante (The Wandering Shadows)*, his feature directorial debut, which won awards at the San Sebastian, Toulouse, Mar de Plata, Trieste, Havana, Quito, Cartagena, Santiago, and Warsaw film festivals, and was selected for 60 more, including Tribeca, Locarno, Seoul, Pesaro, Seattle, Hamburg, Kolkata, Rio de Janeiro, Istanbul, and Guadalajara.

His second feature film, *Los Viajes Del Viento (The Wind Journeys)*, was part of the Official Selection – Un Certain Regard of the Cannes Film Festival in 2009. It was released in 17 countries and selected by 90 festivals, including Toronto, Rotterdam, San Sebastián, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, and London, receiving different awards in Cannes, Santa Bárbara, Málaga, Santiago, Bogotá, and Cartagena. It was recently selected in a national critic’s poll as one of the 10 most important Colombian films. All of Guerra’s feature films to date have been chosen to represent Colombia in the Academy Awards®.

Main Street Landing is an environmentally and socially conscious redevelopment company in Burlington, Vermont that has created over 250,000 square feet of built environment on the Burlington Waterfront. The Film House, located at 60 Lake Street is used primarily for film screenings and presentations. It is equipped with a large screen that covers west facing windows, control room, Dolby surround sound, retractable screen, and smart podium and can fit up to 220 people. More information at www.mainstreetlanding.com.

The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF) is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community through film, celebrating 30 years, 1985-2015. VTIFF is a year-round organization that showcases community film screenings, hosts film series like the Global Roots Series, and supports Vermont filmmakers. The largest program of the Foundation is the annual Vermont International Film Festival. The festival is best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont and for the Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase™, the largest juried selection of Vermont-made films. More information at www.vtiff.org.

The Burlington Film Society (BFS) is a resource for local film events, meet-ups and an advocacy platform for cinema. The mission of the Film Society is to cultivate film culture in the greater Burlington area through the creation of an organizational mechanism for cineastes; by working with area theaters, arts presenters, granting organizations, educational institutions, and businesses to generate opportunities for theatrical screenings of films; and by increasing opportunity for engagement with and appreciation of cinema. For more information about The Burlington Film Society, visit www.vtiff.org/bfs.

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