

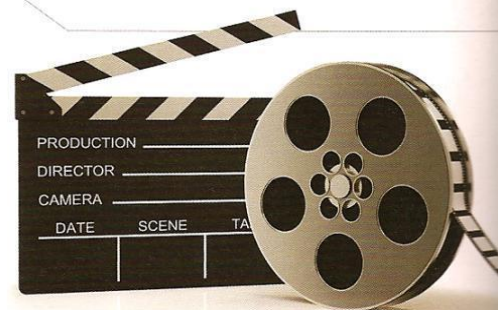
One professor's quest to bring Ibero-American cinema to Denver

"Argentineans express profound universal truths in simple anecdotes. It gives their storytelling tremendous impact," says **Andrés Lema-Hincapié**, assistant professor of contemporary Spanish-American literatures and cultures. He is working to integrate films from Ibero-America, countries in the Americas that were formerly colonies of Spain or Portugal, into this year's Starz Denver Film Festival.

Such films are noticeably absent at events across the United States, says Lema-Hincapié. When he broached the idea to **Howie Movshovitz**, the Starz Film Center's education director, he was told to start small. Supported by the Department of Modern

Languages, Lema-Hincapié coordinated the university's first Ibero-American Film Series last fall, screening four Argentinean films and drawing student audiences who may otherwise never have such exposure to that culture. The series continued through the spring.

Lema-Hincapié says Argentina's thriving cinema makes its films powerful candidates for November's film festival. In both his native Colombia and the United States, he suggests, audiences without choices cannot appreciate the cultural nuances of different regions. Films from Spain, for instance, could offer audiences a deeper understanding of that single country's complexities. He is excited about making his case to the incoming executive director of



the Starz Denver Film Festival through his acquaintance with Movshovitz.

Lema-Hincapié believes it would be inspirational to bring Argentinean filmmakers, actors and critics to speak with audiences in Denver. This ambitious project may take time, but he's begun to lay the groundwork.