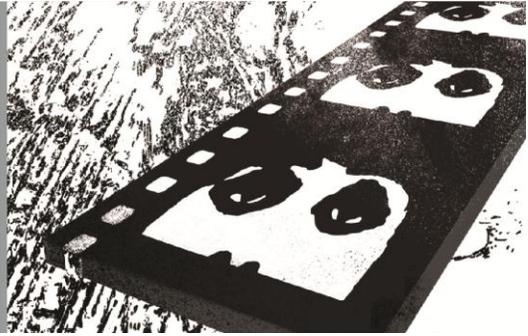


# 48th Chicago International Film Festival

October 11–25, 2012



Cinema/Chicago and the 48<sup>th</sup> Chicago International Film Festival

Education Outreach Program Screening: *La Playa D.C.*

Director: Juan Andres Arango Garcia

90 minutes, unrated, in Spanish with English subtitles

**Synopsis:** Tomás, an Afro-Colombian teenager driven from his home by war, settles with his brothers in the section of Bogota known as “La Playa.” Working as a barber’s apprentice, Tomás is just beginning to find a place for himself when his younger brother Jairo disappears. Tomás must make a risk-filled journey in search of Jairo, a rite of passage that forces him to find, and earn, his own identity in this impressive, wonderfully energetic debut film.

**Recommended for:** humanities, cultural and social studies, Spanish students, film and video students

**Appropriate for:** all high school students (this film contains some adult language and themes)

1. The film makes several references to an ongoing war in Colombia. What are the roots of the conflict and what is happening there today? How does the larger conflict relate to the story of Tomás?
2. Tomás and his brothers have fled from their home on the country's western seaboard, driven out by the civil war which claimed the life of their father and are now on the tough streets of Bogota. How does this change of community change the brothers?
3. Trust is a major theme in the film – whether it’s between family, friends or coworkers. In what ways do the characters in the film either establish or betray one another’s trust?
4. How have you formed trusting relationships in your life? Have you or others broken that trust and what was the outcome?
5. Tomás and his brothers each find different ways to escape their traumatic past. What are these ways and what do they reveal about the different characters?
6. Tomás finds a creative outlet and a way to express himself through intricate hair designs. How do you express yourself and why is that expression important to you?
7. There are issues of racial discrimination toward the Afro-Colombian community (a minority group that makes up just 10% of Colombia’s population) brought up in the film. Research the history of this specific discrimination. How does what you learned relate to the story of Tomás.
8. The film takes place in Bogota, Colombia. How is Bogota different than Chicago and how is it similar?
9. Tomás connects his roots to present day styles and culture through his hair design. What do you have in your life (music, food, activities) that connects you to your past?
10. How does Tomás change from the start of the film to the end? How is this film a “coming-of-age” story?

**Useful Links and Resources:**

Trailer for the film: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swIB3Usv6DQ>

Film review: <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/review/la-playa-dc-cannes-review-330069>

Official site information: [http://www.docandfilm.com/pdf\\_press/2012\\_05\\_LaPlaya\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.docandfilm.com/pdf_press/2012_05_LaPlaya_Flyer.pdf)

Information about Cinema/Chicago's Education Outreach Program:

<http://cinemachicago.org/education/>

**Schools that do not send in essay requirement will not be allowed to attend future Education Outreach Screenings.**