

ARTISTS SPACE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TV SANDINO

VIDEO EXHIBITION at Artists Space
223 West Broadway, NYC
Free Admission

February 5 through March 14, 1987

Opening Reception: February 5, 1987 6 - 8pm



Artists Space is pleased to present TV Sandino, a program of television shows and independently produced videotapes from Nicaragua. This timely program, curated by Annie Goldson and Carlos Pavam of Xchange TV, provides a unique and fascinating glimpse at a broadcast television system that still retains an experimental aspect.

The complete program will be shown twice each day, at 11:00am and again at 2:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

-- Aqui En Esta Esquina (Here On This Corner), 30 minutes (exerpted), produced by Sistema Sandinista de Television, 1983 (Spanish with English subtitles).

-- Con Guerra o Sin Guerra (With or Without War), 20 minutes, produced by Martha Wallner and Miriam Loaisiga, 1987 (Spanish with English subtitles).

-- Golpes de la Corazon (Blows of the Heart), 30 minutes (exerpted), produced by Sistema Sandinista de Television, 1983 (Spanish with English subtitles).

-- La Virgen Que Suda (The Sweating Virgin), 15 minutes (exerpted), produced by Sistema Sandinista de Television, 1983 (Spanish with English subtitles).

-- Nieve (Snow), 15 minutes (exerpted), produced by the Ministry of the Interior, 1986 (Spanish with English subtitles).

-- Operacion de Oro (Operation Gold), 20 minutes (exerpted), produced by the Ministry of the Interior, 1985 (Spanish with English subtitles).

-- plus a sampling of news programs, public service announcements and more.

"...the jovial emcee is truly a facilitator and not an emissary of an unseen totalizing power. Because of this, he is capable of conveying more warmth in one phrase than all the skillfully crafted hosts on North American TV can generate in a week of programming."

--from "Watching Aqui en Esta Esquina," by Joel Kovel

Today, with all the mention of Nicaragua on US television, few North Americans have been exposed to programming by Nicaragua. Yet, like many Third World viewers, Nicaraguans were raised on North American television. Under Somoza, Nicaragua produced approximately 30 minutes of programming a day -- most of it concerning Somoza himself -- the rest was imported from the U.S. Today, Nicaragua produces 5 to 6 hours of its own programming each day, including a healthy portion of independently produced work.

Steeped in Yanqui culture for more than a century, Nicaraguans have grown accustomed to, and still derive pleasure from the forms of 'mass' media which dominated

them for so long. The Sistema Sandinista de Television has continued to use these forms, only now beginning to alter and rework them, emphasising education, a reclamation of their own history and culture, an investigation of social attitudes, and of course, the overriding presence of the U.S.-backed Contra war.

Witness then Blows of the Heart, a tragi-comic marital conflict between Justo Perfecto -- the politically correct, although sexist, bad guy -- and Rosabelle, his independently minded wife. This Brechtian skit features Lolita, a journalist who is investigating love "because love was what began our struggle in the first place." With or Without War also speaks to the changing relations between men and women in the new Nicaragua. Using both documentary-style interviews and melodramatic skits, this tape weaves together a complex of social and historical issues with a surprising economy of form.

Then there is Here in this Corner, a travelling game show that offers a little money and lots of applause for the competitors who dance, arm wrestle, and struggle with quiz show questions (When was the genocidal National Guard overthrown in your town?).

The Sweating Virgin uses a true story to demonstrate the uneasy relationship between the Sandinista Government, the U.S. and certain factions of the Catholic Church. A statue of the Virgin Mary begins to sweat, allegedly as a warning of God's displeasure with the Sandinistas.

From the Ministry of the Interior come two police dramas, Operation Gold and Snow, both based on true stories of gold smuggling and a Contra/U.S. attempt to implicate the Sandinistas in cocaine dealing.

The program is rounded out with a variety of clips from the daily broadcast menu: Public Service Announcements asking you to save electricity, gas and water; news programs, etc., all providing a picture of the development of a truly mass media in a country in the midst of wide ranging social changes.

Annie Goldson, formerly a journalist in New Zealand, is currently an independent video producer and teacher living in New York City. Her most recent production, Las Mujeres del Mercado, was made in collaboration with a group of Nicaraguan women.

Carlos Pavam has worked as a journalist for Brazilian radio and is currently producing his own videotape on the movement to provide sanctuary for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees.

Xchange TV is a New York based group of media workers who distribute Nicaraguan-made television in the U.S.

Xchange TV received a grant from Art Matters, Inc. to assist in the organization of TV Sandino.

Artists Space Video Program is supported in part with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

ARTISTS SPACE activities are made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; New York State Council on the Arts; Institute of Museum Services; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Art Matters, Inc., Cowles Family Charitable Trust, Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, Inc., Jerome Foundation, Leonhardt Foundation, Betty Parsons Foundation, The Reed Foundation, Inc., Mark Rothko Foundation; the American Express Company, Consolidated Edison, Equitable Real Estate Group, Inc., EXXON, R.H. Macy Company, Mobil Foundation, Inc., Morgan Guaranty Trust of New York and Philip Morris, as well as numerous Friends.