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34th FICMDQ- Featured Retrospective Nina Menkes

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Without ensuring that this is a definitive selection, and guided by either the background of the filmmaker, the theme or the references of other festivals here is our list of outstanding films of the **Nina Menkes Retrospective** of the **34th Mar del Plata International Film Festival**, surely not the last. The texts of the reviews of the Official Catalog of the Festival have been extracted. Jorge Cappelloni.

The order of the titles is carried out considering the date of the first exhibition at the festival. The day, time and room of the projections are detailed.

Queen of Diamonds by **Nina Menkes** (USA, 1991.77')

Firdaus is a young blackjack croupier in whose daily life the alienation of that nightmare city that is Las Vegas is condensed. Immersed in a devastating world, between the incessant noise of the machines, the violence that floats in the air and the tedium of their work nights, Firdaus is caught in a claustrophobic repetition, although at times the mundane seems to begin to crack before his eyes and those of the spectators. With a rigorous composition work, Menkes paints the portrait of a universe as bleak as the desert landscape. Described by its director as "an emotional, minimalist, post-pop radiography of the United States," Queen of Diamonds is a film of an anguishing strangeness.

Cinema room 2 - 11 Nov 20: 15hs and 15 Nov 17: 00hs

Magdalena Viraga by **Nina Menkes** (USA, 1986 - 90', 16 MM).

Magdalena Viraga tells the story of a woman crushed by a patriarchal world: a prostitute accused of murdering one of her clients. Ida goes from one prison to another: from the monotonous and desperate sexual encounters in hotels of bad death to the walls of the prison. Ida is the protagonist of an inner journey: a tortuous path marked by sacrifice and blood, in which, in the end, there may be something like a liberation. The first feature film by Nina Menkes is also a declaration of principles: a poetic, rigorous and uncomfortable story, in which feminism implies not only a taking of position but also a profound transformation in the way in which cinema deals with the violence of the world.

Teatro Colón – 12 Nov 18:30hs, 13 Nov 12:30 hs y 17 Nov. 12:30hs

Phantom Love de **Nina Menkes** (EE.UU.,2008,87',B&N – 35 MM)

Filmada en 35mm, en un blanco y negro etéreo que la tiñe de la atmósfera de un cine de otros tiempos, Phantom Love narra el viaje interior de una mujer que intenta conjurar a sus fantasmas. En el mundo de Lulu, el sexo está alejado del placer, los días se suceden en un trabajo sin sentido, y la familia puede transformarse en un cuento de terror. Menkes construye un universo audiovisual en el que lo real y lo imaginario se entremezclan hasta volverse indiscernibles; un drama surrealista signado por lo siniestro, ese sentimiento que nace del extrañamiento de lo cotidiano. Con más de un punto de contacto con el imaginario de David Lynch, aunque desde una óptica personal

y feminista, Phantom Love es una película hecha de esas imágenes que nos acechan en los sueños.

Teatro Colón – 12 Nov 21:30hs, 15 Nov 18:30 hs y 18 Nov. 21:30hs (función gratis)-

Salas: Cine Ambassador, Córdoba 1673, Teatro Auditorium – Sala Astor Piazzolla, Blvd. Marítimo Peralta Ramos 2280- ,Cinema Los Gallegos Shopping, Rivadavia 3050 – Cines del Paseo, Diagonal Pueyrredón 3058, Museo Mar, Av. Felix U. Camet y López de Gomara, – Teatro Colón, Hipólito Yrigoyen 1665 .

Otras sedes y actividades: Complejo de Arte Sala Melany San Luis 1750 – Plazoleta de las Provincias, Blvd. Marítimo Peralta Ramos 2099-2199. – Microcine, Gran Hotel Dorá, Buenos Aires 1841, Sala Gregorio Nachman, Teatro Auditorium, Bvd. Marítimo Peralta Ramos 2280, Teatríz Club, Diagonal Pueyrredón 3338, Tronador Concert by Campari, Bvd. Marítimo Peralta Ramos 3143.

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