We are pleased to welcome you to the Spring 2005 University of Texas Brazilian Film Series. We will feature films from one of the largest film industries in Latin America, and a golden opportunity to enjoy Brazilian cinema, from classics to contemporary works. This year, each movie will be preceded by music videos, concerts and music documentaries presented by Michael Crockett, owner of Caravan Music and host of Horizontes on KUT radio.

**Friday, January 28**

Durval Discos (Durval Records)
Comedy/drama, 97 mins., 8:00 p.m.
Directed by Anna Muylaert, 2002
Cast: Ary Franca, Etty Fraser, Marisa Orth, Isabela Guasco

Durval and his mother, Carmita, share a humdrum existence in the back of Durval’s old-fashioned vinyl record store. One day, Durval decides to hire a housemaid to help his mother around the house. The unconventional Celia brings a breath of fresh air into their lives. But the day after starting work she disappears, leaving behind a five-year-old girl, Kiki, and a note saying she’ll be back in two days. Durval and Carmita are completely won over by the child but soon discover the sad truth behind Celia and Kiki on the TV’s nightly news program. From here on the flip side of the film begins, and the plot now revolves around police officers, agony, and liberation. **MORE**
Friday, February 11
Deus é Brasileiro (God is Brazilian)
Comedy, 110 mins., 8:00 p.m.
Directed by Carlos Diegues, 2002
Cast: Antônio Fagundes, Wagner Moura, Paloma Duarte

Tired of the mistakes made by humans, God decides to take a vacation on a distant star - but first, He has to find a saint who can rule the universe while He's away. He decides to look for that person in Brazil, a very religious country that doesn’t have an official saint yet. His guide on this search is Taoca, a fisherman who sees his encounter with God as an opportunity to free himself of personal problems. Together, they travel through Brazil searching for the ideal substitute. MORE

Monday, February 21
Brava Gente Brasileira (Brave New Land)
Drama, 104 mins. 8:00 p.m.
Directed by Lucia Murat, 2000
Cast: Diogo Infante, Floriano Peixoto, Luciana Rigueira, Leonardo Villar

The story takes place in the Mato Grosso Pantanal in 1778. A group of soldiers is escorting Diogo, an astronomer, naturalist, and cartographer from Portugal who has come to help map the frontier between Brazil and Paraguay, which is claimed by both Portugal and Spain. On their way to Coimbra Fort, they find a group of Guaiacurú women swimming, and the soldiers rape them. Three characters stand out: Pedro, who leads the group and is particularly ferocious; Diogo, who will have to confront his “enlightened” education to the harsh reality of the colony; and Antônio, who carries a secret map to silver mines. They end up slaughtering most of the women, taking one woman and a little white boy who was kidnapped by the Indians on to the fort. In Coimbra, where the commander lives with a converted Indian woman from another tribe, the conflicts grow. The film examines these relationships, which ultimately represent the conflict between two worlds and the creation of a third one, where the beliefs of both sides begin to disintegrate. MORE

Monday, February 28
O Primeiro Dia (The First Day)
Drama, 76 mins., 8:00 p.m.
Directed by Daniela Thomas and Walter Salles, 1999
Cast: Fernanda Torres, Luiz Carlos Vasconcelos, Matheus Natchergaele

The fate of João, a prisoner in Rio de Janeiro, never would have crossed paths with that of Maria, who lives isolated in her apartment. But on December 31, 1999, João escapes from prison, and Maria wanders through the streets of the city, deserted by her husband. João is chased through the favelas of Copacabana as the countdown for the New Year starts and the first fireworks can be seen in the sky. Without any hope, Maria goes to the roof of her building, the same place where João is hiding. It is in that space between heaven and earth, in the utopia of a unique night, that a divided city embraces and miracles come true. It is the beginning of the first day. MORE

Friday, March 25
Uma Onda no Ar (Radio Favela)
Drama, 92 mins., 8:00 p.m.
Directed by Helvécio Ratton, 2002
Cast: Alexandre Moreno, Babu Santana, Adolfo Moura, Benjamin Abras

This film is inspired by the true story of a community radio station started in the 80s. Jorge and his friends have an opinion on every issue affecting the slum that they live in, especially when it comes to racism in Brazil. They create "Radio Favela" to serve as the voice of the people. While playing the sounds of Brazilian hip-hop, soul, and funk, they also mix in criticisms of the government, reports of people in need, and police alerts. However, their social sound bites don’t please everyone, and an illegal set-up could silence their revolutionary voice. MORE

The Brazilian Film Series at the University of Texas at Austin is sponsored by Cine las Americas, Caravan Music, the Brazil Center of LLILAS, the Departments of
Spanish and Portuguese, History, and Radio-TV-Film, and the College of Liberal Arts.

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