



Bolivia José Sánchez-H.

Hollywood productions dominated Bolivian cinemas once again in 2011. Local digital productions increased in quantity but not necessarily quality. Bolivian audiences remain less than enthusiastic about them, preferring mainstream fare from North America.

During the first six months of 2011, around ten films by young directors were released in cinemas and to an unresponsive public. Martin Bouloq's **The Old People** (*Los viejos*) is based on Rodrigo Hasbún's 'Carretera'. Shot in the state of Tarija with a screenplay written by Bouloq and Hasbún, the film tells the story of Toño, who returns home from exile to the uncles who raised him. The son of parents who disappeared during the country's military dictatorship, he is confronted with the reality that his adoptive father is old and seriously ill, and his high school sweetheart is now a single mother. This astute drama, which works well as a metaphor for the country's relationship with its past, is a successful collaboration between Bouloq and director Juan Carlos Valdivia, who produced it.



Martin Bouloq's **The Old People**

The most anticipated films of 2011 were directed by Jorge Sanjinés and Marcos Loayza. At the time of writing, neither film has yet to



Jorge Sanjinés' **Insurgent Bolivia**

be released. Last year marked 45 years since Sanjinés made his first feature, *That's The Way It Is*, which won the Great Young Directors Award at the Cannes Film Festival. Considered Bolivia's most influential director, Sanjinés returns after seven years with **Insurgent Bolivia** (*Bolivia Insurgente*). A period film based on extraordinary indigenous figures who have been ignored by mainstream Bolivian history, Sanjinés apparently blends history and fiction with a script that features numerous protagonists, opening with the rebellion against Spanish rule in 1781 by an indigenous leader known as Tupac Katari. *Insurgent Bolivia* was shot in the states of Beni, Cochabamba, Oruro, Santa Cruz, and Tarija, and moves between that early uprising and more recent events in 2010.

Marcos Loayza's **Sleeping Beauties** (*Las bellas durmientes*) is a comedy about a policeman named Quispe who is asked to investigate a horrendous crime that took place in Santa Cruz. In his investigation, he uncovers information he wishes he didn't know about his colleagues and himself. Quispe is played by Luigi Antezana, who stars alongside twenty models, including Santa Cruz's carnival queen, Andrea Aliaga, and Miss Bolivia 2011, Yessica Mouton.



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Marcos Loayza's *Sleeping Beauties*

New productions are appearing on the horizon, despite harsh economic conditions. The current trend appears to be collaborations between filmmakers, which may reap both creative and economic dividends. Co-productions also remain a viable way of funding, as is the continued financial support of such international organisations as Ibermedia.

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