

Anida y El Circo Flotante

A young artist lives on a traveling floating circus and possesses a magnificent power: she can peer into an individual's future through the art of palm reading. However, Anida also bears a great curse: she is unable to remember her past. An impossible love and the dream of freedom, power, and adventure will allow Anida to forge her own path in life and discover a secret that allows this story to conclude like the very best of fairy tales.

Themes: freedom; survival; courage

Director: Liliana Romero (2016)

Official film website: <http://www.anidayelcircoflotante.com/>



SET THE STAGE | THOUGHT-STARTERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Unlike Mexico and South American countries such as Peru and Ecuador, Argentina has fewer native people and a large population, which came from Europe. The population is comprised as much as 95% of people of European descent, mostly from Italy, Spain, and Germany. Much of the native population died from diseases brought in by Europeans.

Modern Argentine culture has been largely influenced by Italian, Spanish and other European immigration, although there are some elements of indigenous and African influences, particularly in the fields of music and art. Nearly half of the population lives in the area around Buenos Aires. Buenos Aires has been called the "Paris of South America" and is the country's cultural capital, largely characterized by both the prevalence of

people of European descent, and of conscious imitation of European styles in architecture. Tango, the dance, the music, and its lyrics, are Argentina's cultural symbol.

The world's first [animated feature films](#) were made and released in Argentina, by cartoonist [Quirino Cristiani](#), in 1917 and 1918.

WORDS TO KNOW

- **Fortune teller:** a person who is supposedly able to predict a person's future by palmistry, using a crystal ball, or similar methods.
- **Circus:** a traveling company of acrobats, trained animals, and clowns that gives performances, typically in a large tent, in a series of different places.
- **Labyrinth:** an intricate combination of paths or passages in which it is difficult to find one's way or to reach the exit.

TALK ABOUT IT | DISCUSSION

- How is the animation in this film different from the styles you've seen in most movies produced today?
- Why does Madame Justine use the Labyrinth to control the circus performers?
- What is the source of Madame Justine's antipathy towards Anida?
- What comment is being made in this movie about what it is to be human?
- What is the significance of the silent film and its star El Galán to both Anida and Madame Justine?

GET CREATIVE | EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



MAKE CONNECTIONS | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

BOOKS

The Argentina Reader

Edited by Gabriela Nouzeilles and Graciela Montaldo

This diverse collection brings together songs, articles, comic strips, scholarly essays, poems, and short stories. Most pieces are by Argentines. More than forty of the texts have never before appeared in English. *The Argentina Reader* contains photographs from Argentina's National Archives and images of artwork by some of the country's most talented painters and sculptors. Many selections deal with the history of indigenous Argentines, workers, women, blacks, and other groups often ignored in descriptions of the country.

The Motorcycle Diaries

By Ernesto 'Che' Guevara

One of Argentina's most famous (or infamous) citizens was the revolutionary Che Guevara, who also wrote *The Motorcycle Diaries*, a memoir of his travels around Latin America. His travels were not limited exclusively to Argentina, but his tale begins in Buenos Aires and it details how the experience changed Guevara and helped transform him from the student doctor into the revolutionary that we know so well. He is moved by the injustices that he sees, especially poverty, and he gradually becomes a fighter for social change. The book is a great way to learn more about this famous Argentinian, and also offers descriptions and stories of Argentina and much of Latin America. The final chapter is particularly profound, revealing Guevara's deep and poignant musings on social problems in South America.

FILMS

Boy and the World

Directed by Alê Abreu

An amazing Brazilian animation that truly exemplifies the power of imagery and music as a combination that has more than enough to portray a powerful and deep message. It shows an adventurous quest that illustrates the issues of the modern world through the eyes of a child.

Legend Quest

The first animated Netflix original series produced in Latin America is coming to the streaming service Feb. 24, 2017. It's called *Legend Quest* (*Las Leyendas* in Spanish) and it's not just for kids. The show deftly weaves Mexican history and folklore with humor and a distinctly spooky touch à la *Scooby Doo*.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

<http://www.houseofargentina.com/>

Located in Balboa Park, the House of Argentina seeks to share, celebrate, educate, and promote the history of Argentina to San Diego and its visitors.

BEYOND THE FILM | RELATED INTERNET LINKS

<http://www.circusfederation.org/>

Preserving circus culture and promoting the art of happiness.