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On the 7th International Festival of the New Latin American Cinema

The service msg. This is lionel martin in hafana.. the following a tem is for Arts Report..attention Edward Trapunsky and Michael Crab. It is on the Latin American film festival which just ended it first week in Havana. I-ll begin:

This is the 7th International Festival of the New Latinamerican Cinema and like all the preceeding ones its being held here in Havana.

Most of the 400 films to be shown during the two week period have a political thrust -- some, especially the documentaries are overtly political with such themes as the fight against the dictatorship in Chile or the vicissitudes of the Nicaraguan revolution. Others, among them the full length films, show the nature and conflicts of Latin American society through fiction.

The festival is the only one in the world that opens its doors to all Latin American film makers, even those who use small video cameras. It purpose is to promote Latin American film in the world market where they are largely ignored.

There are two Canadian entries in the festival -- internestly enought, both about Nicaragua and definitely sympathetic to the Sandistista Cause

The presence hre of Robert Diniro last week and the secheduled visit of Jack Lemmon this week serve to add a bit of hype and prestige to the festivals image.

The pictures exhibited here so far show that Latin American film making is on the upsurge but the common complaint heard here is that the doors of Canada, the United States and other western nations are largely closed to Latin American films.

For the arts report I_m Lionel Martin in Havana

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