

Even the rain

The Spanish Club Tertulia hosts their second movie screening of the Spanish Film festival, which is taking place every Tuesday from Feb. 6 to

Mar. 6 in Dina's Place

Ellen Sullivan
Special to The Johnsonian

Winthrop Spanish Club's second movie of their Film Series, entitled "Even the Rain," or "Tambien la Lluvia," tells two stories; one tale was that of the hiring of Bolivian extras for a movie, and the other highlights the Bolivian struggles of nationwide low water supplies. This seemingly odd mix of storylines actually work simultaneously to perpetuate a theme of oppression over history.

A Mexican film crew hoping to create a movie about Christopher Columbus' tumultuous experience with the Native Americans surprisingly paralleled that of the Bolivian masses rebelling against their government. At first glance, the stories do not seem to correlate; as Bolivians struggle to find water, they are being hired as extras for a movie. However, both stories converge as the struggles between natives and Columbus mirrors that of the struggles between Bolivian citizens and their representatives. The natives of the exploration age are forced to find gold in order to survive. Similarly, the people of Bolivia are forced to find their own forms of water, like creating wells, that are in turn stolen by the government.

Eventually, each conflict reaches a breaking point. The natives eventually rebel Columbus' efforts, attempting to escape his oppressive grasps. Likewise, the Bolivian citizens attempt to take back their rights to water. As the natives are caught, and burned on a Christian cross, they stand in solidarity against the oppressive missionaries and explorers. Similarly, the people of Bolivia create a blockade city wide, and create a major protest. In the way that the natives were met with harsh punishment, the people of Bolivia were met with rubber bullets, tear gas, and in many cases, death.



Carmen Little/ The Johnsonian

Though not primarily obvious, there is structured parallelism throughout the film. In the way that water is a right to the Bolivians, life should have been a right to the natives massacred due to colonialism.

Instead of the many positive Spanish movies, like those in the Film Series, "Even the Rain" portrays a more serious theme, and exposes Winthrop students, community members, and Americans to the struggles that Native Americans faced years ago as well as the deadly occurrences in the modern world. Director Iciar Bollaín does a wonderful job of combining heartfelt dialogue, character development and social commentary. Thus, people are not discouraged by the oppression throughout history, they are instead inspired to change the way people in other countries are treated. The movie as a whole is educational, entertaining, and creates a new perspective: first world countries understand that something as necessary and vital as water can be stolen.

Though "Even the Rain" is a complex, well-planned movie, its central idea is that fundamental rights can, and have been, taken away from innocent people; oppressors can take "even the rain."