



How does the style of Latin American films affect the audience?

01 Work with a classmate. Look at the title of the podcast script and predict what it will be about. Write your notes.

02 Read “Is Latin America in Living Color?” and explain the connection between the title and the topic.

03 Read the podcast script again and answer the questions. Then, compare your answers with a classmate.

1. What themes are often addressed in Latin American films?

2. What is notable about the style?

3. What effect does it have on the audience?

Is Latin America in Living Color?

Host: I watched *Roma* on the weekend, and I have to say, while I enjoyed it, I noticed it was pretty different from other movies I’ve seen, so today, I’m joined by Professor Susana López, who teaches film studies and is here to talk about what makes Latin American cinema distinct. Welcome!

Prof. López: Thank you for inviting me. First and foremost, it’s true that Latin American cinema looks and feels different from Hollywood films. One crucial difference is the content. Historically, Latin American cinema was part of what’s known as “Third Cinema,” which focuses on social issues and inequality and uses films to **raise** awareness of concerns instead of pure entertainment.

Host: I have noticed that many, not all, Latin American films include these issues. Does the style feel different?

Prof. López: Latin American films, and others outside the Hollywood universe, tend to be **slower-paced**, leaving the audience time to reflect instead of being pulled along by the story. There’s also less dialogue and more silence, which can be uncomfortable but is a common **stylistic** tool. In addition, local **dialects** and locations are front and center, so a Colombian film will look and sound different than a Mexican film; however, the more Latin American films you watch, the easier they will become to identify.

Host: Let’s talk about the endings of Latin American films. Do they all end with no resolution to the central issue? It’s not very satisfying and very **anticlimactic**.

Prof. López: It can be frustrating, but remember that this film style is more realistic. Therefore, it’s complex, encouraging many filmmakers to **eschew** tidy endings and leave the story open to the audience’s interpretation.

Host: Thanks! This has inspired me to look for and enjoy the differences in Latin American films.



04 Work in a small group. Follow the instructions.

1. Individually find the trailer online for a Latin American movie you have seen or would like to see.
2. Take turns showing each other the trailers of the films.
3. As a group, decide which film you will watch and why.

05 Identify if the homograph used in each sentence is correct “C” or incorrect “I.” Correct the incorrect ones.

1. Latin American directors often highlight real social struggles, making there films more emotionally powerful than most Hollywood blockbusters.
2. The final shot lingered on the empty street, reinforcing the main character’s loneliness.
3. This film had a somber tone, so it wasn’t easy to here the dialogue.
4. Many Latin American films end without a complete plot resolution, leaving viewers with questions instead of easy answers.
5. The central row of the film was how the characters disagreed with each other.

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06 Work with a classmate and write a conversation about Latin American films using the other meanings of some of the homographs in Exercise 5.

07 Write a message to a friend recommending a Latin American film for them to see. Use five homographs in your message.

08 Work in a small group to create a Latin American film festival for your class. Follow the instructions.

1. Choose four iconic Latin American films to show.
2. Write synopses of the films’ stories and explain their importance in the history of Latin American cinema.
3. Share your ideas with the other groups.
4. Choose the four best films to show.
5. Plan a showing of the films in your class.

