

This film and dialogue series is part of the **Fox Tucson Theatre's Curious Conversations** program. It explores the U.S.-Mexico borderlands as a space of layered histories, cultural intersections, and creative possibilities using cinema as a springboard for civic dialogue, reflection, and community connection. Curated by **Vicky Westover** and **Carlos A. Gutiérrez**.

Fox Tucson Theatre, 17 W. Congress St. For tickets and information, visit [foxtucson.com](http://foxtucson.com)

Co-presenters:



# Cinematic

# Borderlands

Film and Dialogue

## Las Marthas

**Panel:** director/educator Cristina Ibarra; folklorist/educator Dr. Maribel Alvarez; documentary filmmaker/author/educator Jacob Bricca

Cristina Ibarra, USA, 2014, 68 min. In Spanish and English with English subtitles.

In 1939, the Society of Martha Washington was founded to usher each year's debutantes (called "Marthas") into proper society at the Colonial Pageant and Ball in Laredo, Texas. Celebrated as "a striking alternative portrait of border-town life" (*The New York Times*), the film follows two Mexican-American girls carrying this gilded tradition on their shoulders during a time of economic uncertainty and tension over immigration. Cristina Ibarra's landmark documentary, winner of the Cinema Tropical Award for Best U.S. Latinx Film offers an intimate exploration of identity, belonging, and the contradictions of heritage in a community shaped by both sides of the border.

Wednesday, October 8, 7pm

\$12



With director  
**Cristina Ibarra** in person!

## Sleep Dealer

**Panel:** Director/educator Alex Rivera; border journalist Melissa del Bosque; artist/educator David Taylor

Alex Rivera, USA/Mexico, 2008, 88 min. In Spanish and English with English subtitles.

*Sleep Dealer* is a groundbreaking cyberpunk thriller that reimagines the U.S./Mexico border in a near future where migration is digital rather than physical. Memo Cruz (Luis Fernando Peña), a young man from rural Mexico, dreams of a better life. But with borders sealed, the only way to "cross" is by plugging into a global network to remotely operate machines in America, sending labor without presence. A Sundance and Berlinale winner, the film blends sci-fi spectacle with urgent commentary on militarized borders, drone warfare, and outsourced labor. Visually striking and politically resonant, Rivera's visionary debut challenges who gets to be the hero—and which futures are worth fighting for.

Wednesday, October 15, 7pm

\$12



With director  
**Alex Rivera** in person!

## Take It Away

Adrian Alejandro Arredondo & Myrna Perez, USA, 2025 73 min. Spanish and English with English subtitles.

*Take It Away* vibrantly documents the rise of Tejano and Regional Mexican music through the story of Johnny Canales. As host of a nationally syndicated variety show, Canales introduced the U.S. and Mexico to future icons like Selena, Ramón Ayala, and Intocable—bringing borderland sounds into homes and onto the mainstream stage. Mixing archival footage with new interviews, the film charts his legacy alongside the genre's evolution from regional roots to international dominance, paving the way for stars like Peso Pluma and Grupo Frontera. Both tribute and critical reappraisal, it captures a pivotal era in Latin music history—when charisma, community, and sound collided to reshape the pop landscape.

Wednesday, October 22, 7pm

\$12



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