

'Diaries' balances intimate, epic

BY JACKY BRAMMER
STAFF WRITER

Most people only know Che Guevara from the tattoo on Mike Tyson's pectoral or, mistakenly, as a Rage Against The Machine band member.

Granted, Guevara and his involvement with communism are fairly well known.

However, to viewers' surprise, Walter Salles' powerful new film "The Motorcycle Diaries" is not about that aspect of the communist activist and revolutionary's life.

Instead, "Diaries" is a Spanish-language retelling of eight months in the '50s when Guevara and his best friend, Alberto Granado, traveled across South America with nothing but the clothes on their backs, some youthful idealism and charm. Forget Paris and Nicole — this is the real simple life.

The film lacks an overarching thread to pull the audience through its events other than this bare-bones synopsis, but this fact is a virtue rather than a drawback.

The story feels like screenwriter Jose Rivera was faithful to his source material, Guevara's memoirs, and did not try to artificially create dramatic situations. Although Guevara has a big family, the only communication he has with anyone back home is through periodic letters that are read as voiceovers.

These narrations are unnecessary, because Rivera lets the real story speak for itself. Salles can concen-

MOVIE REVIEW "THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES" ★★★★★

trate more on reality and bring out the humanity in the situations.

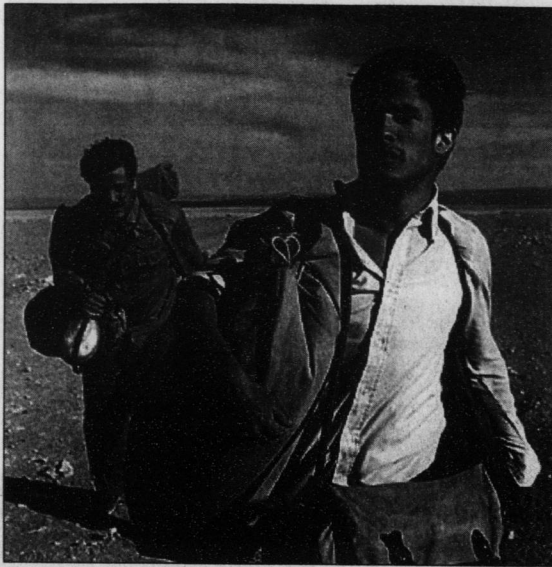
The movie feels long, but it's necessarily long. Salles fleshes out scenes that would warrant little attention in a biography. Certain scenes are extended beyond apparent necessity, shunning the en vogue quick cuts of MTV editing.

However, this helps to provide a grander scale for the production. Guevara and Granado's travels through South America become the audience's because they are there every second of the way — not quickly rushed away to the next scene. Salles' editorial tendency to give his characters and scenes breathing room also aids the film, deftly walking the line between comedy and drama.

Side-splitting moments often follow somber moments. Of particular note is the frighteningly genuine portrayal of an asthma attack and scenes involving lepers.

None of this would be possible without the stunningly beautiful on-location photography provided by Eric Gautier. There is no mistaking any of the scenery for Hollywood sets or backdrops. The travelers and the audience are experiencing the real South America.

Worth note is the supporting work of Rodrigo de la Serna and Mia Maestro. The sincerity and



RODRIGO DE LA SERNA (left) and Gael Garcia Bernal star as Alberto Granado and Che Guevara, respectively, in the terrain-tackling 'Motorcycle Diaries.'

chemistry between these actors and the entire cast is remarkable, especially across the English audience's language barrier.

Gael Garcia Bernal is a revelation as Che. In a just world, he would receive an Oscar nomination. He conveys the candid honesty and dedication of the young Guevara, shining as a character who is just looking for a purpose.

Salles' effective direction is again illustrated in his decision to splice black and white stills of the disaffected into Guevara's dreams. Unwittingly, he becomes concerned with the peasants he meets on the

trip. In an early scene, with characteristic bravado, Guevara narrates the joy he and Granado felt riding into towns on a motorcycle with people shooting frightened looks.

The scene shows the dualism in Guevara, who feels like a cowboy, like an outlaw. The effect is striking, as is the film. Guevara is both dashing and reckless in his journeyman's pursuit to make a difference.

If he only knew then what he would become.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

String-plucking 'Way' models inconsistency

BY KRISTEN WILLIAMS
SENIOR WRITER

It's been said that people can mellow with age, and the same can be true for bands — especially in the case of Acoustic Syndicate.

On its latest release, *Long Way Round*, the band stumbles, slumping from its last effort, the bubbly and bouncy *Terra Firma*.

Acoustic Syndicate's albums have a penchant for blending introspective lyrics with more narrative fare. The band's newest product continues the trend, but its lyrics are weaker than those on *Terra Firma*.

The title track starts off strong, its plucky banjo chords and humming ushering in a swirly jam of percussion and guitar. Twangy vocals from Steve McMurry fuse with undulating instruments, offering the familiar and quintessential Acoustic Syndicate style.

Even the lazy, bluesy lyrics evoke the band's persona: "I got up this morning/Took the long way round/Not too much upon my mind/Trying to slow it down."

But after "Long Way Round," the album seems to follow its title, lacking a consistent punch but spottily exhibiting skill on certain songs.

The second track, "Talk," fails to live up to the title song. It begins with a more driving and syncopated beat before segueing into a Marvin Gaye-lite criticism of society, then delving into a repetitive and annoying chorus: "Talk to your father/Talk to your mother."

The album remains in the territory of copycats with the narrative jam "The Blue Bird Train." The band evokes Marc Cohn (think "Walking in Memphis") with the plodding and pointless song.

The album finally starts to redeem itself in classic Acoustic Syndicate style with "They Come This Way."

The song, offering up a hyper banjo and catchier lyrics, is a welcome break from the album's monotony. The upbeat instrumentals contrast the song's lamenting lyrics: "We don't miss them till they're gone/Gone, then it's too late/But we can do better/We can love them while they're here."



MUSICREVIEW ACOUSTIC SYNDICATE LONG WAY ROUND ★★★


The song evokes the band's live show, as band members managed to do on *Terra Firma*, by highlighting a penchant for bluegrass. Moving seamlessly between the band's lilting harmonies and its driving underbeat, the track is a high point midway through a stagnant album.

The next track, "Carry the World," also seems as if it would fit comfortably on the group's previous album. The song's wailing chorus, jazzy banjo and mandolin — as well as its superior lyrics — seem ill-placed on an album the average listener could have tuned out after the first track.

But luckily for Acoustic Syndicate, the band has a pretty large local following, and fans won't tune out or hesitate to purchase the album or tickets for the next show.

While *Long Way Round* lacks the tenacity of the group's previous album, it still showcases the band's musicianship — albeit briefly.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.





PUTUMAYO Latinas
WOMEN OF LATIN AMERICA


Starring:
Totó La Minitosina,
Maritza Montalvo,
Beló Velasco

Specifics:
Tuesday, October 26th
Great Hall 8 pm

Show Info:
The music of Putumayo Latinas showcases the talents of three extraordinary Latin American women artists as they perform an exhilarating cross-section of contemporary and traditional Latin American music.

919.967.1449
www.putumayolatinas.com



Lunch	11-3
Dinner	5-10
Late Night Menu	10-2
Sunday Brunch	11-2

Burgers, nachos, wings & a smorgasbord of other things.

DRINK SPECIALS

- Margarita Monday \$3.00
- Tues - \$2 All Draft, \$2 Well Drinks
- Wed - \$4 Long Island Teas
- Thurs - \$2 Well Drinks
- Fri - \$2 Domestic Bottles
- Sat - \$1.75 Lite Bottles
- Sun - \$2 All Draft

Eat inside or if the weather outside is delightful, enjoy our spacious terrace.

Catch all the college and pro games on many of our TV's including the 62" tube.

Conveniently located in The Bank of America Building
137 E. Franklin St. 919-967-0909

T-SHIRTS • SWEATS • T-SHIRTS

The Printery

Licensed for UNC Trademark.

Fine Quality Screenprinting

1201 Raleigh Road • Suite 102 • Chapel Hill, NC 27517
(919) 942-4764 • (919) 942-7553
qualitees@mindspring.com

T-SHIRTS • SWEATS • T-SHIRTS

**Do you want to influence the future of technology?
This is the place to start.**

Department of Computer Science Open House

**Thursday, October 21st
5:00pm
Sitterson Hall**

Research and Technology Demos

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Learn why YOU should major in computer science

Free pizza!

For more information about a major in computer science, email csc@unc.edu



Domino's

The Pizza Delivery Experts

UNC Pizza Headquarters
412 E. Main Street, Carrboro
929.0246

\$7.77 Student Value Menu

1. Medium 1-Topping Pizza
2. Large Cheese Pizza
3. 2 Small Cheese Pizzas
4. Breadstix, Cinnastix & a 20 oz. drink
5. 1 Small 1-Topping Pizza & a 20 oz. drink

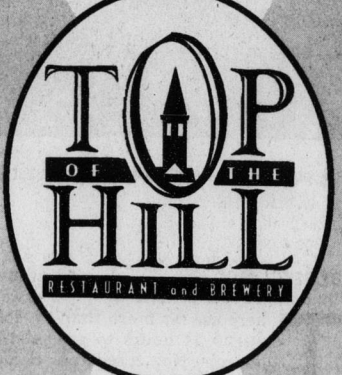
ROOMMATE SPECIAL
3 Small 1 Topping Pizzas & a 2 liter drink for \$13.99

We accept UNC One Cards
(Delivery on campus only)

Sides:	Coke:
Fresh Express Salad \$2.49	20-oz. bottle \$1.08
Cheesy Bread \$3.99	2-liter \$2.08
Cinnastix \$3.99	
Breadsticks \$3.99	
Buffalo Wings \$6.29	
Domino's Buffalo Chicken Kickers \$6.29	AVAILABLE NOW!

Events you can't miss!

TONIGHT
Thrill on the Hill Thursdays
\$5 Bartenders' Choice Cocktail
\$2 Imperial Pints (20oz) on Brewmaster's Choice Beer
Drain the Tank and win a t-shirt!
Live Music & No Cover



EVERY MONDAY
Drain the Tank Monday
\$2 Imperial Pints (20oz) on Brewmaster's Choice Beer
The person that drains the tank wins a t-shirt!

EVERY TUESDAY
Charity Tuesday
\$1 from every selected Charity Beer goes to support this week's Charity
Go to topofthehillrestaurant.com to book your Charity

Every Day, Late Night Food Menu until 2 AM