

## FILM AT REDCAT PRESENTS

March 8 to March 10

ONLINE

Jack H. Skirball Series

\$10 [members \$8]

To get tickets, visit: [Aquelarre Gonzo Camarena](#)

### ***Aquelarre Gonzo Camarena***

Livestreaming from Mexico City, *Aquelarre Gonzo Camarena* is a regular online showcase of Mexico's finest audiovisual ephemera. Culled from archives and dusty closets, the *Aquelarre* pays tribute to orphan film and video works through a weekly "clips party" and virtual hangout.

Specially curated for this \*one-time-only\* REDCAT screening, *Aquelarre Gonzo Camarena's* intrepid filmmakers and archivists have assembled a crash course videographic primer for those uninitiated in Gringolandia.

Enjoy enchanting home movie segments from dysfunctional families! Marvel at insane government propaganda from the era of PRI soft dictatorship and neoliberal sellouts! Allow yourself to be wooed by the charms of touristic destinations! Witness the unheralded primacy of ketchup potato chips as a subject of the late 1980s video art movement in Mexico!

In person via Zoom: ***The Gonzo Crew*** - Elena Pardo, Ernesto Legazpi & Walter Forsberg

"Elena Pardo and gringo craft services intern Walter Forsberg [...] host an exciting program, featuring a LIVE tour of LEC's photochemical lab, [and] fun clips from its extensive archive of 1980s and 90s NAFTA-era Mexican video productions." — *Screen Slate*

"In 2013, [Elena Pardo] co-founded the Laboratorio Experimental de Cine (LEC), a non-profit association dedicated to screening, producing and

teaching about experimental cinema. An important part of this project is the preservation and dissemination of film-lab techniques and knowledge."  
—Echo Park Film Center

## The Program

Founding member of the Laboratorio Experimental de Cine [Experimental Cinema Laboratory] (LEC), Elena Pardo, joined forces with part-time producer and glitch artist Ernesto Legazpi, as well as seasoned media conservationist Walter Forsberg, hoping to build a sense of community around their media-salvaging efforts. On June 10, 2020, they began broadcasting a weekly hour-long archival footage streamcast on the Twitch TV platform. Their showcase, *Aquelarre Gonzo Camarena* [Gonzo Camarena's Coven], was named in honor of Mexican television pioneer Guillermo González Camarena.

The show takes a different theme each week, but it always revolves around the recovery of seemingly long forgotten media ephemera and orphan films through a fun-loving attitude that could best be described as akin to Glenn O'Brien's cult show, "TV Party," revamped for the internet.

Several of their episodes so far have included "How-To" sessions on important topics such as videotape deck cleaning, the use of FFmpeg software, and mixing cocktails. Soon enough, the show gained an international following, so the crew began to encompass an array of Zoomed-in guests. *Aquelarre Gonzo Camarena's* four-month "Season One" featured appearances by Screen Slate NYC, the Chicago Film Society, and experimental moving image artists Azucena Losana, Nika Milano, Jael Jacobo, and Ezekiel Guido, among others.

After witnessing new weekly content from the LEC's digitization efforts, the audience became extremely enthusiastic about digitizing their own videotapes and began submitting their own material to be transferred and eventually showcased. This has kept the Gonzo crew busy and their archive only expanding, awaiting opportunities to reach new audiences.

For their presentation at REDCAT, the Gonzo crew has assembled an eclectic mix of hardly seen pieces in the USA. Their signature easy-going, irreverent

tone will keep everyone glued to their screens with a selection of bedazzling clips from private film archives, official party propaganda from past neo-liberal administrations, and important PSAs to aspiring media archivists, all of it sprinkled with some of Mexico City's homemade finest TV commercials from the 1980s and '90s.

## The Gonzo Crew

### **Elena Pardo**

One of the most active and influential figures of the past decade in the local experimental cinema scene, Pardo works as a filmmaker, hoards film and video equipment, and runs the Laboratorio Experimental de Cine (LEC). She is actually shooting an expanded cinema project called *Pulsos Subterráneos*.

### **Ernesto Legazpi**

Programmer, glitcher and artist. Legazpi has been doing generative and glitch art since 2018. Currently, he divides his time working for Mexico International Animation Festival, and as web developer, part-time producer of streams, as well as a practicing filmmaker, trying to find new ways to express himself through the internet using code and web pages as a sanctuary.

### **Walter Forsberg**

Forsberg works as a media conservator and filmmaker. He is an active member of the Laboratorio Experimental de Cine (LEC), and his films and videos have screened internationally. From 2014-2018 he founded the Media Conservation and Digitization unit at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, and currently serves as an Adjunct Professor in NYU's Moving Image Archiving and Preservation graduate program.

## Aquelarre Gonzo Camarena Archive

A selection of past episodes of the show can be viewed [HERE](#)

*The Jack H. Skirball Series is organized by Bérénice Reynaud and Eduardo Thomas and funded in part by the Ostrovsky Family Fund, with special support provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.*

## **REDCAT | THE ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER**

**REDCAT** is CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, a multidisciplinary hub for innovative visual, performing and media arts in the Performing Arts Center for Los Angeles County in downtown Los Angeles. Through performances, exhibitions, screenings, and literary events, REDCAT introduces diverse audiences, students, and artists to the most influential developments in culture from around the world and gives artists in the region the creative support they need to achieve national and international recognition. REDCAT extends the tradition of the California Institute of the Arts by encouraging experimentation, discovery, and lively civic discourse. To learn more or subscribe to our weekly newsletter, please visit [redcat.org](http://redcat.org).