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The 'Gods' Must Be Crazy; or, a Dose of 'Dioses': Global Lens Goes to Peru

By John Beifuss on June 21, 2010 6:28 AM

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A weirdo teenager, his promiscuous 21-year-old sister, his industrialist father and dad's much younger, sweet-natured and sexy slum-bred girlfriend are the central characters in **"Gods"** (or **"Dioses,"** in the original Spanish), a 2008 film from Peru that is the most entertaining yet in the **"Global Lens"** series now unspooling at the [Memphis Brooks Museum of Art](#), in cooperation with [Indie Memphis](#).



Beautifully photographed, the movie introduces American viewers to a new world, cinematically speaking, that nevertheless is strangely familiar, in a Bret Easton Ellis way: The ultra-rich of suburban Lima, who inhabit magazine-layout-like modern homes that overlook the ocean, where restless, pampered wives gather for book clubs, botany classes and New Agey religious meetings while their bored and jaded children do drugs, dance to techno and engage in casual sex.



Elisa (Maricielo Effio), the aforementioned girlfriend, is the outsider looking in, embarrassed by her country family, eager for affluence yet conflicted by her awareness of the shallowness of her progress. She has as much in common with the household servants as with her potential future husband, and no doubt she would sympathize with the maid who comments, while cleaning up the aftermath of yet another party: "What a bunch of lazy bums. They drink, they dance, then they go to bed."

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