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AMÉRIKA, TERRA INCOGNITA. Directed by Diego Rísquez. Written by Luis A. Duque and Rísquez. Produced by Lidia Córdoba. A Guakamaya production. A Coralie Films International Zanzibar release. At the Bleecker, opening December 9.

Weird though it seems, the avant-garde *Amérika, Terra Incognita* has a thing or two in common with the above commercial features. Perhaps that's the reason, and I can't think of another, that someone chose to release it on an unsuspecting holiday audience. This is the final work in a trilogy which its director Diego Rísquez describes as "the real and mythical history of the American continent." Where the earlier two were shot in an interestingly herky-jerky Super-8, here Rísquez employs a ponderously moving 35mm camera, panning ad infinitum over awkwardly posed tableau vivants. Part Jack Smith (Rísquez once worked as his assistant), part Ruiz, but mostly like a high school pantomime, *Amérika* wordlessly tells the story of a noble savage, kidnapped from the South American rain forest by 16th century conquistadors and held captive in the prurient court of the king of Spain. The splendidly built innocent lad catches the eye of the infanta, who visits him by night. When she strips off her robe, she's not wearing a chemise. (Avant-gardists never worry about PG-13.) She mounts his notably black member. Sex is a *revelation* to both of them. ■