

# The Wolfe Institute

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*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,  
in collaboration with the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies,  
the Women's Center, Office of Diversity and Equity Programs, the Women's and  
Gender Studies Program, the Women's History Month Committee, and The Exchange,  
presents a screening*

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## Rebel Loreta Velazquez, Secret Soldier of the American Civil War



In 1861, at the outbreak of the American Civil War, a teenager from New Orleans headed to the front lines. Under the alias Harry T. Buford, he fought at First Bull Run, was wounded at Shiloh, and served as a Confederate spy. But Buford harbored a secret - he was really Loreta Velazquez, a Cuban immigrant from New Orleans. By 1863, Velazquez was spying for the Union. She scandalized America when she revealed her story in her 1876 memoir, *The Woman in Battle*. Attacked not only for her criticism of war, but her sexuality and social rule-breaking, Velazquez was dismissed as a hoax for 150 years. But evidence confirms she existed, one of over 1,000 women soldiers who served in the Civil War.

What made her so dangerous she was erased from history? Actors and historians bring Velazquez' story to life in this documentary, weaving drama and animation with historical and archival material to unravel the mystery of this secret soldier. *Rebel* is a detective story about a woman, a myth, and the politics of national memory. Discussion with Virginia Sánchez Korrol, who appears in the film, will follow after the screening.

**Virginia Sánchez Korrol** is professor emerita at Brooklyn College, CUNY. She was chairperson of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies from 1989 to 2004. Sánchez Korrol serves on the Advisory Board of the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project, the American Latino Scholars Panel of the National Park Service, is the founding President of the Puerto Rican Studies Association, a founding member of the New York History Academy, and a history consultant at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, CUNY.

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**Tuesday, March 4, 2014  
12:30 to 2:15 p.m.  
Woody Tanger Auditorium  
Brooklyn College Library**

**For information:** 718.951.5847 [wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu) **Twitter:** [twitter.com/Wolfe\\_Institute](https://twitter.com/Wolfe_Institute)