



Havana Film Festival New York

CELEBRATING LATIN AMERICAN CINEMA

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HAVANA FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING CINEMA, APRIL 16 - 23, 2009

TD Bank sponsors kick off at Queens Theatre in the Park April 14

Havana Film Festival New York (HFFNY) celebrates its tenth anniversary with premieres of highly anticipated and influential films from and about Latin America and Latinos in the U.S. Programs for all ages will be shown throughout various locations in Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx.

Quad Cinema (34 W. 13 St.) will show films from **April 17 to 23**. Other venues in Manhattan are: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYU's King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, Ida K. Lang Recital Hall at Hunter College; in the Bronx: The Bronx Museum of the Arts. HFFNY welcomes a new partnership with Queens Theatre in the Park.

The festival will begin with a **special presentation sponsored by TD Bank at Queens Theatre in the Park on April 14th** at 6:30pm called *Short Time!*, with a selection of four shorts by young filmmakers from Spain, Dominican Republic and the U.S. kicking off the 10 days of festivities.

Opening night begins at 6:30 pm, Thursday, April 16 at The New York Directors Guild Theater with a reception followed by the New York premiere of **Juan Carlos Tabio's** latest film, *Horn of Plenty (El cuerno de la abundancia)*, starring **Jorge Perugorria**, winner of the Special Jury Prize at Cartagena Film Festival and Third Coral and Best Screenplay at Festival de Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano de La Habana. As to the question of why he again focuses on comedy as a preferred genre, Juan Carlos Tabio replied: "humor can be a tool capable of revealing the key to life, of a certain reality."

HFFNY HONORS DIRECTORS LUIS OSPINA, SANTIAGO ALVAREZ AND HUMBERTO SOLAS, MASTERS OF THE CRAFT

Since its inception, HFFNY has recognized and promoted some of the most celebrated Latin American filmmakers in the industry. Continuing with this tradition, HFFNY pays homage to three renowned Latin American directors: Santiago Alvarez and Humberto Solás (both Cuban filmmakers), and Luis Ospina (Colombian).

In a program titled ***The Urgent Cinema of Santiago Alvarez***, four of his masterful films: *LJB*, *Now*, *Hanoi Martes 13*, and *79 Spring Times* will be presented at NYU's King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center. Known for his innovative genius, Alvarez was an influential figure in the development of Cuban cinema. Even after his death, he remains the country's preeminent documentary filmmaker.

Stranger Than Fiction: A Tribute to Luis Ospina. A difficult-to-label artist, Colombian director Luis Ospina manages to subvert the established norms of storytelling and documentary filmmaking. Five of his films will be shown during the festival. On Saturday, April 18, 7:10 pm, *A Paper Tiger* will have its NY premiere. On Sunday, April 19, 1 pm one of Ospina's most personal documentaries, *Andres Caicedo Unos Pocos Buenos amigos*, preceded by a Latin American classic, *Vampires of Poverty*, will be shown at Quad Cinema. At 5 pm, NYU's King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center will host a screening of *The Supreme Uneasiness: Incessant Portrait of Fernando Vallejo*. On Tuesday, April 21st *Breath of Life* will have its NY Premiere at Quad Cinema. This is Ospina's second feature and winner for Best Film and Best Actor at Cartagena Film Festival and Best Film and Director at Bogota Film Festival.

Remembering Humberto Solás, 1941-2008. Solás died last September at the age of 66. His films reflect a humanism that deals with the search for a national and Latin American identity related to the ideals of peace, harmony and social justice. Two of his works will be shown during the festival: *A Successful Man*, the first Cuban movie to be nominated for an Oscar, and his short *Adela*, his last film.

FILMS FROM ALL GENRES FOR ALL AGES

This year's HFFNY premieres films in different genres and themes, ranging from romantic comedies, film noir and political thrillers to the influence of music and controversial issues that play with the long forgotten political and social memories.

HFFNY premieres work of new filmmakers with full length features such as: *La Sangre Brota* (Pablo Fendrik, Argentina), winner of the Young Critic Award at Cannes Film Festival; *La Milagrosa* (Rafael Lara, Colombia-Mexico); *Gasolina* (Julio Hernandez, Guatemala), winner of Horizontes Latinos Award at San Sebastian Film Festival and Icaro Film Festival; *Desierto Adentro* (Rodrigo Pla, Mexico), winner for Best Film in Guadalajara, Valladolid, Mar del Plata and Amiens and Best Cinematography at Havana Film Festival, Cuba; and *Filmefobia* (Kiko Goifman, Brazil) Best Film at Brasilia Film Festival and Special Mention at Havana Film Festival, Cuba.

The Festival will also welcome leading filmmakers who have participated in years past to show their latest work, such as Colombian director **Lisandro Duque** and his "serious comedy", *Los actores del conflicto*, the Audience Award recipient at Cartagena Film Festival 2008 and, **Jacobo Morales**, the legendary Puerto Rican director and actor with his sequel *God Created Them II*.

Music and dance are driving forces in films like *Aniceto*, by the living Argentine legend Leonardo Favio, is a new and beautiful version of his classic film *El romance de Aniceto y la Francisca*, this time in ballet mode. *La Mala* (Lilian Rosado and Pedro Perez-Rosado, Puerto Rico), the story of a struggling woman, who puts all her energy into escaping her humble existence by whatever means necessary, including emulating La Lupe. *Mare Our Love Story* (Lucia Murat, Brazil) is a modern Romeo and Juliet with Rio de Janeiro's favelas as backdrops and hip hop as the rhythm behind the hot passion of two young lovers. *Party Time* (Juanma Fernandez-Paris) is a Puerto Rican dance inspired film that has its protagonist posing the great question of life, "Salsa or New Wave?"

HFFNY also provides an exceptional opportunity for audiences to see new documentaries from and about Latin America: *1973 Revoluciones por minuto* by Fernando Valenzuela (Chile) based on the play *The Last Hours of Salvador Allende*, *Barefoot Ballet* by Lilian Solá and Mariana Monteiro (Brazil), *The Golden Age* by award-winning directors Phillip Tuckett and Scott Duncan, *Pucha Vida* by Nazly Lopez (Colombia-Cuba) and *Titon de La Habana a Guantánamera* by Mirtha Ibarra (Cuba).

The Festival is honored to return to the world-renowned The Metropolitan Museum of Art on Saturday, April 18th (12:35 pm) with the series *Latin American Films For Children*. This year, HFFNY offers children aged 5 to 12 the Mexican animation *La Leyenda de la Nahualla* by Ricardo Arnaiz. This screening is offered in collaboration with the museum's *El Primer Contacto con el Arte* program.

Special guests at the festival include directors Juan Carlos Tabío, Jacobo Morales, Luis Ospina, Lisandro Duque, Rafael Lara, Juanma Fernandez-Paris, Lilian Rosado, Phil Tucket, Tane Martinez, Freddy Vargas, Adam Abada, Juan Taratuto, Lucia Murat, Rusell Porter; actors Mirtha Ibarra, Jorge Perugorria, Cris Bierrenbach; producers Francisco Chagas, industry specialists Sandy Lieberson and Ann Marie Stock; EICTV's director Tanya Valette.

PANELS AND FREE EVENTS

Running parallel to the screenings, there will be several free panels at King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, NYU and Hunter College. These dialogues are conducted by some of the most prominent directors and academics in their respective fields.

The panels are: **New Views (Nuevas Miradas)** at NYU's King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, April 20, 7:00 pm. Tanya Valette, current director of the International School of Film and Television (EICTV), will be presenting the following award-winning films from EICTV: *La Chirola* (Diego A. Mondaca, Bolivia-Cuba), *Filiberto* (Amanda Garcia, Mexico) and *El año del cerdo* (Claudia Calderon, Puerto Rico). The school is a non-governmental organization in Cuba, and the largest educational project of the Foundation of the New Latin American Cinema (FNCL). It was inaugurated in 1986 and is chaired by the writer and winner of the

Nobel Prize for Literature, Gabriel García Márquez. After the screening, Ms. Valette, professor and filmmaker Russell Porter and London Film's Chairman, Sandy Lieberman, will talk about the school and what new visions the students are creating for Latin American Cinema. A reception will follow.

Once again, HFFNY will be collaborating with the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College for a special showcase of Puerto Rican Cinema. On April 21 at 5 pm at Hunter College's Ida K. Lang Recital Hall, legendary director and actor Jacobo Morales will present the New York premiere his film *God Created Them II*. At 7:30pm, a panel titled **Cinema of Puerto Rico: Challenges and Implications of a Rising Cinema** will focus on the significant growth of the Puerto Rican film industry, evidenced by the annual ongoing increase in local productions. Participants for this panel include filmmakers Jacobo Morales, Lilian Rosado, Pedro Perez Rosado and Juanma Fernandez. The moderator will be Soledad Romero, stage actress and professor at Queens College, CUNY.

HFFNY is bringing some of the most exciting films and programs to noted venues in Queens and The Bronx. Queens Theatre in the Park will make a special presentation on April 22nd at 6:30 pm of *The Golden Age*, a documentary about a soccer league composed of Latin American immigrants who were once among the most admired Latin American soccer players of their time. The New York premiere of Tané Martinnez's *Tengo*, a documentary about Cuban singer Xiomara Laugart and Freddy Vargas' *Pinchos y Rolos*, a musical about a beautician in Washington Heights, will be shown at The Bronx Museum of Arts on April 17, 6 pm. Festivities in The Bronx's will include a (*First Friday's*) Cuban Party with live entertainment. Both events are free and open to the public.

The presenting sponsor of HFFNY 09 is WNBC-Telemundo 47. The Maritime and The Bowery are the official hotels. Additional sponsorship is provided by TD Bank, El Diario La Prensa, WBAI, The National Arts Club, King Juan Carlos I Center of Spain at NYU, The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (CUNY), Queens Theatre in the Park, NY Remezcla, Rockamedia, Latino Artists Round Table (LART), Divino Magazine, and Copacabana Grill.

HFFNY is made possible with public funds from the NYS Council on the Arts, a state agency and supported, in part, by public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs. Mayor Bloomberg's Latin Media and Entertainment Commission (LMEC) supports the festival and it is included in the city's Immigrant Heritage Week.

HFFNY is a project of American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC), a non-profit organization building cultural bridges between the U.S. and Cuba through programs in the arts. The festival is directed by Carole Rosenberg, President of AFLFC, working with an executive committee, advisors, a small devoted staff, dedicated volunteers who make this project possible and sponsors and supporters who believe in its merit.

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