



21st HAVANA FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK IS BACK! November 5-11, 2021 | Village East Cinema

Celebrating the Cultural Richness and Diversity of Ibero-American Voices

**HFFNY opens with award-winning Colombian film EL OLVIDO QUE SEREMOS and
the special appearance of writer Héctor Abad Faciolince**

**Closing the festival is MAIXABEL the newest film by celebrated Spanish director
Icíar Bollain**

Remembering Cuban Filmmakers Juan Carlos Tabío & Enrique Pineda Barnet

19 Film Competing for the Havana Star Prize

New York, October 15, 2021. The Havana Film Festival NY (www.HFFNY.com), a project of **The American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba** (www.AFLFC.org), is back in theaters to present an exceptional program celebrating the diversity of voices and cultural expressions of Ibero America and its diaspora through inspiring stories on the big screen, **November 5-11, 2021**. All screenings, panels, and special events take place in-person at the **Village East Cinema** (181-189 2nd Avenue, NYC). Festival guests, attendees, and staff are required to be fully vaccinated and must wear a mask at all times except while eating.

"In the last 18 months the world appreciated the vital importance of art and the creativity of the artists who kept us at home in quarantine in a kinder way, but we also realized how film festivals are fundamental in their social function which is to bring together different voices in a close space such as the movie theater. This edition of the Havana Film Festival NY wants to present films that represent, not only a dozen of Ibero American countries, but also themes that can produce laughter, create uncomfortable moments or deep reflections to perceive and get closer to the realities of Latin America or/and of the immigrant Latinos ", says Diana Vargas, HFFNY's Artistic Director.

HFFNY makes its long-awaited return to theaters **Friday, November 5** at **6:30 p.m.** with a red carpet event to celebrate its Opening Night Ceremony, hosted by Colombian actress **Kika Child**, and the New York premiere of multi-award winning Colombian film **El Olvido que seremos/Memories of my Father**, courtesy of Cohen Media Group. Directed by Oscar-award-winner **Fernando Trueba** and starring beloved actor **Javier Cámara**, it tells the true story of a Colombian doctor concerned for both his own children and those of the underprivileged classes in the violent 1970s in Medellin. Based on the book of the same name by renowned

author Hector Abad Facilience who will be present at the screening to discuss the film and the story behind it, and answer audience questions. In collaboration with NYU's King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center (www.KJCC.org)

On **Thursday, November 11 at 6:30 p.m.** the Festival closes with the **Havana Star Prize Award Ceremony**, hosted by Cuban-American actress and model **Sissi Fleitas**, followed by the New York premiere of acclaimed Spanish filmmaker **Icía Bollaín's** powerful new film, **Maixabel**, the inspiring true story of a woman (**Blanca Portillo**, *Volver*) who decides to take a brave step towards coexistence and peace by agreeing to face the imprisoned ETA terrorist behind the murder of her husband (**Luis Tosar**, *Celda 211*). **Following the screening will be an in-person Q&A with Bollaín.** The evening is co-presented in collaboration with **NYU KJCC.**

The Festival's program includes a tribute to two beloved Cuban filmmakers who passed away earlier this year: **Enrique Pineda Barnet** (1933-2021), the genius behind films that offered a rich introspective and experimental perspective as a path to generations of Latin American filmmakers interested in exploring the concept of avant-garde cinema, and **Juan Carlos Tabío** (1943-2021), who proved comedy in cinema is a serious matter that can teach us about ourselves and the society we live in without relying on political rhetoric. In memory of these iconic artists, the Festival will screen the newly restored versions of Pineda Barnet's **Giselle** (1965) on **Sunday, November 7 at 8:00 p.m.**, accompanied by a Q&A with Cuban actor **Hector Noas**, and Tabío's **Se permuta / House Swap** (1983) on **Tuesday, November 9 at 3:00 p.m.** Also included is the panel **Writing Inspiration: From Ideas to Storytelling**, wherein filmmakers from across the Ibero-American diaspora discuss the process of finding ideas for their films and the difference between an idea and a story. This panel, free and open to the public, takes place on **Tuesday, November 9 at 5:00 p.m.**

Alongside a stellar line-up of documentary and feature films, the 21st HFFNY celebrates Ibero-American stories told in short format with a short film series showcasing experimental, animated, documentary, and fiction works, including: Willard Morgan's **Vestiphobia Cuba**, which follows and builds upon a collaborative Cuban-American live art extravaganza; Daniel Santoyo's **Flying Pigeon**, a Cuban thriller that unpacks the intergenerational divides of two assailants waiting to carry out a robbery; Ivan Kotevski's **The Angel's Cave**, a sci-fi animation set out of this world; Carlos Barba's tale of a revealing mother-daughter roadtrip across Cuba, **Las Polacas / The Polacks**; Alberto Ferrera's biting vignette about the aftermath of a wild night out, **Lesson #4**; Cristian Peña's chilling tale of a man driven to extremes by his bizarre obsession, **Dante**; and **El Cine libertario / The Libertarian Cinema**, Verónica Vigil's eye-opening documentary on Spanish anarchist cinema.

This year a total of 19 films compete for the Havana Star Prize in the categories of **Best Film, Director, Screenplay, Actor, Actress, and Documentary.**

Fiction Films Competing for the Havana Star Prize:

1991

Sergio Ramírez | Guatemala | 2021 | 77 min

It's 1991 and Guatemala is at war. But Daniel and his friends are on a different type of hunt. They roam the city looking for the "breaks," the enemy.

SUNDAY NOV. 7 @ 4:15 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with Sergio Ramírez

90 MINUTOS / 90 MINUTES

Aeden O'Connor Agurcia | Honduras | 2019 | 91 min

A visceral ride through four interlinking Honduran stories of violence, love, suspense and drama all tied together by the world's greatest passion: soccer.

Preceded by THE ANGEL'S CAVE (dir. Ivan Kotevski, 9 min)

SATURDAY NOV. 6 @ 6:15 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with The Angel's Cave director Ivan Kotevski, animator Miguel Rueda

AGOSTO / AUGUST

Armando Capó | Cuba - Costa Rica - France | 2019 | 85 min

In Cuba during the summer of 1994, a carefree teen begins to recognize that his world is starting to turn upside down.

MONDAY NOV. 8 @ 4:30 P.M.

LA CIUDAD DE LAS FIERAS | THE CITY OF WILD BEASTS

Henry Rincón | Colombia - Ecuador | 2021 | 95 min

Orphaned adolescent rapper Tato flees the streets of Medellín to live with his estranged grandfather on a flower farm in the mountains. Two generations, two ways of life, and a continuous feeling of loss, death, and loneliness nip at Tato's heels as he struggles to survive and find his own identity in the process.

SATURDAY NOV. 6 @ 8:30 P.M.

¿ERES TÚ, PAPÁ? / IS THAT YOU?

Rudy Riverón Sánchez | United Kingdom | 2018 | 107 min

Cuba's first psychological thriller finds Lili and her mother living a stifled existence under a domineering father. His disappearance should mean new freedom, but his influence may prove too strong.

Preceded by DANTE (dir. Cristian Peña, 9 min)

TUESDAY NOV. 9 @ 6:30 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with ¿Eres tú, Papa? director Rudy Riverón Sánchez, actress Gabriela Ramos and Dante director Cristián Peña, actor Pablo Monsalve Santos

MAMBO MAN

Edesio Alejandro, Mo Fini | United Kingdom-Cuba | 2020 | 82 min

Based on a true story, this heartwarming tale featuring live performances from legendary Cuban musicians, reveals the passion and ingenuity of Cubans struggling to survive under the constraints of the U.S. embargo.

Preceded by VESTIPHOBIA CUBA (dir. Willard Morgan, 8 min)

SATURDAY NOV. 6 @ 2:15 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with Mambo Man actor Hector Noas and Vestiphobia Cuba director Willard Morgan

LAS MEJORES FAMILIAS / THE BEST FAMILIES

Javier Fuentes-León | Peru-Colombia | 2020 | 99 min

A birthday dinner hosted by two aristocratic families in Lima, Peru turns into all-out class warfare when long-hidden secrets rise to the surface as the city around them erupts into violent protests.

MONDAY NOV. 8 @ 8:00 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with actress Jely Reátegui

NUDO MIXTECO

Ángeles Cruz | Mexico | 2021 | 91 min

Set against the backdrop of the annual Festival of San Mateo, writer/director Ángeles Cruz weaves a rich tapestry of three indigenous women navigating love, sex, and desire.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 10 @ 6:00 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with Ángeles Cruz

EL OLVIDO QUE SEREMOS / MEMORIES OF MY FATHER

Fernando Trueba | Colombia | 2020 | 136 min

Trueba depicts the life of Héctor Abad Gómez, a renowned doctor and human rights activist torn between the love of his family and his political fight in violence-riddled Colombia.

FRIDAY NOV. 5 @ 6:30 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with author Héctor Abad Faciolince

EL PERRO QUE NO CALLA / THE DOG WHO WOULDN'T BE QUIET

Ana Katz | Argentina | 2020 | 73 min

Sebastian is devoted to his dog and working a slew of temporary jobs as he navigates love, loss, fatherhood... and impending apocalypse.

Preceded by LESSON #4 (dir. Alberto Ferreras, 7 min)

MONDAY NOV. 8 @ 6:15 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with directors Ana Katz and Alberto Ferreras

Documentaries competing for the Havana Star Prize:

BROUWER: EL ORIGEN DE LA SOMBRA / BROUWER: THE ORIGIN OF THE SHADOW

Katherine T. Gavilán, Lisandra López Fabé | Cuba | 2019 | 70 min

Leo Brouwer, outstanding Cuban and world-renowned composer, opens the door to his creative space allowing viewers to explore his day-to-day work.

MONDAY NOV. 8 @ 1:30 P.M.

UNA CASA SIN CORTINAS / A HOUSE WITHOUT CURTAINS

Julian Troksberg | Argentina | 2021 | 91 minutes

Surviving prison and exile, a forgotten Isabel Perón achieves what Evita Perón never could-- becoming the first female President of the Americas.

SUNDAY NOV. 7 @ 2:15 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with Julian Troksberg

CUBAN DANCER

Roberto Salinas | Italy-Canada-Chile | 2020 | 95 min

A talented Cuban ballet student moves to Florida leaving behind his home, friends and childhood love. But what he does bring with him is an undeniable passion for ballet.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 10 @ 8:00 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with Roberto Salinas

HAVANA, FROM ON HIGH

Pedro Ruiz | Canada | 2019 | 80min

Nestled above a decaying district of Havana is a secret village. From their perch atop the city, the residents bear witness to a society in full historical transformation after more than 60 years of revolution.

SATURDAY NOV. 6 @ 4:15 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with Havana, from on High director Pedro Ruiz and producer Arantza Maldonado

LATIN NOIR

Andreas Apostolidis | Greece-Mexico | 2020 | 55 min

An explosive blend of history, art and crime literature explores how a new generation of Latin American

novelists found in 'noir' fiction a unique way to confront their countries' troubled past and present.

Preceded by EL CINE LIBERTARIO (dir. Veronica Vigil, 16 min)

WEDNESDAY NOV. 10 @ 4:00 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with Veronica Vigil

LA MAMI

Laura Herrero | Mexico | 2019 | 81 min

After working more than 40 years in nightlife, Doña Olga is now La Mami, the caretaker of the women's restroom at the mythical Cabaret, Barba Azul.

SATURDAY NOV. 6 @ 12:30 P.M.

A MEDIA VOZ / IN A WHISPER

Heidi Hassan, Patricia Pérez Fernández | Spain-France-Switzerland-Cuba | 2019 | 80min

Two women embark on a journey to find themselves and each other as they navigate foreign territories in this intimate and revealing story of motherhood, friendship, and freedom.

TUESDAY NOV. 9 @ 6:30 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with Patricia Pérez Fernández

ÓRGANO / ORGAN

Rosa María Rodríguez Pupo | Cuba | 2019 | 68 min

In remote Cuba, the Ajos family prepare a party in honor of a musical heirloom from two centuries ago. They reminisce of the days at Tropicana, whilst realizing how much time has changed.

MONDAY NOV. 8 @ 3:00 P.M.

RETRATO DE UN ARTISTA SIEMPRE ADOLESCENTE (UNA HISTORIA DEL CINE EN CUBA) / PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST FOREVER ADOLESCENT (A HISTORY OF CUBAN CINEMA)

Manuel Herrera | Cuba-Spain | 2019 | 102 min

A reflection on the emergence and development of Cuban contemporary cinematography, and its struggles, contradictions, and confrontations.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 10 @ 2:00 P.M.

Special Presentations

DESARRAIGO Y ESPERANZA / DISPLACEMENT AND HOPE

Marta Bautis | United States | Documentary | 2021 | 40 min

A young Latin American, persecuted for his sexuality, flees his village in Mexico to make a life for himself in the U.S. In NYC he meets Father Fabián, an immigration activist who offers a home for dozens of youngsters who enter the U.S. without documents.

Preceded by FLYING PIGEON (Daniel Santoyo, 27 min)

SUNDAY NOV. 7 @ 6:15 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with Desarraigo y Esperanza director Marta Bautis

LEONARDO PADURA: UNA HISTORIA ESCUÁLIDA Y CONMOVEDORA / LEONARDO PADURA: A SQUALID AND MOVING STORY

Náyare Menoyo | Cuba | Documentary | 2019 | 41 min

A biographical documentary about the Cuban writer, journalist, and winner of the Princess of Asturias Award for Letters and National Literature Award, Leonardo Padura Fuentes.

Followed by LAS POLACAS / THE POLACKS (dir. Carlos Barba Salva, 24 min)

SUNDAY NOV. 7 @ 12:30 P.M.

Followed by a Q&A with Las Polacas director Carlos Barba

NATALIA

Ernesto Daranas | Cuba-Spain | Documentary | 2019 | 74 min

Award-winning filmmaker Ernesto Daranas explores the personality and life of Cuban ethnographer and writer Natalia Bolívar Aróstegui.

TUESDAY NOV. 9 @ 1:30 P.M.

More information and details of the festival as well as the complete program are available at www.hffny.com.

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