

Sat 29 March, 2.30pm ICA Screen 1

Accelerated Under-Development: A film in the idiom of Santiago Álvarez + shorts by Santiago Álvarez

(1999, Travis Wilkerson, US, 65m) Santiago Álvarez was an experimental innovator who put together stills, footage, sound and music to produce incredible political newsreels for cinemas from the early 60s in Cuba. Using his “urgent cinema” style, this doc-tribute explains why and how Alvarez made his work. Followed by important shorts by Álvarez from 1963: **Hurricane/Ciclón** (22m), **Cerro Pelado** (34m) and the **funeral of musician Benny Moré** (4m).

Introduced by **Michael Chanan**, filmmaker and writer (‘Cuban Cinema’), and **Silvia Padrón Durán**, director of *La Manigua* film and culture centre for children, Havana.



Sat 29 March, 8.00pm Garden Cinema Screen 1



A Night with the Rolling Stones/Una Noche con los Rolling Stones

(2023, Patricia Ramos, Cuba-Nicaragua, ICAIC, 1h32m). Rita navigates troublesome relationships with her son, mother, lover and friend, on the eve of the Havana concert in 2016. A tender comedy drama about what is lost and what remains.

Plus short: **Blue Pandora/Pandora Azul** (2023, Alan Gonzalez, Cuba, ICAIC-Crisálida Producciones, 12m). Moving short drama as a transgender woman navigates love and self-acceptance.

Introduced by **Silvia Padrón Durán**, director of *La Manigua* film and culture centre for children, Havana

BEYOND LONDON

Thanks to all our collaborators who have helped Cuban cinema be seen

Aberystwyth Arts Centre, WOW Wales film festival

SineYMa, Pontypridd

The Ultimate Picture Palace, Oxford

Broadway Cinema, Nottingham

Help preserve Cuba’s cinematic heritage

Screen Cuba Festival celebrates Cuba’s remarkable home grown cinema industry. We are also raising funds for projects of the Cuban Film Institute (ICAIC), such as the restoration of classic films. Donations received during last year’s festival helped to restore two Juan Padron short films. All donations big and small can help.

Please donate to the Music Fund for Cuba’s ICAIC appeal today bit.ly/ICAICdonate



Screen Cuba thanks our festival patrons for their support, plus all the individual donors, and key sponsors listed below for helping make this festival happen.



EQUITY



Screen Cuba: Films to Change the World is a collaborative project of the charity Music Fund for Cuba, the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, the Cuban Embassy in the UK and the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry (ICAIC).



For more info or to join our mailing list please contact cubafilmfest@gmail.com 020 7490 5715

www.screencuba.uk

Front image: From the festival poster designed by Roberto Perez Curbelo (Potto), Havana.

UK FESTIVAL OF CUBAN CINEMA

SCREEN CUBA

FILMS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

16 | 29
MARCH
2025



All films are in Spanish with English subtitles

London venues:

The Garden Cinema, 39-41 Parker Street WC2B 5PQ

Book tickets www.thegardencinema.co.uk 020 3369 5000

ICA (Institute for Contemporary Arts), The Mall, SW1Y 5AH

Book tickets www.ica.art 020 7930 3647 (4.30-6pm Tue-Sun)

Birkbeck University Cinema, 43 Gordon Square, WC1H 0PY

Email to book free place cubafilmfest@gmail.com



Sun 16 March, 2.30pm Garden Cinema Screen 2

Underground/Clandestinos (1987, Fernando Pérez, Cuba, ICAIC, 1h38m) Havana 1958, young people are fighting against Batista's tyranny in a clandestine action cell. A dramatic story of love, solidarity, and sacrifice.

Mon 17 March, 6.30pm Birkbeck University Cinema

Sara Gómez' Isle of Pines Trilogy 1968-69 Trilogy of social documentaries by Cuba's first female director Sara Gómez, including interviews with young people not in education or work being re-educated on the Isle of Pines.

Introduced by **Gladys González Martínez**, of the Cuban film institute ICAIC, with **Holly Aylett**, filmmaker, lecturer and writer.



Tues 18 March, 6.30pm ICA Screen 1

Guantanamera (1995, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea & Juan Carlos Tabío, Cuba, ICAIC, 1h31m). A satire on life (and death) in Cuba during the 'Special Period', as well as a comedy road trip from one end of the island to the other.

Plus short: **Elpidio Valdés v. the military train**, (1974, Juan Padrón, Cuba, ICAIC, 8m). Early anti-colonial animation, recently restored.

Introduced by **Gladys González Martínez**, of the Cuban film institute ICAIC.

Wed 19 March, 6.30pm Garden Cinema Screen 1

Portrait of Teresa/Retrato de Teresa (1979, Pastor Vega, Cuba, ICAIC, 1h43m). A ground-breaking drama charts Teresa's resilience as changes generated by the revolution provoke a crisis in her marriage and in the factory where she works.

Introduced by **Gladys González Martínez**, of the Cuban film institute ICAIC.



Fri 21 March, 6.30pm Garden Cinema Screen 1

World of Nelsito/Mundo de Nelsito (2023, Fernando Pérez, Cuba, ICAIC, 1h40m). A surreal comedy drama exploring perception and imagination through the eyes of an autistic teenager after an accident, by Cuba's most important contemporary director.

Introduced by **Gladys González Martínez**, of the Cuban film institute ICAIC.



Sun 23 March, 2.30pm Garden Cinema Screen 2

The People of the Documentary /La Gente del documental (2022, Inti Herrera, Cuba, 1h20m). Documentary about the bridge musicians and artists can create to connect the people of Cuba and the US, despite the US blockade.

Followed by **Dr. Stephen Wilkinson**, editor, *The International Journal of Cuba Studies*, in conversation with **Adislenes Ruenes César**, Attaché for Cultural, Academic and Scientific Affairs, Cuban Embassy.

Tues 25 March, 6.30pm ICA Screen 1

Memories of Underdevelopment/ Memorias del subdesarrollo (1968, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, Cuba, ICAIC, 1h44m). Privileged writer Sergio ponders on his new uncertain life, after his wife flees to the US in the early 1960s, as he surveys a rapidly changing society. Iconic for its cinematic experimentation.

Plus short: **For the First Time /Por la primera vez** (1967, Octavio Cortázar, Cuba, ICAIC, 10m). A mobile cinema truck takes a film to a remote mountain community for the first time.

Introduced by **Michael Chanan**, filmmaker and writer ('Cuban Cinema'), and **Silvia Padrón Durán**, director of *La Manigua* film and culture centre for children, Havana.



Wed 26 March, 6.30pm Garden Cinema Screen 1



Behaviour/Conducta (2014, Ernesto Daranas, Cuba, ICAIC, 1h48m). Powerful multi-awardwinning drama about a controversy that develops when an 11-year old boy is sent to a school for children with challenging behaviour.

Plus short: **An Elpidio Valdés Adventure** (1974, Juan Padrón, Cuba, ICAIC, 7m) Early anti-colonial animation, recently restored.

Introduced by **Silvia Padrón Durán**, director of *La Manigua* film and culture centre for children, Havana, and daughter of Juan Padrón.