



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**HFFNY CLOSURES WITH A CINEMATIC CULINARY EXPERIENCE- THE NY PREMIERE OF
*CUBAN FOOD STORIES***

The DGA Theater Tuesday, April 17th

Red carpet begins @ 6:00pm

Screening + Q&A with Director Asori Soto

Followed by a Cuban Culinary Experience Featuring a Special Guest

“Eye-opening in every way, especially for those who may think that Cuban food is just rice and beans.” - Variety

New York, March 9, 2018 - The 19th Havana Film Festival New York (HFFNY) comes to a close **April 17, 6:00pm** at Directors Guild Theater -DGA- with the NY premiere of the Cuban documentary ***Cuban Food Stories***, directed by Asori Soto. HFFNY also announces its momentous Award Ceremony to trophy the winning films for the 19th Annual Havana Film Festival. Fourteen films will compete for the Havana Star Prize. The evening will culminate with the Festival’s legendary **Latin Night Party @ Copacabana Night Club, 9:30pm**, in celebration of the hard work and success of the cast and crew.

Cuban Food Stories is a unique film about food, society, and culture on the island of Cuba. A road-trip adventure all around the island to discover the most authentic flavors and stories behind the Cuban cuisine. A film with unprecedented access to regions that are so remote that you can only get there by raft, horseback, or swimming. A journey that will leave your mouths watering as we take you from the middle of nowhere to the big cities to discover an exciting Cuba in times of change.

Asori Soto is a Producer/Director with an international career in advertising production. Upcoming projects include the docu-series Food Stories, inspired by Cuban Food Stories. Asori resides in the East Village, New York City.

NEW VENUES TO JOIN 19th HFFNY



This year, HFFNY travels around NYC for its main slate of screenings. The Festival kicks off April 6th with First Fridays! at the Bronx Museum of the Arts and officially opens **4/11** at the **AMC LOWES 34TH STREET** and closes **4/17** at the **Directors Guild of America Theater (DGA)- 110 W 57th St**. The main slate of screenings will take place on **4/6** at the **Bronx Museum of Arts** - 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th. **4/7 – 4/8** at the **Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI)- 36-01 35th Ave, Queens**. **4/9 & 4/13** at **Columbia University's International Affairs Building**, **4/10** at the **NYU King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center** - 53 Washington Square South. **4/11 – 4/15** at the **AMC Loews 34th Street-** 312 W 34th St. **4/16** at the **School of Visual Arts Theatre (SVA)- 333 W 23rd St**. **4/17** at the **Directors Guild of America Theatre-** 110 West 57th St (B/t 6th and 7th Ave)

About The American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC) AFLFC is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Since 2000, we have been working with our partner the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC), a non-governmental, autonomous, non-profit art and cultural institution in Havana, founded in 1995. Together we have been building cultural bridges between the U.S. and Cuba through art programs that include visual and performing arts, educational and cultural exchange, professional development opportunities for artists, art professionals and students, and the annual Havana Film Festival NY. We inspire artists, assist researchers, disseminate art information, provide instruction on new technology and software, excite audiences and facilitate communication between the art communities in both countries. We offer unique cultural travel programs to the island that expose American travelers to Cuba's cultural riches while generating meaningful personal connections.

About the Havana Film Festival New York (HFFNY)

AFLFC's flagship project, HFFNY, collaborates with *Havana's International Festival of New Latin American Cinema* to introduce its audience to prominent and emerging filmmakers by showcasing the latest award-winning films and classics from and about Cuba, Latin America, the Caribbean and Latinos in the U.S. HFFNY seeks to cultivate audience-artist dialogue through panel discussions designed to give a behind-the-scenes look at an industry that continues to gain global recognition. The festival program offers directors, actors, and producers an opportunity to exchange ideas, enriches and expands the vision of Latino culture, and provides a multi-cultural experience for a diverse audience.

HFFNY has established itself as an integral site of cultural celebration for and of the Latino community of NYC, as well as one of the most prominent Latino international film festivals in the U.S. Annually, the Festival promotes the richness and diversity of Latino voices with programs that feature an international variety of award-winning films, Q&A sessions, retrospectives, and panel discussions with notable local and international directors, actors, and producers. As a platform for the artistic and cultural exchange, HFFNY celebrates the work of existing and emerging Latino talent while creating bridges between filmmakers and the people of NYC. Visit us @ www.hffny.com.



CONTACT: Samantha Choos or Francisco Vargas - press@hffny.com/212.687.2146. Please **RSVP** if you would like to cover the **Red Carpet** and/or **Closing Night Event**.