



Dear journalists,

The Havana Film Festival New York invites you to celebrate its 24th edition, running April 12-18 at the Quad Cinema with special events on April 10 at Hofstra University and April 11 (online). Featuring over 35 award-winning films from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Panama, Uruguay and Latinos living in the U.S.- many in their World, US, and NY premieres- accompanied by panel discussions, Q&A sessions, and other special events hosted by leading figures in Latin American cinema.

If you would like to cover the festival, please apply for a press credential by submitting our [online form](https://www.hffny.com/press-pass):  
<https://www.hffny.com/press-pass>.

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**24th Havana Film Festival New York**  
**April 12-18, 2024, with Special Events on April 10 & 11**  
***For 24 Years, HFFNY Has Celebrated the Cultural Richness and Diversity of Cuban and Latin American Voices***

- The Festival opens on April 12 at Quad Cinema with the New York Premiere of *La Mujer Salvaje (Wild Woman)*, the directorial debut of Cuban filmmaker Alan Gonzalez
- HFFNY closes on April 18 with a Special Presentation of documentary *Igualada* by Juan Mejia Botero, an insider's look at the inspirational journey of Francia Marquez, Colombia's first Black Vice-President
- This year's special programs include homages to the first Afro-Cuban filmmaker, Nicolás Guillén Landrián, and legendary director Tomás Gutierrez Alea (a.k.a. Titón)
- Cinema Tropical and the Havana Film Festival New York (HFFNY) unveil the lineup of eighteen films competing for the esteemed Havana Star Prize

**New York, March 12, 2024-** The 24th Havana Film Festival New York ([www.HFFNY.com](http://www.HFFNY.com)), a project of The American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC), features an exceptional program celebrating the diversity of voices and cultural expressions of Cuba and Latin America. HFFNY 2024 will run from **April 12-18, 2024**, with special events on April 10 & 11, featuring over 35 award-winning films from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Panama, Uruguay, and Latino-Americans, many in their World, US, and NY premieres; accompanied by panel discussions, Q&A sessions, and other special events hosted by leading figures in Latin American cinema. **All foreign-language films are subtitled in English unless specified.**

This year's festival promises a captivating array of narratives designed to stimulate minds and spark meaningful discussions. Offering tales of suspense, adventure, social justice, musical expression, and love, the films featured have garnered acclaim on the global festival circuit, earning prestigious accolades. From satirical comedies that cleverly critique bureaucratic policies, poignant dramas that challenge societal perspectives on the female experience, and insightful documentaries that unveil truths and challenge norms to imaginative works that transport viewers to new realms, the 24th Havana Film Festival New York promises an enriching cinematic journey that demands attention, pushes boundaries, and reminds audiences of the transformative power of cinema.

*"The festival presents narratives that mirror the contemporary era we inhabit—often uncomfortable and occasionally uncertain yet consistently reflecting our diverse experiences. As Latinos, we stand as a dynamic creative force, seeking to amplify these voices and reaffirm our presence in this city as vital contributors to its cultural tapestry,"* says Diana Vargas, HFFNY's Artistic Director

HFFNY rolls out the red carpet at Quad Cinema on **Friday, April 12, at 6 pm**, to officially welcome the directors and films competing for the Havana Star Prize, with the NY premiere of ***La Mujer Salvaje*** (*Wild Woman*) the award-winning film by scriptwriter and director Alán Gonzalez (Cuba). In a Havana slum, a woman survives a bloody fight between her husband and her lover. In a desperate attempt to spare her son from the scandal, she decides to run away with him, but a video of the incident has already gone viral.

The competition continues the next day, **Saturday, April 13, at 12:30 pm** and ends on **Thursday, April 18, at 6:00 pm** with the Havana Star Prize Awards Ceremony, followed by the Special Presentation of Sundance darling ***Igualada*** by Juan Mejía Botero, a powerful documentary that follows the journey of Afro-Colombian activist Francia Márquez as she challenges the status quo with a presidential campaign that inspires a nation to dream of a more equitable future.

**HFFNY kicks off on Wednesday, April 10, at 2:45 pm** with a free program honoring Nicolás Guillén Landrián as part of the festival's collaboration with Hofstra University. ***The Unseen Gaze: A Retrospective of Nicolás Guillén Landrián*** presents the significant restoration project unveiling the lost legacy of Cuba's pioneering black filmmaker, Nicolás Guillén Landrián. This restoration project sheds light on the forgotten contributions of Landrián while illuminating the dark realities that marginalized his work. Free and open to the public.

On **Thursday, April 11, at 6 pm**, HFFNY presents the virtual workshop ***Mastering Script Negotiation, Unlocking the Art of Negotiating Your Screenplay***. Hosted by Lopera Sánchez, screenwriter and author of "Cómo negociar un guión" (How to Negotiate Your Script), this 3-hour masterclass invites participants to delve into the valuation of their creative work and discover innovative methods of approaching negotiations with industry professionals. The workshop is free of charge and will be conducted online in Spanish with simultaneous English translation. Participants are required to register in advance through HFFNY's website.

HFFNY in partnership with the Cohen Film Collection presents ***Laughing through Rebellion: The Cine Libre of Tomás Gutiérrez Alea***, the most comprehensive showcase of the Legendary Cuban Filmmaker Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, affectionately known as Titón. Delve into the cinematic brilliance of Titón with six of his iconic films, newly restored by the Academy Film Archive. Discover classics such as ***Fresa y Chocolate*** (*Strawberry & Chocolate*), ***La Muerte de un Burócrata*** (*Death of a Bureaucrat*), ***Los Sobrevivientes*** (*The Survivors*), ***La Última Cena*** (*The Last Supper*), ***Una Pelea Cubana Contra Los Demonios*** (*A Cuban Fight Against Demons*) and the short film ***El Arte Del Tabaco*** (6 min). The showcase

offers an unparalleled opportunity to be immersed in the groundbreaking works of one of Cuba's most celebrated filmmakers.

HFFNY highlights the latest work of esteemed Cuban director **Fernando Pérez, *El Mundo de Nelsito* (*Nelsito's World*)**, as the Centerpiece of this year's program, screening its NY Premiere on **Sunday, April 14 at 8:40 pm**. A poignant tale brimming with compassion and love, the film follows the titular Nelsito, an autistic teen who finds himself on a long road to recovery after an automobile accident.

Other special programs include ***Harmonies of the Americas: Celebrating Latin Music Legends, Past and Present***, a vibrant homage to the rich tapestry of Latin music, featuring Cuban documentary ***La Leyenda de Arsenio*** by Rolando Almirante, Cuban documentary ***Santa Canción (Blessed Song)*** by Juan Carlos Travieso Fajardo, Colombian feature biopic ***Rebelión (Rebellion)*** by José Luis Rugeles, Brazilian documentary ***Aldo Baldin: A Life for Music*** by Yves Goulart, and U.S.-Colombian narrative short ***¿Y la Calle Qué?*** by Dario Bolivar. HFFNY also celebrates short-form storytelling with a short film showcase on **Tuesday, April 16 at 2:20 pm** featuring ***La Gran Obra*** (Spain-US, Fiction) by Alex Lora, ***Jibaro*** (Cuba, Documentary) by Osmanys Sánchez Arañó, and ***Nube*** (Mexico-France-Hungary, Animation) by Christian Arredondo Narváez and Diego Alonso Sánchez de la Barquera Estrada.

#### **HAVANA STAR PRIZE COMPETITION**

HFFNY and Cinema Tropical present the 18 films that will be competing for the Havana Star Prize in the categories of **Best Feature Film, Director, Screenplay, Actor/Actress, and Best Documentary**. Havana Film Festival NY proudly announces our partnership with Cinema Tropical, a pivotal force in bringing Latin American and Latino cinema to the U.S. for over two decades.

#### **FICTION**

- **DESPERTÉ CON UN SUEÑO / I WOKE UP WITH A DREAM**  
Pablo Solarz | Argentina-Uruguay | Fiction | 2023 | 80 min | NY PREMIERE
- **PEDÁGIO / TOLL**  
Carolina Markowicz | Brazil-Portugal | Fiction | 2023 | 102 min | NY PREMIERE
- **MEMENTO MORI**  
Fernando López Cardona | Colombia-Germany | Fiction | 2023 | 112 min | NY PREMIERE
- **REBELIÓN / REBELLION**  
José Luis Rugeles Gracia | Colombia-Argentina-U.S. | Fiction | 2022 | 105 min | NY PREMIERE
- **LA HIJA DE LÁZARO / LAZARO'S DAUGHTER**  
Gustavo Fallas | Costa Rica-Spain | Fiction | 2023 | 90 min | NY PREMIERE
- **BAJO UN SOL PODEROSO / UNDER A POWERFUL SUN**  
Enrique (Kiki) Álvarez | Cuba | Fiction | 2022 | 87 min | US PREMIERE
- **LA MUJER SALVAJE / WILD WOMAN**  
Alán González | Cuba | Fiction | 2023 | 93 min | NY PREMIERE
- **UNA NOCHE CON LOS ROLLING STONES / A NIGHT WITH THE ROLLING STONES**  
Patricia Ramos | Cuba-Nicaragua | Fiction | 2023 | 92 min | US PREMIERE
- **HEROICO**  
David Zonana | Mexico-Sweden | Fiction | 2022 | 88 min | NY PREMIERE
- **EL CASO MONROY**  
Josue Mendez | Peru-Venezuela | Fiction | 2023 | 95 min | NY PREMIERE

## **DOCUMENTARY:**

- **AYAHUASCA NOW**  
Carlos Bruno Cejas | Argentina | Documentary | 2024 | 90 min | WORLD PREMIERE
- **EL CASTILLO**  
Martin Benchimol | Argentina-France | Documentary | 2023 | 80 min | NY PREMIERE
- **ALDO BALDIN: A LIFE FOR MUSIC**  
Yves Goulart | Brazil | Documentary | 2024 | 114 min | WORLD PREMIERE
- **NOSOTRAS / WE, THE WOMEN**  
Emilce Quevedo Díaz | Colombia | Documentary | 2023 | 70 min | NY PREMIERE
- **TRANSFARIANA**  
Joris Lachaise | Colombia-France | Documentary | 100 min | US PREMIERE
- **LANDRIÁN**  
Ernesto Daranas Serrano | Cuba-Spain | Documentary | 2023 | 80 min | NY PREMIERE
- **SANTA CANCIÓN / BLESSED SONG**  
Juan Carlos Travieso Fajardo | Cuba | Documentary | 2023 | 71 min | US PREMIERE
- **TITO, MARGOT Y YO / TITO, MARGO & ME**  
Mercedes Arias, Delfina Vidal | Panama-Colombia | Documentary | 2022 | 92 min | NY PREMIERE

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## **BOX OFFICE AND DISCOUNTS**

HFFNY offers discounted ticket prices through its selection of Festival passes. It also advertises time-limited reduced-price sales for screenings and events on its social media pages. For more information, follow us on social media at @hffny and visit us at [www.HFFNY.com](http://www.HFFNY.com).

To request interviews with HFFNY organizers, and filmmakers as well as high-resolution images, contact [outreach@hffny.com](mailto:outreach@hffny.com) / 212.687.2146

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

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