



Spring  
2023  
Showcase

# Havana Film Festival New York

Celebrating Latin American  
Cinema since 2000

MAY  
18, 22-25

HFFNY PRESS OFFICE

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## HFFNY SPRING SHOWCASE OFFERS A CINEMATIC TASTING MENU OF EVERYTHING WE LOVE ABOUT THE FILM WORLDS OF CUBA AND LATIN AMERICA

**Celebrating thirty years of storytelling and nurturing talents from Universidad  
del Cine de Buenos Aires**

**May 18, 22-25, 2023**

**New York, May 10, 2023-** Presented in partnership with the Instituto Cervantes NY, the Department of Media & Communication Arts City College - CCNY CUNY, the Consulate General of Argentina in NY, and the Quad Cinema, the **HFFNY Spring Showcase** (May 18, 22-25) offers a cinematic tasting menu of everything we love about the film worlds of Cuba and Latin America. Featuring a retrospective honoring the work of Sara Gómez, Cuba's first afro-female director, a program paying home to the 30-year anniversary of the *Fundación Universidad del Cine de Buenos Aires*, filmmaker Q&As, and a slate of NY, US, and World Premieres alongside newly restored classics, this showcase is not to be missed.

*"While the full Havana Film Festival NY is scheduled to return the Spring of 2024, we couldn't bring ourselves to fully skip this year's festival altogether with so many talented filmmakers and stories to share- so we found the perfect solution: a 5-day mini-festival this May,"* says Diana Vargas, Artistic Director of the Havana Film Festival NY

Film schools in Latin America in recent decades have been an essential part of achieving a more democratic, interesting, and thought-provoking cinema open to diverse narratives both in aesthetics-content and native stories. One of those schools, the *Fundación Universidad del Cine de Buenos Aires* (UCINE), is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and Havana Film Festival New York (HFFNY) in partnership with the Department of Media and Communication Arts at City College - CUNY and the General Consulate of Argentina in New York will honor the UCINE with the presentation of **El Gran Movimiento** by Kiro Russo (*The Great Movement*, Bolivia-France-Qatar-Switzerland, 2021) on May 18 at CUNY's City College Shepard Hall, Room 290/291 and **Petite Fleur** by Santiago Mitre (*15 Ways to Kill Your Neighbor*, France-Argentina, 2022). UCINE's Vice-Chancellor, Mario Santos, and Head of International Relations, María Marta Antin, will introduce the films and give a Q&A moderated by CCNY Professor Jerry Carlson following the screening.

Since its inception, the Universidad del Cine has grown into an epicenter of filmmaking with an educational model that has redefined the canons of images and genres. Headquartered in Buenos Aires' traditional San Telmo neighborhood, the school has nurtured the talents of an emerging generation of

filmmakers from both Argentina and across the region— including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru— who have gone on to win international acclaim, and, in the process, create a world-renown film movement. Among UCINE’s graduates are well-known filmmakers such as Damián Szifrón, Santiago Mitre, Mariano Llinás, Albertina Carri, Lisandro Alonso, Rodrigo Moreno, Celina Murga, Pablo Trapero, Paz Encina, Kiro Russo, and Ana Katz.



Still from Santiago Mitre's *Petite Fleur* / *15 Ways to Kill Your Neighbor*, courtesy of Playtime.

**THURSDAY MAY 18 • CITY COLLEGE - SHEPARD HALL ROOM 291**

Photo ID required by venue. Screening is FREE & open to the public; register at [www.HFFNY.com](http://www.HFFNY.com).

**6:30 pm: Homage to Universidad del Cine de Buenos Aires: Thirty Years of Storytelling**

Presented in collaboration with the Department of Media & Communication Arts at City College

**\*EL GRAN MOVIMIENTO / THE GREAT MOVEMENT**

Kiro Russo | Bolivia-France-Qatar-Switzerland | 2022 | Fiction | 85 min

Stunningly shot in the Bolivian mountains, jungles and in contemporary La Paz, this award-winning film (First Prize at the Festival of New Latin American Cinema) follows Elder who arrives in the capital after a seven-day journey seeking to get back his work at a mine. Once in the city, Elder gets a job but his health soon deteriorates. An elderly woman known as Mama Pancha sends him to Max, a mysterious man who resides in the rainforest and occasionally heads to La Paz for work as a street performer. To save Elder, Max performs a series of shamanic rituals that slowly brings the young man back to life.

**\*Followed by a Q&A with María Marta Antin and Mario Santos, moderated by Professor Jerry Carlson**

**MONDAY MAY 22 • GENERAL CONSULATE OF ARGENTINA IN NEW YORK**

Screening is FREE & open to the public; register at [www.HFFNY.com](http://www.HFFNY.com).

**6:00 pm: Homage to Universidad del Cine de Buenos Aires: Thirty Years of Storytelling**

**\*PETITE FLEUR / 15 WAYS TO KILL YOUR NEIGHBOR**

Santiago Mitre | France-Argentina | 2022 | Fiction | 93min | **NY PREMIERE**

José, an Argentinean living in France with his partner and their daughter, meets their new neighbor. In an irrational impulse, while listening to the jazz piece "Petite Fleur", he murders his new friend. The next day, before José's astonished gaze, his neighbor is still alive and happy. Frightened, he decides to kill him again. From that moment on, he finds himself trapped in a strange daily routine: trying to save his relationship and kill his neighbor.

**\*Reception to follow**

**TUESDAY MAY 23 • INSTITUTO CERVANTES NY**

Screenings are *FREE* & open to the public; register at [www.HFFNY.com](http://www.HFFNY.com).

**6:00 pm: HONORING SARA GOMEZ - A SELECTION OF HER NEWLY-RESTORED SHORT FILMS**

- **IRÉ A SANTIAGO / I'M GOING TO SANTIAGO**  
Sara Gómez | Cuba | 1964 | Documentary | 15 min  
With a vibrant musical soundtrack, Gómez portrays the city of Santiago de Cuba, connecting contemporary men and women to a past of slavery and resistance.
- **GUANABACOA: CRÓNICAS DE MI FAMILIA / GUANABACOA: CHRONICLES OF MY FAMILY**  
Sara Gómez | Cuba | 1966 | Documentary | 15 min  
An intimate portrait of Gómez's family and their city of Guanabacoa on the outskirts of Havana, this film remediates photographs and music recordings to create an archive of the family that is brought to life through the voices of women: Sara, her Madrina, and her Aunt Berta.
- **Y TENEMOS SABOR / WE'VE GOT RHYTHM**  
Sara Gómez | Cuba | 1967 | Documentary | 25 min | **NY PREMIERE OF NEWLY RESTORED FILM**  
A documentary that gives a lyrical introduction to Afro-Cuban rhythms. The short is packed with interviews, studio recordings, and footage of impromptu street performances.



Still from Sara Gómez's newly restored short documentary, *Y tenemos sabor / We've Got Rhythm*, courtesy of ICAIC

**7:10 pm: LA CAJA NEGRA / THE BLACK BOX**

Enrique (Kiki) Álvarez | Cuba | Fiction | 2021 | 93 min | **US PREMIERE**

The U.S. Premiere of Cuban filmmaker Kiki Álvarez's newest feature paints a slow-burning love story set in the years immediately following the Cuban Revolution in January of 1959. *La Caja Negra* (the Black Box) is a secret diary written by Elsa and read by her granddaughter several decades later, a film about a young woman who finds and reads the experiential, emotional and political legacy that her grandmother has left hidden like a magical object.

**WEDNESDAY MAY 24 • INSTITUTO CERVANTES NY**

Screenings are *FREE* & open to the public; register at [www.HFFNY.com](http://www.HFFNY.com).

**6:00 pm: CUBAN SHORTS PROGRAM**

● **LA NOVICIA JARDINERA**

Arturo Sotto | Cuba | 2022 | Fiction | 29 min | **NY PREMIERE**

A love story in times of pandemic. It's the 1920s and the world is rocked by the Spanish Flu. Adelina, a young woman from Havana, is admitted to a cloister of nuns in the hopes of calming her fiery nature. Unable to reign in her passion, she directs it towards a visiting young clergyman...

● **LA CAMPAÑA / THE CAMPAIGN**

Eduardo del Llano | Cuba | 2022 | Fiction | 15 min | **NY PREMIERE**

1961: Felipe, a young brigade member, arrives at a hut lost among the hills somewhere in Cuba in the middle of the Literacy Campaign. To his surprise, the peasant family is unusual in more ways than one. Perplexed, Felipe doesn't know what to do: his boss, Rigoberto, is very strict, and if he returns to inform him of the mistake, he'll take it out on him...

● **EL HIJO MUERTO**

Maysel Bello | Cuba | 2022 | Fiction | 28min | **NY PREMIERE**

Idania and Luis receive the news that their son has murdered another boy while on guard duty in the unit where he is doing his military service. The parents' relationship is put in crisis, based on each one's vision of their child.



Still from *La Caja Negra / The Black Box* (dir. Kiki Álvarez), courtesy of ICAIC

**7:15 pm: VIRGILIO**

Alfred Oliveri | Argentina-Uruguay | 2022 | Documentary | 88 min | **NY PREMIERE**

Virgilio Martinez is much more than a chef, he is an artist. Although his Central restaurant in Lima, Peru, is considered to be the best of the decade in Latin America and number 2 in the world, and his wife Pía León is considered to be the world's best female chef, his inspiration, research and creative work goes much further than these recognitions. Virgilio is an explorer of Peru's different regions, giving its origin to the revolutionary concept of the "World in Altitudes", based on the elevations of the earth that forever changed the way local gastronomy is seen in today's world.

## THURSDAY MAY 25 • QUAD CINEMA

Tickets now on sale at [www.HFFNY.com](http://www.HFFNY.com).

### 6:00 pm: Honoring Sara Gómez\*

DE CIERTA MANERA / ONE WAY OR ANOTHER (Restored Copy)

Sara Gómez | Cuba | 1977 | Documentary | 78 min

Afro-Cuban filmmaker Sara Gómez's radical narrative-documentary hybrid (the first feature directed by a Cuban woman) delivers a complex critique of regressive machismo in Castro's Cuba. Charting the rocky romance between a progressive teacher (Cuéllar) and a traditionalist man (Balmaseda), One Way or Another reveals that, even in a post-revolutionary society, patriarchal attitudes must still be dismantled.

**\*Followed by a Q&A**

### 8:00 pm: Closing Night Film

#### FARÁNDULA\*

Jazz Vilá | USA-Cuba | 2023 | Fiction | 80 min | **WORLD PREMIERE**

A gay photographer seeks to dispel doubts about his undocumented lover. His torment leads him to create a secret exhibition funded by his best friend, a prestigious doctor struggling with addiction. Everything takes an unexpected turn on opening night when an "unknown" becomes the instrument used by fate to expose a complex plot of sex, trafficking and lies.

**\*Followed by a Q&A with director Jazz Vilá**

### VENUES:

#### CCNY Shepard Hall Room 290/291\*

259 Convent Ave. (SE Corner of 140th & Convent), New York, NY 10031

*\*Photo ID required to enter building*

#### Consulado General de Argentina NY

12 W 56th St., New York, NY 10019

#### Instituto Cervantes NY

211 E 49th St., New York, NY 10017

#### Quad Cinema

34 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011

### BOX OFFICE:

All screenings except those on Thursday, May 25 at the Quad Cinema are FREE & open to the public. Registration is appreciated but not required, and seatings will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets on sale include discounted prices for students & seniors (ID may be requested at the box office before collecting your ticket). To purchase tickets and register for our free events, please visit [www.HFFNY.com](http://www.HFFNY.com).

### CULTURAL PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS:

HFFNY Spring Showcase is grateful for the generous support of its cultural partners and sponsors: The Department of Media & Communication Arts at the City College of NY, the Consulate General of Argentina in NY, Instituto Cervantes NY, Quad Cinema, Fundación Universidad del Cine de Buenos Aires, Cinemateca de Cuba, ICAIC, and Ron Barceló.

The Havana Film Festival New York is a project of The American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit founded in the State of NY. All AFLFC programs, including the HFFNY Spring Showcase are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. HFFNY is made possible, in part, by support from the Public Funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in collaboration with the City Council of New York.

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