

# Entertainment Society of Goa

in collaboration with

**Embassy of Cuba**

presents

# CUBAN FILM FESTIVAL

**Feb 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.**

**Registration Fee: Rs. 100/-.**

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**Maquinez Palace I, Entertainment Society of Goa, D. B. Marg, Campal, Panaji**

# CUBAN FILM FESTIVAL

## Screening Schedule

DATE	3.00 PM	5.00 PM	6.30 PM
18/2/2009 Wednesday			<b>Opening film</b> <b>CLANDESTINES</b> Director: Fernando Pérez FF/88min/Spanish/1987/EST <b>by Invitation only</b>
19/2/09 Thursday		<b>CHALLENGE</b> DF/21 min/Spanish/EST <b>CHE: LOVE, POLITICS AND REBELRY</b> DF/45 min/Spanish/EST	<b>A SUCCESSFUL MAN</b> Director: Humberto Solas FF/102 min/Spanish/1985/EST
20/2/09 Friday	<b>THE MERIT IS TO STAY ALIVE</b> Director: Enrique Prendes DF/52 min/Spanish/2006/E	CLANDESTINES Director: Fernando Pérez FF/88min/Spanish/1987/EST <b>Repeat screening</b>	<b>BENNY</b> Director - Jorge Luis Sánchez FF/121/min/Spanish/2006/EST
21/2/09 Saturday	<b>FACTS, NOT JUST WORDS</b> DF/93 min/Spanish/EST	<b>DEATH OF A BUREAUCRAT</b> Director - Tomás Gutiérrez Alea FF/80min/Spanish/1966/EST	<b>THE BEAUTY OF ALAMBRA</b> Director - Enrique Pineda Barnet FF/114 min/Spanish/1989/EST
22/2/09 Sunday	<b>FROM SON TO SALSA</b> DF/100 min/Spanish/EST	<b>MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT</b> DF/54 min/Spanish/EST	<b>LUCIA</b> Director - Humberto Solás FF/160 min/Spanish/1968/EST

DF: Documentary film. FF: Feature film. EST: English Subtitled film

# Synopsis

## Feature Films

### 1. UN HOMBRE DE ÉXITO (A SUCCESSFUL MAN)

Producer – Humberto Hernandez

Director: Humberto Solas

Duration: 102 min

Synopsis: A Republic in social turbulence. Javier is fighting against his family, his brother, and his lover. He has only one goal in his life: The Success. In that way, anything will stop him, nor the love neither the political struggle. His goal is further than any kind of fidelity. It is a story of money, blackmail, love, treason.

A Successful Man won the Grand Prize at the Havana Film Festival in 1986 and was the first Cuban film considered for an Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Directed by the eminent Humberto Solás, it is one of a series of classics released as the Cuban Masterworks Collection, originally produced through Cuba's internationally renowned film school, ICAIC, the Instituto Cubano del Arte e Industrias Cinematográficos.

### 2. CLANDESTINOS (CLANDESTINES)

Producer: Santiago Llapur

Director: Fernando Pérez

Duration: 88 min

Synopsis: Based on real events of urban guerrilla units fighting the Batista regime during the 50s, the film reflects the atmosphere of terror in which these young people fought and overthrew the tyrant, giving up their own lives, without losing the joy of living or the conviction that victory would be achieved.

Fernando Pérez made his debut as a director with this film, characterized by convincing dramaturgy, impeccable performances, accurate script and meticulous photography. Corals for Best First Work and Best Actress, International Festival of New Latin American Cinema, Havana, 1987; Golden Catalina for Direction and Best Actor, International Film Festival, Cartagena de Indias, 1988.

### 3. EL BENNY (BENNY)

Producer: Camilo Vives

Director: Jorge Luis Sánchez

Duration: 121 min.

Synopsis: The life of who is, perhaps, the most popular Cuban musician of all time, Benny Moré, a man of complex personality who led a disorganized life, a rebel, an inveterate drinker, but with an extraordinary musical talent which made him the people's idol. Based on the life of [Benny Moré](#), the film concentrates on a period in the early 1950s when Moré leaves the orchestra of Duany and starts his own 'Banda Gigante'. In flashback we learn of his success in Mexico. Moré is caught in the events connected to Batista's coup in Cuba. Also, he tours Venezuela, where he suffers the machinations of a vengeful businessman. After collapsing and being hospitalised, Moré swears off alcohol. Some years later, he encounters his old band-mate Monchy, fallen on hard times.

The film has a respectable narrative structure and his unforgettable songs are most appreciated. Coral to Best First Work, International Festival of New Latin American Cinema, Havana, 2006.

#### 4. LA BELLA DEL ALAMBRA (THE BEAUTY OF ALAMBRA)

Producer: Humberto Hernandez

Director: Enrique Pineda Barnet

Duration: 114 min.

Synopsis: The story of a vaudeville actress during the 1920s, who asserting herself unscrupulously in the sordid world behind the curtains, achieved fame, and in her old age was nurtured by her memories. Based on Miguel Barnet's novel Canción de Rachel [Rachel's Song], it is also an anthology of the best Cuban music of the first decades of the 20th century. A melodrama that is easily seen more than once thanks to its soundtrack music, excellent versions of Cuban vernacular music and the terrific performance of its versatile star, Beatriz Valdés.

Goya Award, 1989; Best Actress, Latino Film Festival (New York), 1989; Coral Awards for Soundtrack, Set Design and Setting, International Festival of New Latin American Cinema, Havana, 1989.

#### 5. LA MUERTE DE UN BURÓCRATA (DEATH OF A BUREAUCRAT)

Producer: Margarita Alexandre

Director: Tomás Gutiérrez Alea

Duration: 80 min.

Synopsis: This black comedy that lashes out against institutionalized bureaucracy tells the story of a young man's attempts to disinter his uncle who was buried with a document that his widow now needs to legalize her pension.

This was the first great Cuban film of international significance. Special Jury Prize at the 1966 Karlovy Vary Film Festival (Czechoslovakia).

#### 6. LUCIA

Producer: Paul Canosa & Camilo Vives

Director: Humberto Solás

Duration: 160 min.

Synopsis: Lucia is a film divided into three parts: 1895, 1933, and 196... Each part deals with the story of a woman living in those years. The first part, 1895, tells the story of a bourgeois woman in colonial times; the second, 1933, deals with a pretty bourgeois girl under the Republic; and the last part. It is the story of peasant woman in the years of the Revolution.

## Documentary Films

#### 1. El merito es estar vivo (The merit is to stay alive)

Producer: Enrique Prendes

Duration: 52 minutes

Synopsis: *Documentary based on real facts, indisputable Proofs of CIA's projects for assassinating Fidel Castro and Cuban Revolution throw down. Images and testimonies that carry us to discover the most complex plot of the CIA's plans against the Cuban President. More than 600 plans of attempts against Fidel that could not be finished as planned thanks to the intelligence and skill of Cuba's State Security.*

## 2. Che: el amor, la política y la Rebeldía (Che: Love, Politics and Rebelry)

Producer: Armando Olivera Nodarse

Duration: 45 min.

Synopsis: based on the book by Italian journalist Lilliana Bucellini, which narrates the life of Ernesto "Che" Guevara from his birth until his assassination in Bolivia.

## 3. Hechos, no palabras (Facts, not just words)

Producer: Maria Silvina Silvestre

Duration: 93 min.

Synopsis: Documentary on the Cuban political process and its peculiarities. The film deals with the alleged violation of human rights in Cuba, which has been used as a main argument for blocking the island support for over forty years.

## 4. Montaña de Luz (Mountain of Light)

Producer: Francisco Alvarez

Duration: 54 min.

Synopsis: Documentary about the life of Cuban health professionals in the Cuban foreign. Moving testimonies of poor people in some cases received health care for the first time, the doctors about their experiences in the humanitarian mission, and their colleagues and authorities in different countries, were known to the public through the film material.

## 5. Desafío (Challenge)

Producer: Danylo Sirio

Duration: 21 min.

Synopsis: Desafío" (Challenge), a touching chronicle on the endurance, courage, and confidence on the Caribbean people's victory over adversities posed by the blockade.

## 6. Yo soy del Son a la Salsa (From *Son* to *Salsa*)

Producer: Rigoberto Lopez

Duration: 100 min

Synopsis: "Yo Soy, Del Son A La Salsa," a documentary about the history of salsa. The film traces the music from Cuban musicians singing and dancing in the streets of Eastern Cuba and performing Son Cubano in Guantanamo to its migration from Eastern Cuba to Havana and through Mexico to New York, where the Afro-Cuban rhythms combined with jazz and Puerto Rican musicians.