

Group 5: Cuba

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Cinema in Cuba

- Arrived in Cuba in beginning of 20th century
- Most films were melodramas
- 80 full-length films produced before Cuban Revolution
- After revolution: “Golden Age” of Cuban cinema

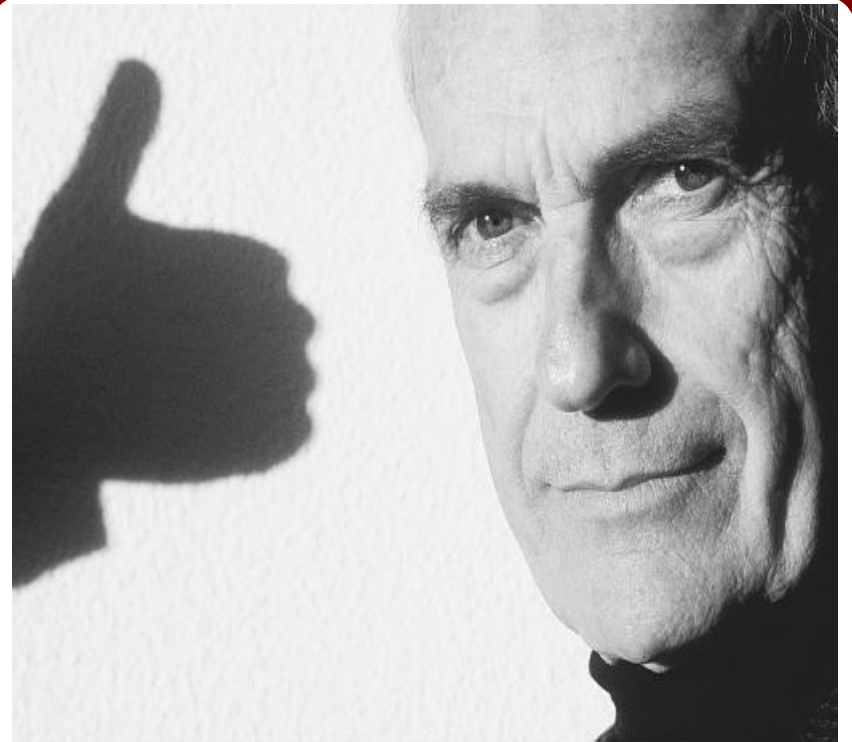


Cuban Revolution

- Fidel Castro against the Cuban president Batista
- Ousted Batista on Jan 1, 1959
- Replaced his gov't with a socialist state
- Later became the Communist party.
- Nationalization and political consolidation

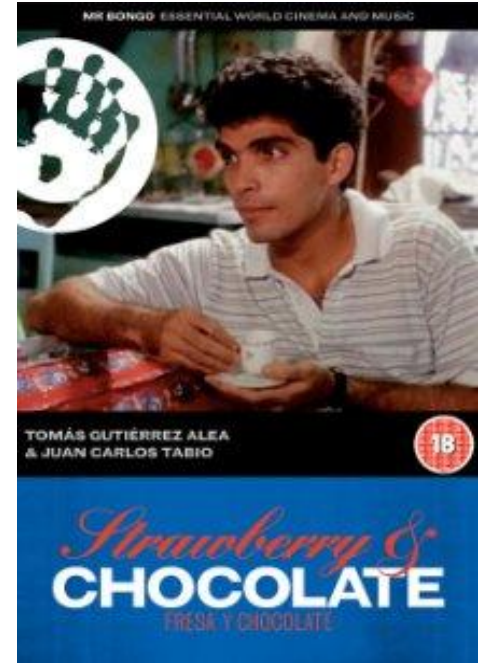
Tomas Gutierrez Alea

- Born in Havana, 1928
- Received law degree from University of Havana.
Studied cinema in Rome
- Wrote and directed more than 20 features
- Known for his sharp insight into post-Revolutionary Cuba
- Criticism of social, economic, political conditions



Strawberry and Chocolate

- Based on “The Wolf, The Forest, and the New Man
- Havana, Cuba 1979
- Published in 1990
- Film’s Portrayal
- Spiritual Aspect
- LGBT Community



Homosexuality: Fidel Castro

- Castro's Interview set the tone for the Cuban nation
- Castro explained 1965 interview:

-“We would never come to believe that a homosexual could embody the conditions and requirements of conduct that would enable us to consider him a true Revolutionary, a true Communist militant. A deviation of that nature clashes with the concept we have of what a militant Communist must be.”

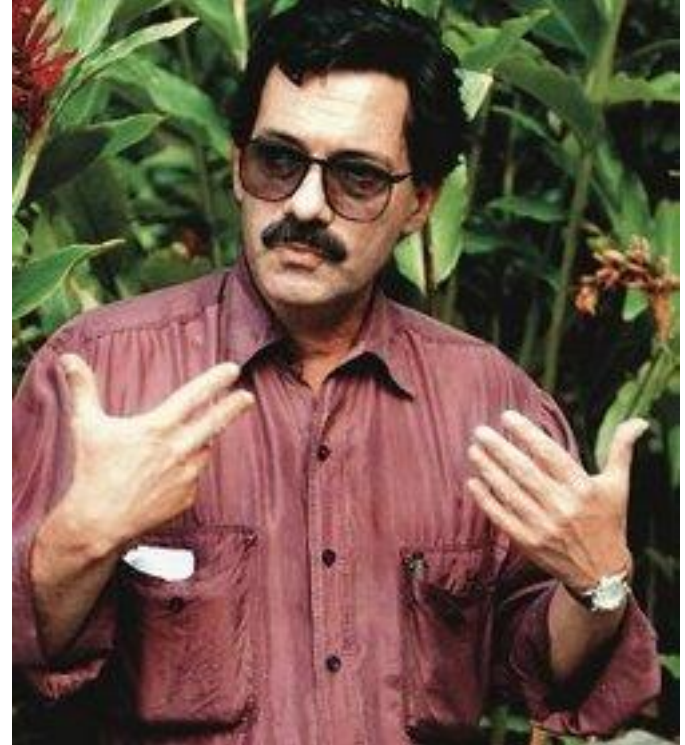


Homosexuality in Cuba

- Castro considered it a devious product of capitalism
- During 60's and 70's: homosexual men were imprisoned, lost their jobs
- Incarcerated in UMAP (Military Units to Aid Production)

Juan Carlos Tabio

- Born 1942 Havana, Cuba
- Accidental filmmaker
- Began 1961, first film 1983
- Received Awards



Guantanamera

- Released 1994/95
- Romantic Comedy
- Takes place during “Special Period” (1990)
- What was the “Special Period?”



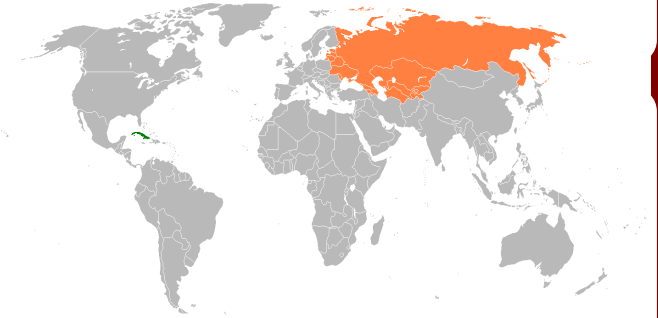
Guantanamo

- Started by Tomas, finished by Juan Carlos
- Mariano
- Engineer → Truck Driver
- Adolfo: Government Worker
- Gina: Cuban women of 1970-1990



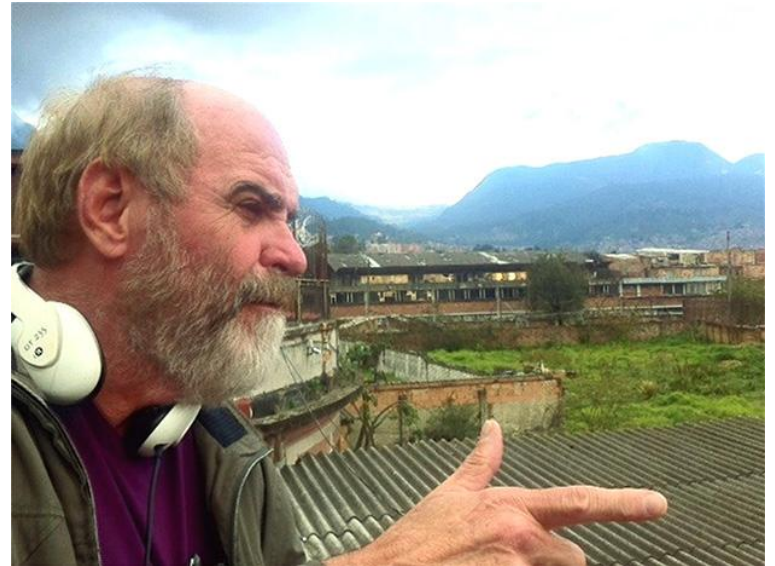
Cuban-Soviet Relations

- Started during WWII
- Little interest in Castro
- USA's embargo led to sugar-fuel trade
- Bay of Pigs 1961: Socialistic → Russian Support
- Sugar and Petroleum
- By 1990, hard to keep trade



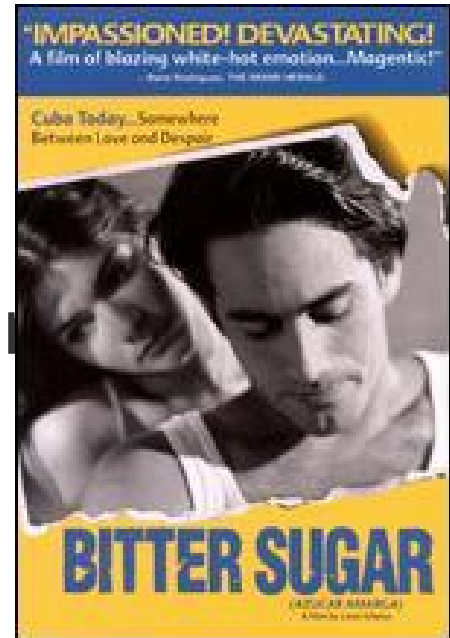
Leon Ichaso

- Born Havana, 1948
- Family of well known artists, journalists, writers
- Left Cuba for Mexico and the US at age 14
- Specializes in gritty urban realism
- First film: “El Super”



Bitter Sugar

- 1996 film, nominated “Best Foreign Language Film”
- Hollywood style romance
- Tourism, Currency, Prostitution
- Disillusionment in the Revolution
- AIDS injection- political protest



AIDS Self-Injection

- A political protest
- Cubans had little freedom of expression
- Quarantined to sanitariums
- Sanitariums had better conditions

Florian Borchmeyer

- born 1974 in wasserburg
- Studied at the Universite de la Sorbonne Nouvelle
- co-directed and wrote Havana: The New art of making ruins in 1997



Foto: © Nadja Klier

Matthias Hentshier

- born 1973 in Berlin
- work as a journalist
- co-directed and wrote

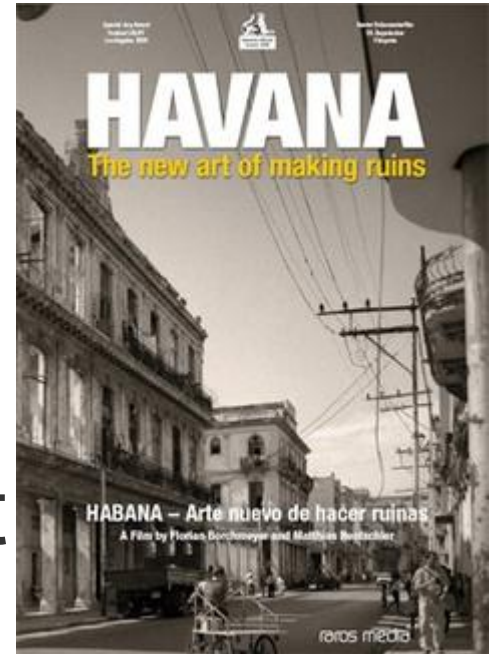
Havana: The New art of making ruins in 1997



Foto: © Nadja Klier

Havana: The New Art of Making Ruins

- released in 2005
- Havana Cuba
- remnants of Havana
- I'm not telling you what happens so you can watch it yourself.



bibliography

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