

Film Programming – INSTAR – Gloria Kino (Kassel)

(17:00 – 22:00 hrs)

08-07-2022

17:00 - *Las campañas de invierno / The Winter Campaigns* (Rafael Ramírez, 2019, 70' min)

In a house, a no man's land, the player of a videogame lives with his family. During the day he works at a slaughterhouse, and at night he has extensive dialogues with a virtual world. The player questions his role in what he understands as the war between reality and language.

18:10 - *adoleCe / AdolescenCe* (Daiyán Noa, 2018, 60' min)

Adolescent Cecilia's reflections on the banks of a river. Her education and interests are put to the test: she must have the career she wants.

19:10 - *Casa de la noche / Nighthouse* (Marcel Beltrán, 2016, 13' min)

Havana, city of marvels, has its roots in the spirit of its inhabitants. The country that is absorbed from within and revealed. An utopian vision, inspired in Havana and its symbols, from the treatment and the degradation of the celluloid.

19:23 - *La música de las esferas / The Music of the Spheres* (Marcel Beltrán, 2017, 82' min)

“And what if in the end, we just had to feel things?” Mauricio Beltrán asks in a letter to his wife Regina. The missive is read by the director Marcel Beltrán, whose voice over accompanies the succinct remembering of his parents' quest to stay together no matter what.

20'45 - *35 permutaciones en tres actos y un epílogo / 35 Permutations in Three Acts and an Epilogue* (Josué García & Marcos A. Yglesias, 2020, 51' min)

Ten family video-letters, randomly ordered, tell the stories of those who were not in Cuba in the 1990s. Vignettes of exile, of emigration, of those who left to be Cubans elsewhere.

Estimated time: 276' min

09-07-2022

17:00 - *Veritas* (Elicer Jiménez Almeida, 2022, 67' min)

This documentary sheds light on the Bay of Pigs Invasion, giving voice to the long-silenced Cubans who went to the island to defy Castro's regime. The film revisits the invasion and its protagonists from the historic perspective of the present. The days preceding the military operation, memories of combat, friendship and friends lost, their imprisonment in Cuba and their eventual return to the United States, are woven together with the policies of the Cold War and the geopolitical interests of three countries: Cuba, the United States, and the USSR.

18:07 - *Sueños al paio / Dreams adrift* (José Luis Aparicio & Fernando Fraguela, 2020, 32' min)

Mike Porcel is the lost member of Cuban Nueva Trova: his lack of revolutionary spirit condemned him to the rejection of his peers and turned him into a pariah for a decade until he managed to exile.

18:39 - *La reina de los jueves / The Queen of Thursdays* (Orlando Rojas, 2016, 79' min)

She was the very pinnacle of grace, power and talent—yet for years Rosario Suárez, the former prima ballerina of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba, was only showcased on the ballet's Thursday programs, and rarely in weekend performances. This went on for so long that Rosario became known as the Queen of Thursdays.

19:58 - *La opción cero / Option Zero* (Marcel Beltrán, 2020, 80' min)

A group of Cuban migrants, in transit through the American continent to try to reach the United States, use their cell phones to record and transmit through social networks intimate moments of their passage through the jungle, gathering more than 100 hours of

experiences. Immobilized in a makeshift camp set up by Caritas in Panama City, the difficult passage through the Darien Jungle, a 100-kilometer strip between Panama and the Colombian Choco, comes to life on their devices.

Estimated time: 258' min

10-07-2022

17:00 - *La profesora de inglés / The English Teacher* (Alán González, 2015, 15' min)

Tired of caring for her dying husband, Sonia, a former English teacher, decides to give classes out of her home. But if she wants to be free, she must confront her guilt.

17:15 - *Ladridos / Barks* (Fernando Fraguela, 2015, 25' min)

A woman lives with the company of her dog. One night she meets a man with whom she shares her love for these animals, only his love is very different and he will make her his pet.

17:40 - *El Secadero / Dryland* (José Luis Aparicio, 2019, 27' min)

Havana, 1993. A serial killer is decapitating police officers. Mario, a disillusioned cop, finds the head of the seventh victim.

18:07 - *Las muertes de Arístides / The Many Deaths of Aristides* (Lázaro Lemus, 2019, 16' min)

Aristides was shot and died while doing his military service in 1991. His memory is reconstructed by those who remember him.

18:23 - *El rodeo / The Rodeo* (Carlos Melián, 2021, 30' min)

At the center of a dam there is a little island where a single family lives. At a party to dance changüí, the early morning fog brings a strange visitor carrying a cage in which there is hidden a magical, freeing animal.

18:53 - *El niño de goma / The Rubber Boy* (Marcos Díaz, 2020, 15' min)

An adolescent is run over by a luxury car and left unscathed. The people who hit him won't confess, but offer to help him out.

19:08 - *Tundra* (José Luis Aparicio, 2021, 30' min)

Walfrido, a solitary electrical inspector, dreams of the Red Woman, whose image persists becoming an obsession. Something tells him she is close by. Over the course of the day, Walfrido will follow her trail through the suburbs of an infested city.

19:38 - *El matadero / The Abattoir* (Fernando Fraguela, 2021, 54' min)

In the apartment buildings of this housing project built by the Cuban Revolution, neighbors raise and sell pigs to survive. Fernando tells the story of his childhood and adolescence as a resident, and that of his friend Dusniel, who commercializes these pigs to save up and eventually flee the country. The slaughterhouse becomes the neighborhood and the neighborhood becomes the slaughterhouse, and Fernando also begins to wish he could escape.

20:32 - *35 permutaciones en tres actos y un epílogo / 35 Permutations in Three Acts and an Epilogue* (Josué García & Marcos A. Yglesias, 2020, 51' min)

Ten family video-letters, randomly ordered, tell the stories of those who were not in Cuba in the 1990s. Vignettes of exile, of emigration, of those who left to be Cubans elsewhere.

Estimated time: 263' min

11-07-2022

17:00 - *Umbra* (Daniela Muñoz, 2021, 10' min)

Daniela is losing the ability to hear some sounds. Going deaf is one of her biggest fears. For a moment, reality takes the shape of her nightmares.

17:10 - *¿Qué remedio? La parranda / The Parrandas* (Daniela Muñoz, 2017, 60' min)

A traditional popular festival in a small Cuban city is the center of its inhabitants lives. But the party goers must face strange adversities in order to keep their tradition alive.

18:10 - *El hijo del sueño / The Son of the Dream* (Alejandro Alonso, 2016, 9' min)

“My uncle Julio César left for the United States during the Mariel Boatlift because of tensions he lived in Cuba for being homosexual. He spent the next fifteen years trying to reunite with my grandmother.”

18:19 - *Home* (Alejandro Alonso, 2019, 12' min)

A country is born and dies in an infinite cycle. Every attempt, every destruction, every redesigned space, send it back to the most intimate memory, to the childhood home.

18:31 - *Dos islas / Two islands* (Adriana F. Castellanos, 2017, 40' min)

Elvira is 102 years old and is as lucid as she is elegant. However, she has had her share of suffering. Sent to Cuba by her Spanish parents when she was only a child, Elvira never returned to her native island in the Canaries. Her filmmaker granddaughter tries to reconstruct her memories and the dark zones of this painful and complex journey.

19:11 - *Metatrón* (Alejandro Alonso, 2018, 13' min)

Faced with proof that the earth is not eternal, Ernesto is inspired by the form of the metatron to design his own alternative universe. Obsessed with how he and his project will be remembered, he is certain that only the ideas, not the creator, should transcend.

19:24 - *El proyecto / The Project* (Alejandro Alonso, 2017, 60' min)

“I return once more to these ghost-filled corridors,” murmurs the filmmaker, as he himself turns into another ghost condemned to wander through the images of his unfinished film. As if trapped in a labyrinth, he roams the hallways and patios of an old school converted into housing. The filmmaker was banned from filming after the transformation. Years later he decides to remake *El Proyecto*.

20:24 - *Abisal / Abyssal* (Alejandro Alonso, 2021, 30' min)

Raudel lives and works in a shipyard in western Cuba. Haunted by a strange childhood memory, he begins searching for ghosts. This film poetically narrates the territory that emerges from this limbo in which manual labor, failed dreams and the traces of another time mix together.

Estimated time: 234' min

12-07-2022

17:00 - *Las campañas de invierno / The Winter Campaigns* (Rafael Ramírez, 2019, 70' min)

In a house, a no man's land, the player of a videogame lives with his family. During the day he works at a slaughterhouse, and at night he has extensive dialogues with a virtual world. The player questions his role in what he understands as the war between reality and language.

Q&A with Rafael Ramírez (18'10 – 18'40 hrs)

18:40 - *adoleCe / AdolescenCe* (Daiyán Noa, 2018, 60' min)

Adolescent Cecilia's reflections on the banks of a river. Her education and interests are put to the test: she must have the career she wants.

19:40 - *Casa de la noche / Nighthouse* (Marcel Beltrán, 2016, 13' min)

Havana, city of marvels, has its roots in the spirit of its inhabitants. The country that is absorbed from within and revealed. An utopian vision, inspired in Havana and its symbols, from the treatment and the degradation of the celluloid.

19:53 - *Los puros / The Pure Ones* (Carla Valdés, 2021, 19' min)

“They are friends of my parents. The last time they saw each other was Minsk, 1984: they were going back to Cuba after finishing five years of a degree in Marxist-Leninist Philosophy. They came back with questions about the Perestroika, Russian stories and tea; they foresaw a future that didn't come to pass. Time put them in different places on the map. Now that they can reunite, what is the tie that still binds them?”

20:12 - *La música de las esferas / The Music of the Spheres* (Marcel Beltrán, 2017, 82' min)

“And what if in the end, we just had to feel things?” Mauricio Beltrán asks in a letter to his wife Regina. The missive is read by the director Marcel Beltrán, whose voice over accompanies the succinct remembering of his parents’ quest to stay together no matter what.

Estimated time: 244’ min

13-07-2022

17:00 - *Veritas* (Elicer Jiménez Almeida, 2022, 67’ min)

This documentary sheds light on the Bay of Pigs Invasion, giving voice to the long-silenced Cubans who went to the island to defy Castro's regime. The film revisits the invasion and its protagonists from the historic perspective of the present. The days preceding the military operation, memories of combat, friendship and friends lost, their imprisonment in Cuba and their eventual return to the United States, are woven together with the policies of the Cold War and the geopolitical interests of three countries: Cuba, the United States, and the USSR.

18’07 - *Nadie / Nobody* (Miguel Coyula, 2017, 70’ min)

November, 2015. Almost blind, the censored Cuban poet Rafael Alcides decides to finish his unpublished novels and discovers that, after several decades, the homemade ink from the typewriter he used has faded. With a magnifying glass and a computer, he begins to transcribe his life's work: the Cuban Revolution as a story of love and deception through the eyes of a man who enjoyed the public light but now lives an interior exile.

19:17 - (Pause)

19:40 – Introduction of *Corazón Azul* by Miguel Coyula

19:45 - *Corazón azul / Blue Heart* (Miguel Coyula, 2021, 104’ min)

In an alternate reality, Fidel Castro uses genetic engineering to build the “new man” and thus save utopia. The experiment fails as these beings are highly intelligent but also cruel and uncontrollable. Rejected by their own creators, a group organizes a series of terrorist

actions, and chaos reigns on the island. One of its members traces the origin of their genes and begins a journey to try to discover their humanity.

Q&A with Miguel Coyula (21'30 – 22'00 hrs)

Estimated time: 241' min

14-07-2022

17:00 - *Memorias del desarrollo / Memories of Overdevelopment* (Miguel Coyula, 2010, 113' min)

A Cuban intellectual abandons revolution and underdevelopment only to find that he doesn't fit into his new life in the first world. Study of a solitary character without defined politics and ideologies, facing aging, desire and the individual's impossibility to fit into any society.

18:53 - *Sueños al paio / Dreams adrift* (José Luis Aparicio & Fernando Fraguela, 2020, 32' min)

Mike Porcel is the lost member of Cuban Nueva Trova: his lack of revolutionary spirit condemned him to the rejection of his peers and turned him into a pariah for a decade until he managed to exile.

19:25 - *La reina de los jueves / The Queen of Thursdays* (Orlando Rojas, 2016, 79' min)

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20:44 - *La opción cero / Option Zero* (Marcel Beltrán, 2020, 80' min)

A group of Cuban migrants, in transit through the American continent to try to reach the United States, use their cell phones to record and transmit through social networks intimate moments of their passage through the jungle, gathering more than 100 hours of experiences. Immobilized in a makeshift camp set up by Caritas in Panama City, the

difficult passage through the Darien Jungle, a 100-kilometer strip between Panama and the Colombian Choco, comes to life on their devices.

Estimated time: 304' min

15-07-2022

17:00 - *Los puros / The Pure Ones* (Carla Valdés, 2021, 19' min)

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17:19 - *Otra isla / Another Island* (Heidi Hassan, 2014, 67' min)

Spain, 2012. A family of Cuban dissidents, left to their luck by the country that welcomes them, camps out during months in a Madrid plaza, face to face with the capitalism they had dreamed of.

18:26 - *El hijo del sueño / The Son of the Dream* (Alejandro Alonso, 2016, 9' min)

“My uncle Julio César left for the United States during the Mariel Boatlift because of tensions he lived in Cuba for being homosexual. He spent the next fifteen years trying to reunite with my grandmother.”

18:35 - *A media voz / In a Whisper* (Heidi Hassan & Patricia Pérez, 2019, 80' min)

Two women in their 40s, Patricia and Heidi, childhood friends who grew up in Cuba and studied film there, face the challenges of emigration as they try to rebuild their lives far from the island. Their mutual audiovisual correspondence makes up the dialogue of this documentary that is both self-referential and ethnographic. The result is a journey about friendship, forgiveness, childlessness, film, and being uprooted.

19:55 - *Los lobos del Este / The Wolves of the East* (Carlos Quintela, 2018, 80' min)

Wolves are extinct in the Japanese mountains of Higashi-Yoshino, but Akira, an old hunter, believes they are not. To satisfy his desire, he embezzles the funds of the association he presides over and even in destitution, his obsession persists. Submerged in his own abyss, he decides to go into the forest to face a wolf that may well be the ghost of a former love.

Q&A with Heidi Hassan & Carlos Quintela (21'15 – 22'00 hrs)

Estimated time: 255' min

16-07-2022

17:00 - *La profesora de inglés / The English Teacher* (Alán González, 2015, 15' min)

Tired of caring for her dying husband, Sonia, a former English teacher, decides to give classes out of her home. But if she wants to be free, she must confront her guilt.

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Estimated time: 279' min

17-07-2022

17:00 - *Umbral* (Daniela Muñoz, 2021, 10' min)

Daniela is losing the ability to hear some sounds. Going deaf is one of her biggest fears. For a moment, reality takes the shape of her nightmares.

17:10 - *¿Qué remedio? La parranda / The Parrandas* (Daniela Muñoz, 2017, 60' min)

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Q&A with Alejandro Alonso & Daniela Muñoz (20'45 – 21'30 hrs)

Estimated time: 225' min