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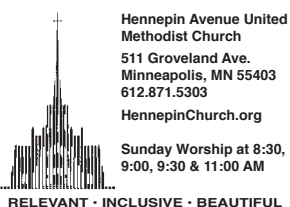
Minnesota Film Arts



We are proud to be working with the Episcopal Diocese of Cuba. Join us.



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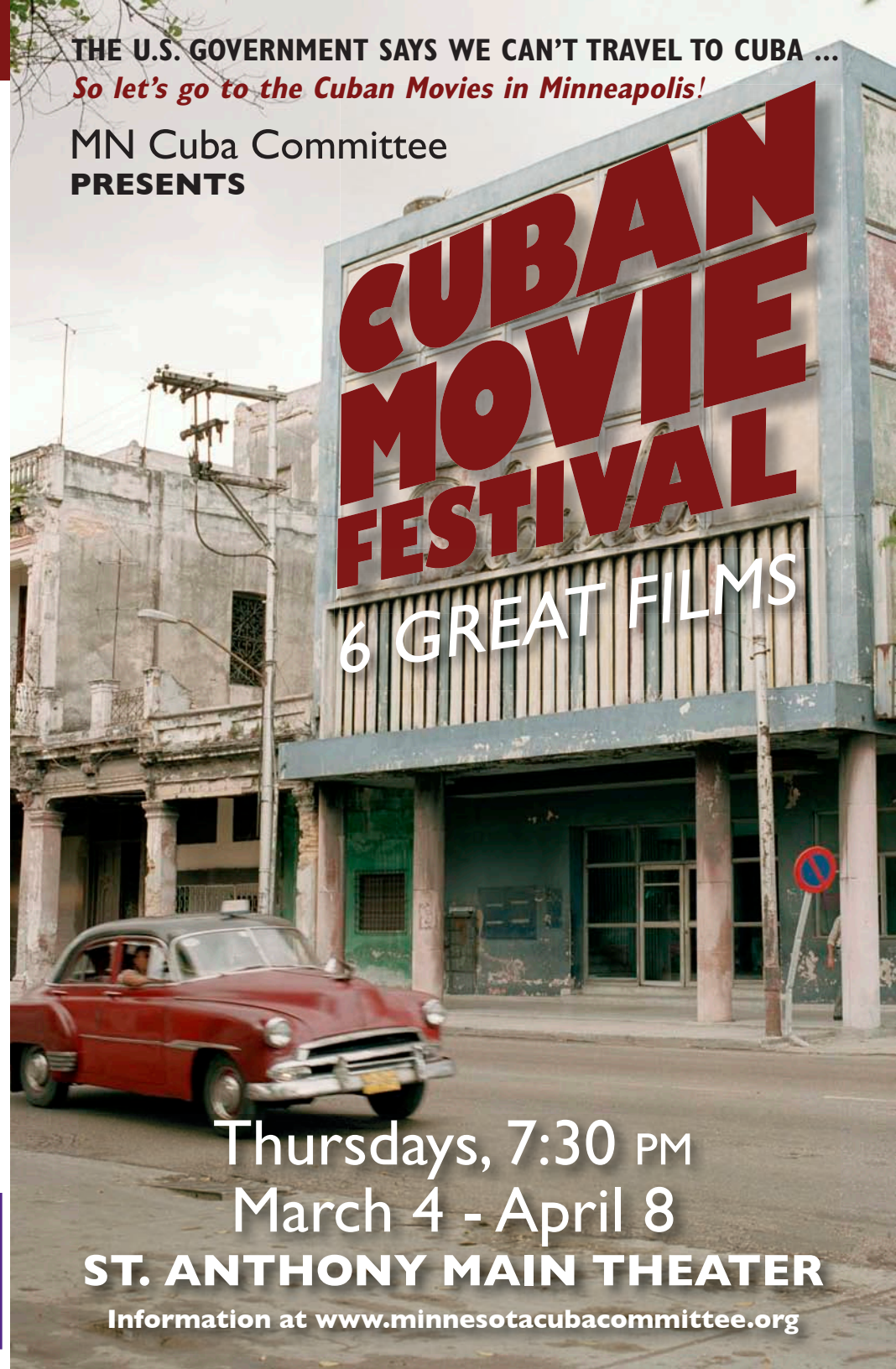
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SAYS WE CAN'T TRAVEL TO CUBA ...

So let's go to the Cuban Movies in Minneapolis!

MN Cuba Committee
PRESENTS

CUBAN MOVIE FESTIVAL

6 GREAT FILMS



Thursdays, 7:30 PM

March 4 - April 8

ST. ANTHONY MAIN THEATER

Information at www.minnesotacubacommittee.org

March 4th

Clandestinos (Living Dangerously)

by Fernando Pérez



Satisfying as both a political thriller and a love story, this feature film by Fernando Pérez is so naturally realized that it avoids being didactic even as it commemorates events of the Cuban Revolution.

Anti-Batista activists move from one safe house to another, trying to elude a relentless police commissioner. Their leader (Luis Alberto García), hardened by prison and torture, is suspicious of nearly everyone but gradually falls for his newest recruit, a headstrong idealist (Isabel Santos of *El Benny*). The climactic rooftop chase is well choreographed and edited, and Edesio Alejandro's surging score recalls early Isaac Hayes. 103 min. Spanish w/ English subtitles.

GENERAL AUDIENCE DISCUSSION of film with U of M Political Science Professor August Nimitz, who is currently researching material for a documentary film on the urban front of the Cuban Revolution, after screening at Pracna on Main (next to theater).

Festival Reception with music, dancing and hors d'oeuvres at Picoso Restaurant, St. Anthony Main, March 11, 4:00-7:00 and after the film with Gloria (La Niña) Rivera and Rene Thompson. Sponsored by Dialog One

March 11th

El Benny

by Jorge Luis Sánchez



Music and dancing were like drugs in Cuba in the 1950s, and Benny Moré was the most intoxicating entertainer of that time, according to Jorge Luis Sánchez' colorfully entertaining new biopic *El Benny*.

The film depicts Moré as a man of the people whose swinging, mambo-infected jazz made him a household name in Latin America. With a soundtrack featuring top-line Cuban performers, the film is cut from the same cloth as hit musical biographies *Ray* and *Walk the Line*, and, given the chance, it should make a substantial claim on that audience. Wear your dancing shoes! 120 min. Spanish w/ English subtitles.

March 18th

The Last Supper

(La Ultima Cena)



by Tomás Gutiérrez Alea
The Last Supper is set on a sugar plantation in late 18th century Cuba during the Easter Holy Week, and is based on an actual event. The owner of the plantation is a count (Nelson Villagra), who picks 12 slaves to share a feast with him in honor of the Last Supper, with himself as the benevolent Christ-figure, in order to teach the slaves a lesson in the humility and grace of Our Lord. An audacious undertaking by one of Cuba's greatest directors (*Memories of Underdevelopment*), the gamble pays off handsomely. A brilliant and biting mix of perfumed language and oral history, hypocrisy and harsh reality, oppression and resistance. 120 min. Spanish w/ English subtitles.

GENERAL AUDIENCE DISCUSSION with Raudemar Hernandez Abreu, priest of Ifa, and Director of La Asociación Yoruba Cuba de Minnesota at Pracna on Main (next to theatre).

March 25th

The Waiting List

(Lista de Espera)

by Juan Carlos Tabío



Mixing sharp social commentary and comedy, director Juan Carlos Tabío's (*Strawberry and Chocolate*, *The Waiting List*) brings together a cast of characters who

possess drastically different personalities, yet find much in common while they wait (and wait, and wait) for a bus to Santiago. As each person enters the terminal, he or she must sign a waiting list for the next bus. Reflecting the unwieldy nature of Cuba's problems, the line grows longer, and the only buses that seem to stop are full or broken down. As the passengers get to know each other, romance develops, friendships form, and the bus station becomes more than a bus station--an undertaking that echoes Cuban governmental calls for grassroots efforts toward community improvement. 105 minutes. Spanish w/ English subtitles.

GENERAL AUDIENCE DISCUSSION of film after screening with Professor Gary Prevost, Professor of Political Science and Latin American Studies at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict, who will share his research and experience with Cuba's social democracy and the People's Power government in Cuba at Pracna on Main (next to theater)

April 1st

Viva Cuba

by Juan Carlos Cremata Malberti



In a tale akin to *Romeo and Juliet*, the friendship between two children is threatened by their parents' differences. Malu is from an upper-class family and her single mother does not want her to play with Jorgito. Jorgito's mother is a poor socialist, proud of her family's social standing, who places similar restrictions on her son. What neither woman recognizes is the immense strength of the bond between Malu and Jorgito. When the children learn that Malu's mother is planning to leave Cuba, they decide to travel to the other side of the island to find Malu's father and persuade him against signing the forms that would allow it. Juan Carlos Cremata's two young stars are captivating, real naturals the camera can't resist. You'll remember them long after you've left the theater. *Viva Cuba* won 34 national and international awards in all. 80 minutes. Spanish w/ English subtitles.

GENERAL AUDIENCE DISCUSSION of film after screening with Professor Gary Prevost, Professor of Political Science and Latin American Studies at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict's, at Pracna on Main (next to theater).

April 8th

Suite Havana

by Fernando Pérez



Fernando Pérez's masterful 2003 film is all the more lyrical for his decision to bypass narration. Through a gradual accretion of contemplative shots, Pérez interweaves

studies of a diverse selection of Havanans, including a railroad worker, a peanut vendor, a ballet dancer, and an architect. A lyrical, meticulously-crafted homage to the battered but resilient inhabitants of a battered but resilient city, Pérez's *Suite Havana* fuses fiction and documentary, shunning the sun 'n' salsa clichés of La Isla. Havana's weathered facades and seafront bear mute witness to the ebb and flow of its people's lives and the persistence of their dreams. Cuba's newspaper *Granma* praised it as "one of the most important films in the history of Cuban cinema," while a Catholic priest urged his parishioners to go and see *Suite Havana* for its "eloquent and revealing images of daily life in Cuba today." 90 min. Spanish w/ English subtitles.

GENERAL AUDIENCE DISCUSSION with Professor Charlie Sugnet, U of M English Dept., sharing thoughts on the impact of Cuban Cinema on developing countries' cinema industry from Latin America to Africa.

\$6.00 ticket price, \$20.00 for 4 ticket pass. Free parking at Ramp behind St Anthony Main Theater on 2nd St. & 2 Ave.

**Information at
www.minnesotacubacommittee.org**