

"Berlinale of the Caribbean": Havana's 44th film festival



The Yara cinema in Havana's Vedado district was built in 1947 (Source: [Commons](#))

The 44th edition of the [International Festival of New Latin American Cinema](#), the largest film festival in the Caribbean since 1979, began today in Havana. Despite the difficult economic situation, the organizers from the New Latin American Cinema Foundation have once again brought an extensive program to the screen for the second time since the end of the pandemic. 199 films will be shown until December 17 in five cinemas in the Cuban capital, some of which are steeped in history. Compared to last year, an additional movie theater is involved following the completion of repair work. Film screenings and workshops will also be held in the emblematic building of the Havana School of Art (ISA).

The festival aims to invite visitors to a "dialog from different perspectives on the reality of the peoples of the continent". For many Habaneros, attending the festival is as much a part of December as the Advent calendar is for others, and some even take extra vacation time for it. Admission is heavily subsidized: A ticket ("Pasaporte") for 8 films costs 60 pesos, about 20 cents at the current street rate. For the first time, tickets can now be purchased without queuing via the culture app "La Papeleta".

This year's program once again includes numerous films from Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico. There are also contributions from Cuba, the United States, and various European countries. One highlight is the drama "Los Colonos" by Chilean director Felipe Gálvez Haberle. The feature film, which was selected as the Chilean candidate for Best International Film at the 2024 Oscars, tells the story of the genocide of the Selk'nam, one of the original peoples of the Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego in the far south of the continent, at the beginning of the 20th century. It will be shown three times in the Chaplin, Acapulco, and Yara cinemas.

The Cuban film "Una noche con los Rolling Stones" by director Patricia Ramos tells the story of a family and life crisis in the run-up to the famous Stones concert that took place in Havana in 2016. Germany is also represented with the thriller "The Theory of Everything" by director Timm Kröger. The black-and-white film is set in the 1960s and tells the story of a physicists' congress in the Swiss Alps.

The official festival booklet can be found [here](#) as a PDF, the program with the exact screening times ("Cartelera") can be found from page 14. ([Cubaheute](#))