Havana Glasgow Film Festival
11 - 16 November
Celebrating Solidarity and Kindness
10th Anniversary

When we launched Havana Glasgow Film Festival in 2015, we had no idea how big a journey lay ahead, until someone said “you’re brave!”.

Yet thanks to our funders, our team, and all of you, here we are celebrating our 10th Anniversary!

Solidarity and kindness are at the heart of our Festival - values that are needed now more than ever. Cuba’s international solidarity - from training doctors, to countering apartheid from South Africa to Palestine - inspires us to share what we have and not what we have left over, and draw strength from community. That spirit runs through our festival: everyone is welcome, and together we celebrate the joy and power of film and culture.

This year we’re honoured to welcome the Cuban and Vietnamese ambassadors, marking 50 years since Vietnam’s unification. Other highlights include Kim Anno’s moving documentary ¡Quba! with SQIFF, special guest the inimitable Mirta Ibarra, Tomas Alea and Santiago Alvarez classics, and the UK premiere of our own film Life is Dance.

What better way to celebrate ten years!

- Eirene Houston, Festival Director

Facebook, Instagram: @hgfilmfest
Email: hello@hgfilmfest
Website: www.hgfilmfest.com

Funders: The National Lottery, Screen Scotland, Glasgow City Council, Film Hub Scotland

Access and Venue Information

The Boardwalk
1105 Brunswick St
Glasgow, G1 1TF
mail@impactarts.co.uk
Tel: 0141 575 3001

Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT)
12 Rose Street
Glasgow, G3 6RB
access@glasgowfilm.org
Tel: 0141 332 6535

Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA)
350 Sauchiehall Street
Glasgow, G2 3JD
gen@cca-glasgow.com
Tel: 0141 352 4900

All venues have wheelchair access, accessible lift(s), accessible toilet(s), baby changing facilities and a hearing loop. Large print, text-only and audio versions of the brochure and content notes are available on our website. Assistance dogs are welcome. The CCA has gender neutral toilets.

All films are in Spanish or Vietnamese audio with English subtitles, or in English.

Films with the CC symbol have descriptive subtitles (closed captions) in English. They transcribe dialogue and relevant aspects of the soundtrack, including music and sound effects.

Events with the BSL interpretation symbol have BSL / English interpretation during Q&As, discussions and introductions.

Film Content Advisory Notes are available on the website.

Ticket Information

Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) and The Boardwalk

Tickets are on a sliding scale of £2 / £4 / £6 / £8 / £10 / £12 / £16
Choose what to pay based on your circumstances. Tickets can be booked directly through CCA at www.cca-glasgow.com

Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT)

Tickets are £11.90 / £9.00 and can be booked directly through GFT at www.glasgowfilm.org

Community tickets

Access free tickets for your youth group, charity or community group.

Travel and childcare fund

We have a small fund for those who need it.

Get in touch: hello@hgfilmfest.com
More information: www.hgfilmfest.com/access

Tuesday 11 November

Festival Launch with the Directors
18:15 - 18:30 I CCA Courtyard I Free Entry

A welcome to our 10th Festival by Eirene Houston and Hugo Rivalta.

This event will have BSL/English interpretation.

Iconic Bike Footage from Vietnam
18:30 - 19:15 I CCA Gallery I N/C U I Free Entry

Visual multimedia projection of footage from Dust and Metal by Esther Johnson - an archival cinematic journey of cycling in Vietnam.

Bike-Powered Bicycle Stories
19:30 - 21:45 I CCA Theatre I N/C 12+

A collection of bike-related films exploring resilience, activism, ingenuity and the joy of two wheels, in Cuba, Germany and Scotland, powered by bicycle!

We start with Cuba Bicycles: A Rolling History - a selection of shorts curated by Professor Jennifer Hosek, which chart Havana’s cycling culture from the 1990s to today. We then screen two shorts where delivery cyclists in Berlin and Edinburgh stand up to exploitative practices + Panel Discussion.

This screening will have descriptive subtitles. This event will have BSL/English interpretation.

Wednesday 12 November

Hasta Cierto Punto / Up to a Certain Point
18:00 - 19.30 I CCA Cinema
Tomás Gutiérrez Alea I Cuba 1985 I Fiction I 1h8m I Spanish w/ English subtitles N/C 16+

A clever, self-reflective satire which shows the conflict between ingrained machismo and the idealized image of liberated women under communism.+Q&A with Actor Mirta Ibarra, the film's main protagonist.

Los Sobrevivientes / The Survivors
20:00 - 22:15 I CCA Cinema
Tomás Gutiérrez Alea I Cuba 1979 I 2h10m I Spanish w/ English subtitles I N/C 18

A bourgeois family living in the Cuban countryside decide to seal their mansion off from the world and the 1959 revolution. They've stockpiled food and hope to pass the time until the new government is overthrown. But as years pass, the family begins to regress through increasingly primitive forms of social order: capitalism, feudalism, slavery and worse. A film highly relevant for today.

Thursday 13 November

Civic Reception
18:00 - 19:30 I City Chambers I Invite only

Celebrating 850 years of Glasgow, 23 years of Havana - Glasgow twinning and 10 years of Havana Glasgow Film Festival, with the Cuban Ambassador and Vietnamese Ambassador in attendance as guests of honour.

This event will have BSL/English interpretation.

UK Premiere: Life is Dance
20:00 - 22:00 I Glasgow Film Theatre
Eirene Houston & Hugo Rivalta I Cuba 2025 I 80m I Spanish w/ English subtitles N/C PG

Award-winning documentary by Festival Directors Eirene Houston and Hugo Rivalta, following six Cubans across three generations with one thing in common: their love of dance. Full colour and music, disappointment and joy, we join these charismatic characters on their journey.

+ short Kimera - Yoel Infante & Alejandro Valera I Cuba 2024 I 12m I N/C PG

Followed by Q&A with Eirene Houston, Hugo Rivalta and music arranger Pete Wiggs (Saint Etienne), hosted by actor Libby McArthur.

This screening will have descriptive subtitles. This event will have BSL/English interpretation. The Q&A will be live captioned.

Friday 14 November

Filmmaker Social
17:00 - 18:15 I CCA

A chance to socialise and network with other filmmakers based in Glasgow as well as HGFF Festival Directors and our special guest Cuban filmmakers. Lots of potential for collaborations, learning and connection!

Filmmakers of all levels are very welcome.

La Ultima Cena / The Last Supper + Conversation with Mirta Ibarra
18:30 - 20:30 I CCA Cinema
Tomás Gutiérrez Alea I 2h I 1976 Cuba I Spanish w/ English subtitles I N/C 18

In 18th century Cuba, a wealthy Count decides to enlighten his slaves by reenacting Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper with them as the disciples. He hosts the dinner, believing the night is a great success. However, his slaves use the occasion to plan an uprising. Followed by a 10 min break.

Conversation with Mirta Ibarra
20:40 - 21:30

Join the hugely entertaining Mirta as she shares stories with Tatiana Heise about her personal and professional relationship with filmmaker Tomás Gutiérrez Alea. Includes screening of Abrazos - a homage to the legendary Strawberry and Chocolate, in which she stars. (Music video I Los Van Van Alejandro Valera I 2025)

Friday 14 November

Live Band - Fingertraps
22:00 - 00:00 I CCA Courtyard I Free entry - Ticketed

An eclectic, powerful Edinburgh-based quartet, offering a rich journey from Neo-Soul to Brazilian, Modern Jazz to Latin Sounds, with hints of R&B and D&B. 850 years of Glasgow and 10 years of our Fest! Lots of partying to do!

Saturday 15 November
Celebrating 50 years of Cuban Vietnamese Solidarity

Journey Cam: Cuba - Family-Friendly Screening
11:30 - 12:30 I CCA Cinema

Bonnie Dempsey I RTÉ Kids Channel I Parts 12 I Ireland 2021 I 39m I N/C U

Join the Gonzalez sisters on a tour of Cuba. From family roots to local delights, discover the highlights of this vibrant country + Q&A with the young cast.

Lêgerîn, In Search of Alina
13:00 - 14:30 I CCA Cinema
María Laura Vásquez I 1h22m I Argentina / Rojava 2024 I Spanish and Kurdish w/ English subtitles I N/C 18

The life of Argentinian doctor Alina Sánchez, who journeyed from Patagonia to Rojava, via Cuba, to provide radical medical care with the Kurdish Women's Liberation Movement. A powerful testament to international solidarity.

Archival Cuban Newsreels
14:45 - 16:15 I CCA Cinema I N/C 18

Archival newsreels, restored by The Vietnamese Institute, on Cuba's take on world events taking place in the 1960s and 1970s + Panel Discussion

Tử Tế Hay Là Chuyện Ứng Xử / The Story of Kindness or How to Behave
16:30 - 17:30 I CCA Cinema
Trần Văn Thủy I Vietnam 1987 I 43m I N/C 18 I Vietnamese w/ English subtitles

A searing masterpiece of Vietnamese cinema by an award-winning director, that wields its gentle title as a weapon of social critique + Intro Esther Johnson.

Vietnamese Cultural Exchange
17:30 - 19:00 I CCA
A celebration of Vietnamese culture, plus a live poetic response to archival Vietnamese posters. Entry, including Vietnamese food, is free with any Saturday event ticket. Supported by The Vietnamese Embassy, London.

Saturday 15 November
Vietnam Through the Eyes of Santiago Álvarez
19:00 - 22:00 I CCA Cinema

Los Ojos de Santiago / The Eyes of Santiago
19:00 - 22:00 I CCA Cinema
Osain Álvarez and Rodrigo Vazquez I Cuba / Vietnam 2021 I 80m I Spanish and Vietnamese w/ English subtitles I N/C 18

Osain, son of revolutionary filmmaker Santiago Álvarez, retraces his father's journey to Vietnam to uncover the passion that drove him to risk his life documenting war, while confronting the impact of Agent Orange 45 years later.

79 Primaveras / 79 Springs - Premiere of the newly restored film
Santiago Álvarez I Cuba 1969 I 25m I Spanish w/ English subtitles I N/C 18

This documentary marks the death of Vietnamese nationalist leader Ho Chí Minh, using found footage to link his work to worldwide political movements including the Cuban revolution and resistance within the USA to the Vietnam war.

Hanoi, Tuesday 13th - Premiere of the newly restored film
Santiago Álvarez I Cuba 1967 I 34m I Spanish w/ English subtitles I N/C 18

Capturing life in Vietnam's capital and countryside during U.S. bombing, a collage of images shows people building, planting, and fishing - daily life persisting with remarkable resilience.

+ Q&A Osain Álvarez, Hugo Rivalta & Rodrigo Vázquez-Salessi

DJ Night with A Cut Above
22:00 - 00:00 I Third Eye Bar, CCA

Dance with us to Cuban, Latino and funky grooves.

Sunday 16 November

Feminist Filmmaking
15:00 - 16:30 I The Boardwalk I N/C 18 I English I Spanish w/English subtitles

Marking 3 years of collaboration between Cuban and Scottish women filmmakers, short films from Cuba and Scotland, including the winning film from our climate-focused competition for Cuban filmmakers. Get involved!

¡Quba!
17:00 - 19:00 I The Boardwalk
Kim Anno I 2025 I 1h10 I Cuba I Spanish w/ English Subtitles I N/C PG

¡Quba! follows Cuba's LGBTQ+ activists as they confront homophobia and evangelical backlash in the fight to legalize same-sex marriage, marking a historic shift in the communist nation. Set against the backdrop of Cuba's groundbreaking 2022 Family Code, which recognizes diverse families and promotes equality, the film captures a raw, intergenerational struggle for love, dignity, and human rights. In collaboration with Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF).

Followed by Q&A with Kim Anno, Indigo Korres and Hugo Rivalta

This screening will have descriptive subtitles. This event will have BSL/English interpretation.

Havana Glasgow Film Festival
Website: www.hgfilmfest.com
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With thanks to the festival team:

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