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Unscreened Interview with Fidel Castro to Be Exhibited at Havana's Film Festival



HAVANA, Cuba, Nov 23 (acn) An interview with the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, which was recently found by film director Rebeca Chavez in the archives of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television (ICRT), will be screened during the upcoming International Festival of New Latin American Cinema scheduled for next month in Havana.

Using the unscreened interview, the Cuban filmmaker came up with the documentary 'El día más largo' (The Longest Day), which contains the original dialogue of Fidel Castro with a reporter at the airport of the central Cuban province of Camaguey.

The interview took place only a few days after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, while the Cuban leader was heading the Rebel Army's Victory Caravan towards the country's capital, where they arrived on January 8, 1959.

The 33rd International Festival of New Latin American Cinema of Havana is scheduled for December 1-11. 'El día más largo' will be screened out of competition in the festival's section Made in Cuba.

Rebeca Chavez's first full-length feature film, 'Ciudad en rojo' —set in Santiago de Cuba during the revolutionary struggle against Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship in the late 1950s—, had its premiere in 2009.

Raul Meets with President of Angolan Parliament



HAVANA, Cuba, Nov 23 (acn) Cuban President Raul Castro met on Wednesday with the President of Angola's National Assembly, Antonio Paulo Kassoma, at the end of this official visit to Cuba.

After signing at El Laguito the Final Communique of Kassoma's stay on the island, Cuban Parliament President Ricardo Alarcon described Raul's conversation with the distinguished visitor, held minutes earlier, as very warm, and Kassoma's visit to Havana, and that of his accompanying delegation, as successful. Alarcon recalled that bonds between Cuba and Angola emerged during the anti-colonial struggle of the African nation, the Prensa Latina news agency reported.

The President of Angola's National Assembly expressed his appreciation for the treatment received in Cuba; he extolled its biotechnological development, and expressed his country's solidarity with the Caribbean island in its struggle against the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by Washington against Havana for almost five decades now.

Kassoma arrived in Cuba on Friday, heading a delegation of deputies and parliamentary officials, and his agenda on the island included talks with various local personalities and visits to places of historic and economic interest, among other activities.

European, LatAm Legislators: Free the Cuban 5



Brussels, Nov 24 (Prensa Latina) Left-wing European and Latin American legislators demanded in this city to the United States the unconditional and immediate release of the five Cuban antiterrorist fighters unjustly held in that northern nation.

In a release issued on the occasion of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, EuroLat, legislators denounced the situation of Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labañino, Antonio Guerrero y Fernando Gonzalez, who are currently serving harsh sentences for

alerting Cuba from subversive plans hatched in southern Florida.

Legislators held Washington responsible for the security of Rene Gonzalez, one of the Cuban Five, released from prison on October 7, but forced to stay three years of supervised release in U.S. territory.

Interviewed by Prensa Latina, the president of the Venezuelan Group in the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino), Ricardo Cabezas, said the text also expresses the solidarity with Cuba against the U.S.-maintained blockade for 50 years.

Legislators hailed popular advances registered in Latin America and Europe, among them President Ollanta Humala's inauguration in Peru, and the re-election in Argentina and Nicaragua of Presidents Cristina Fernandez and Daniel Ortega, respectively.

They also highlighted the favorable results for the Spanish leftwing, which in the November 20 elections quintupled their presence in the Parliament of that country.

The economic situation in the Eurozone, hit by the financial crisis of sovereign debt and fiscal imbalances in some countries, was reviewed among European and Latin American lawmakers in the meeting.

Also on the list was the importance of some integration initiatives, such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (ECLAC), which will be proclaimed in Caracas on December 2-3.

NGOs to Demand Cuba's Elimination from U.S. List of State Sponsors of Terrorism

HAVANA, Cuba, Nov 24 (acn) Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the United States are organizing an international meeting for December 1 in which participants will demand that Cuba be taken out of the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

According to the website www.cubadebate.cu, the meeting will take place at the Zinger Room of the National Press Club, in Washington DC and will be sponsored by The Latin America Working Group and The Center for International Policy.

The call for the meeting explains that maintaining Cuba in that disgraceful list without any evidence to support such accusation is one of the most cynical aspects of the U.S. foreign policy.

The U.S. government unjustly included Cuba in the State Sponsors of Terrorism List in 1982 at the request of former State Secretary Alexander Haig and the decision was officially approved by then-President Ronald Reagan.

The document adds that recent reports by the U.S. State Department acknowledge that Cuba has maintained a clear public position against terrorism and the financing of terrorist actions.

Wayne Smith, from the Center for International Policy; Robert Muse, from the Muse and Associates legal company; and Carlos Alzugaray, a professor at the University of Havana, are some of the lecturers and guests that will take part in the conference.

In a previous event held in February 2010, Muse talked about the dangerous legal consequences derived from Washington's decision: "Officially labeling Cuba as a State Sponsor of Terrorism means that the U.S. government can take hold of Cuban assets to meet alleged compensation demands," he said.

Other figures expected to take part in the conference include Sarah Stephens, from the Center for Democracy in the Americas, and Arturo Lopez Levy, an academician associated to the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

Cuban Students Ratify Support to LatAm Youth

Havana, Nov 24 (Prensa Latina) President of the University Students Federation, Carlos Rangel said that Cuban students support the demands and mobilizations of Latin American young people for their educational rights.

"Cuban students will express their solidarity with the demands of the young people of those countries when we stage a march on November 27 in homage to the eight Medicine students executed by a firing squad during the colonial period," Rangel told Prensa Latina.

The students' leader announced that 140 years after that event, thousands of high school and university students will march next Sunday to pay tribute to the victims of the Spanish repression during the first Cuban independence war.

This march will also be an opportunity for the young people to express their will to defend the revolutionary process and the changes to improve the country's economic and social life, said Rangel.

According to the students' leader, they will also ratify their demand for the release of Ramon Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzalez, Gerardo Hernandez, and Rene Gonzalez, the five anti-terrorist Cuban fighters arrested in the United States in 1998 for monitoring violent activities against Cuba.

Cuban Miguel Barnet Presented with Order of Merit of the Italian Republic

HAVANA, Cuba, Nov 23 (acn) Cuban writer, poet and ethnologist Miguel Barnet received on Wednesday in this capital the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic

(Knight Degree), in a ceremony attended by Culture Minister Abel Prieto and Italian ambassador to Havana, Marco Baccin.

At the Association of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC), the diplomat asserted that it was a pleasure to present Barnet, one of the most read and appreciated Cuban authors worldwide, with this acknowledgement.

His work, he added, has intensely touched the strings of sensitivity of Italian readers, as it contributes to know Cuban reality and Cuban nature, like Biografía de un Cimarrón and Canción de Rachel, and the novels La Vida Real and Oficio de Ángel, just to name a few. Baccin highlighted the solid bonds uniting Barnet with his nation, where he has participated in colloquiums and literary meetings in many of its cities.

He underlined that, as promoter and champion of values like tenderness and beauty the basis of Italian artistic tradition, Barnet is therefore a great friend, proof of which is his valuable contribution to the Italian culture festivals held on the Caribbean island.

Miguel Barnet said he was honored by this Order given by the Italian State, since writers, artists, have a personal Olympus where dear names, loved countries and places of human touch, navigate.

At the end of the ceremony, attended by representatives of organizations and institutions of the two countries, Miguel Barnet gave a lecture entitled "La novela testimonio: Alquimia de la memoria," as part of the 14th edition of the Italian Culture Festival in Cuba, dedicated on this occasion to the 150th anniversary of that European country's national unity.

The Order of Merit of the Italian Republic was founded as the senior order of knighthood by the second President of the Italian Republic, Luigi Einaudi in 1951. Italy became a republic after a referendum held on June 2, 1946, a day celebrated since then as Republic Day.

The highest ranking honor of the Republic, it is awarded for merits acquired in the fields of literature, the arts, the economy, public service, and social, philanthropic and humanitarian activities, and for long and outstanding service in civilian and military careers.

Cuban and Venezuelan Symphonic Orchestras to Perform Together in Havana

HAVANA, Cuba, Nov 24 (acn) The Cuban and Venezuelan symphonic orchestras will perform together for the first time on Sunday, November 27, at the Lazaro Peña Theatre in Havana, as part of the program of activities of the Venezuelan orchestra during their current visit to the Caribbean island.

The general director of the Venezuelan Symphonic Orchestra (OSV), Alejandro Montes de Oca, said during a press conference on Thursday at Havana's Casa

del ALBA Cultural center, that this is a dream come true and mentioned that they will also visit the National Art School (ENA) and the Amadeo Roldan Conservatory, also in the Cuban capital.

Montes de Oca affirmed that on Sunday's concert they will perform pieces by Latin American composers such as Mexicans Arturo Marquez and Pablo Moncayo, Cuban Alejandro Garcia Caturla, and by Venezuelan musicians.

He noted that singers Cecilia Todd, from Venezuela; and Argelia Fragoso, from Cuba; will also join the orchestras during their performance.

The OSV, directed by Ukrainian maestro Theodore Kuchar, will also perform on Friday at that same theatre, where they will pay homage to Russian maestros Piotr Tchaikovsky and Serguei Prokofiev.

They will play the piece Variations on a Rococo Theme for Cello and Orchestra, by Tchaikovsky, with 16-year old soloist cellist Enmanuel Acurero; Symphony No. 5 by Prokofiev; and Tocatta Bachiana and Pajarillo Aldemaroso by Venezuelan pianist and composer Aldemaro Romero.

The OSV, the oldest orchestra of its kind in Latin America —it was founded in 1930—, is visiting Cuba for the third time on the occasion of the “2011 Venezuela-Cuba Meeting: Music, the Caribbean, and Latin America”.

It has performed along renowned musicians such as Wilhelm Furtwängler, Igor Stravinsky, Eugene Ormandy, Otto Klemperer, Sergio Celibidache, Andre Kostelanetz, Hector Villa-Lobos, Carlos Chavez, Pierre Ovules, Eduardo Mata, Mstislav Rostropovich, Jascha Heifetz, Henryk Szeryng, Artur Rubinstein, Claudio Arrau, Martha Argerich, Yo-Yo Ma, Pablo Casals, and Wilhelm Kemp, among many others.

Articles

When Terror Ended the Life of Young Manuel Ascunce Domenech

By Lisandra Romeo Matos ACN Special Service



A humble bohio (house in the countryside) belonging to Pedro Lantigua Ortega and his family was located in a remote mountainous area of the Escambray Mountains, relatively close to Topes de Collantes in the central part of Cuba.

That small house welcomed young 16 year old Manuel Ascunce Domenech who joined the Conrado Benitez Brigade carrying out the leader of the Revolution Fidel Castro's call in turning Cuba into the first territory free of illiteracy in the Americas.

The Literacy Campaign which was successfully carried out throughout the island taught people in the countryside and city to read and write, indispensable

foundation on which social justice was developed.

Several members of the counterrevolutionary groups led by Julio Emilio Carretero, including Pedro Gonzalez and Braulio Amador Quesada, arrived in the region on Sunday, November 26th, 1961, and stirred up the region with bad intentions.

They were searching for victims in order to get the approval of the CIA, which was financing and supporting dozens of torturers and gangs of the former Batista tyranny in the central mountainous region and other parts of the island.

That night the assassins entered the house and attacked Pedro who, defenseless, was brutally beaten in front of his wife and children.

One of the assassins asked where the teacher was and Pedro Lantigua's wife responded by saying that he was not at home.

But Manuel jumped from the dark and responded: "I am the teacher!" They were simple and noble words that sentenced him to death.

One of the criminals responded, "So you are the communist teacher?" while beating the 16 year old and dragging him alongside Pedro.

On that November 26th, the assassins at the service of the U.S. government ended the life of the young teacher ripping him of his adolescence years.

Both Manuel and Pedro joined the list of the painful figure of 549 assassinations carried out by the counterrevolutionary groups in the Cuban countryside.

With the disgusting crime, the enemies of Cuba aimed at stopping the uncontrollable success of the Literary Campaign which ended on December 22nd, 1961.

Manuel Ascunce Domenech multiplied among other young people that became teachers and joined the Pedagogic Contingent that carried out the work of teaching the population how to read and write in compliance with the Revolution's social justice.