

HAVANA COYOTES



A FILM
BY

BENJAMIN ORIFICI



LOGLINE

During a military invasion, a Cuban-American unravels her family history and reclaims her past. *Havana Coyotes* explores the hidden truths of exile through the stories that travel across generations.

BASICS

TITLE: *Havana Coyotes*
FORMAT: Feature Film
RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 15 minutes
GENRE: Drama, Romance, Cross-Cultural, Political
LOCATIONS: Havana, Cuba

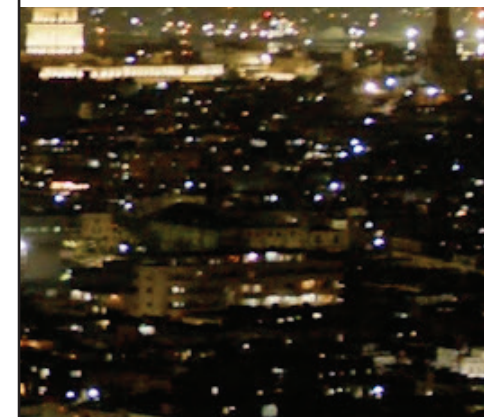
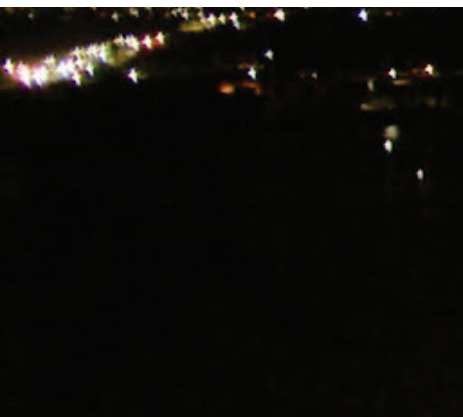


SYNOPSIS

BETWEEN HAVANA AND MIAMI, NOTHING STAYS BURIED.

At a time when Cuba stands at an historic crossroad, ***Havana Coyotes*** examines the distance between the stories we inherited and the lives that were actually lived. Set across the invisible corridor between Havana and South Florida, the film reveals how secrets, loyalties, and unresolved histories travel with us—across water, across generations.

Havana Coyotes follows the journey of Julia, a Cuban-American, who, under the shadow of war, travels to Havana to collect her grandmother's ashes. There, she meets three Cuban contemporaries, each encounter awakening hidden contours of her life shaped by family exile. The film offers something rarely seen: a Cuban story that refuses easy answers and understands that identity doesn't end at the shoreline.



CAST



Juannalise Ricardo



Mayra Mazorra

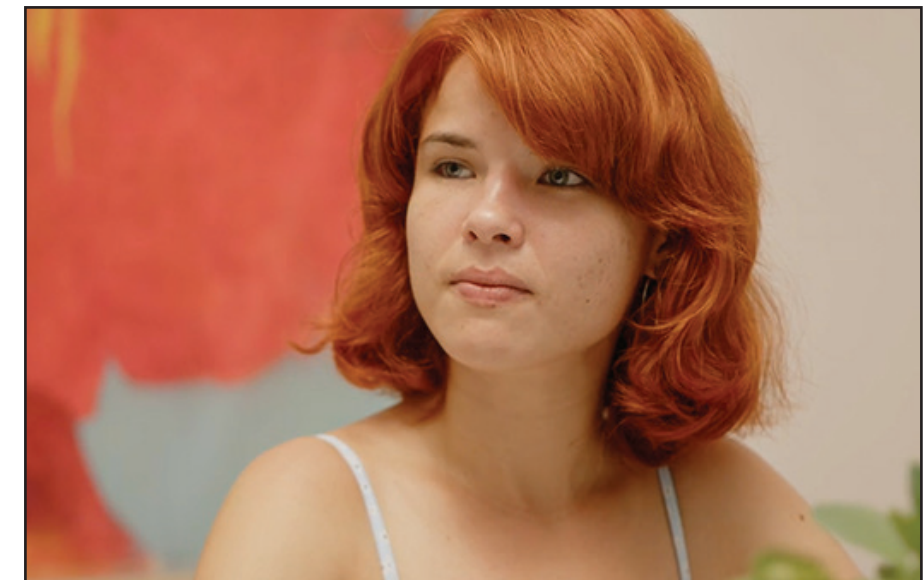


Roberto Romero



Georbis Martínez

Havana Coyotes is the first American film shot in Cuba with an all-Cuban cast since the 1959 Revolution. A narrative feature, ***Coyotes***, explores the prejudices, misconceptions, and deep love of country that persist to this day between the US and Cuba.



Annabel Novo

CREDITS

Written & Directed by:

Benjamin Orifici

Story by:

**Benjamin Orifici
Luis Abel Oliveros**

Produced by:

**Wendell Laurent
Barney Oldfield
Benjamin Orifici**

Cinematography:

Benjamin Orifici

Editing:

Benjamin Orifici

Production Design:

Josefina Atokad

Production Management:

Ana Gloria

First Assistant Director:

Wendell Laurent

Sound Editing & Design:

Ivan Markovsky

Visual Effects:

**Alex Duque
Natalie Palumbo**

Post-Production Coordinator:

Emedio Di Stefano

Casting:

Luis Abel Oliveros





BENJAMIN ORIFICI

Writer/Director/Producer

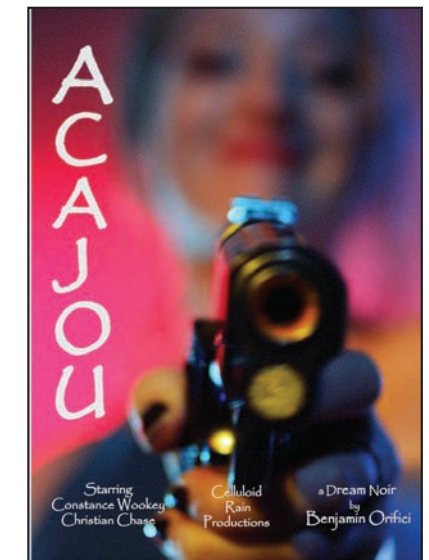
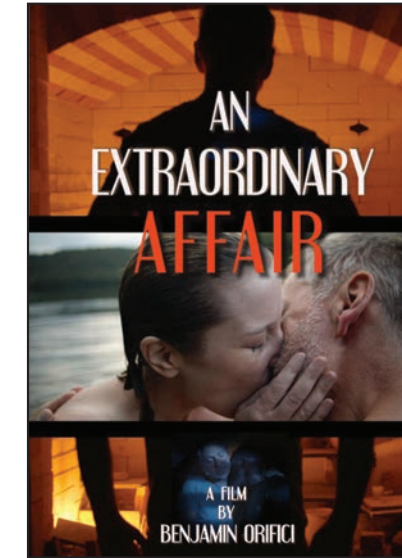
Benjamin's latest film, *Havana Coyotes*, is the first American narrative feature shot in Cuba with an all-Cuban cast since the 1959 Revolution. The film delves into the misconceptions, prejudices,

and enduring love of country that define the complex relationship between the U.S. and Cuba, offering audiences a rare, intimate, and urgent portrayal of life on the island today.

Throughout his career, Benjamin has embraced the concept of "Film Terroir"—crafting films that are deeply rooted in their locations, intimate in scope, and reflective of the distinctive flavor and tone of the regions in which they are made. His work is artisanal and handcrafted, prioritizing human experience and emotional truth over spectacle, and consistently challenging viewers to see familiar places and cultures in unexpected ways.

Benjamin holds an M.F.A. in film directing from the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema in New York City and serves on the Board of Advisors for Anthology Film Archives. He has long-standing ties to Cuba, including as an Advisory Board member of the American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC). He is co-founder of the international production company Celluloid Rain Productions, based in New York and Paris, and currently lives in Miami, Florida, where he is an associate professor of film at Lynn University.

OTHER WORKS BY BENJAMIN ORIFICI



“Throughout my career, I’ve adhered to the concept of what I call ‘Film Terroir,’ meaning my films are intimate, personal and exhibit the characteristic flavor and tone of the region in which they’re filmed. Place, is very important to me and plays prominently in my work. Artisanal is another word that interests me—meaning handcrafted, without mechanization. Through it all, my goal remains constant: I strive to challenge viewers’ expectations by crafting unique visual and emotional landscapes to better understand a region in particular, and, the world at large.”

—Benjamin Orifici



LUIS ABEL OLIVEROS
Co-Story Writer/Casting Director

Luis Abel Oliveros is a Cuban writer and director. He is a graduate of the Universidad de las Artes (ISA), Cuba, with a degree in audiovisual communications.

For the past 14 years he has worked as a screenwriter and director at the Cuban public television station, Habana Canal, IRCT. Luis is also a teacher and coordinator of TV and New Media at the Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV, San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba.

Luis has directed and, in several cases, written documentaries including ***CorAlina***, ***The Fourth Villa***, ***María*** and ***Degree of Protection II***.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Cuba is at a historic crossroads, with regime change already reshaping nearby countries, *Havana Coyotes* hauntingly captures this moment, its imagined invasion eerily foreshadowing the pressures the island faces today.

Havana Coyotes was made under conditions that mirror the world it depicts—rolling blackouts, volatile weather, physical exhaustion, and constant uncertainty. An entirely Cuban cast and Cuban support crew carried this film forward with extraordinary commitment, creating something honest and alive under circumstances that demanded both courage and trust. What mattered most was not spectacle, but access: capturing moments, emotions, and moral choices rarely allowed onto the screen.

The film emerged from a desire to reflect the present tense of Havana—not the Cuba of memory or mythology, but the Cuba of now. Set within a sanctioned, post-pandemic reality, *Havana Coyotes* is ultimately a love story rooted

(cont. →)



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT
(continued)



in endurance and pride, one that reveals social and political truths without losing sight of humor, intimacy, or humanity. It does not explain Cuba from the outside; it listens from within.

In private Havana screenings, audiences consistently said the same thing: “We haven’t seen this before—this is what life feels like right now.” That response shaped the film’s final form and confirmed its purpose. Developed over more than a year with my Cuban co-writer, the story was designed to be made independently and responsibly, using only private locations, allowing the film to exist without compromise.



After more than a decade of returning to Havana, what continues to strike me is not just hardship, but vitality—the music, the wit, the defiance, the love of place that persists despite everything. **Havana Coyotes** grew from that contradiction. It is a film for audiences ready to move beyond stereotypes and encounter a Cuba that is urgent, intimate, and alive—one that lingers long after the screen goes dark.



WENDELL LAURENT

Producer/1st Asst. Dir.

Wendell Laurent is an actor, writer and producer based in New York. He wrote, co-produced and starred in the multi-award-winning short film **Daybreak** and made his feature film debut as

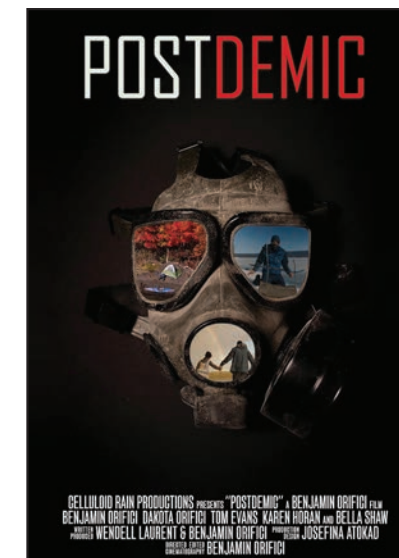
the lead in **An Extraordinary Affair**, written and directed by Benjamin Orifici. Wendell also co-wrote and co-produced with Benjamin Orifici the award-winning short film **PostDemic**.

Currently on the film festival circuit is the psychological short **The Final Walk** which Wendell wrote, produced and acted in with Beatrice Boepple and Glenn McBride, Jr.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Wendell earned a double BA in Theatre and Communications from Loyola University. After moving to New York, he co-founded Reckless Theatre Company and served as Producing Director for and acted in four Off-Broadway productions.

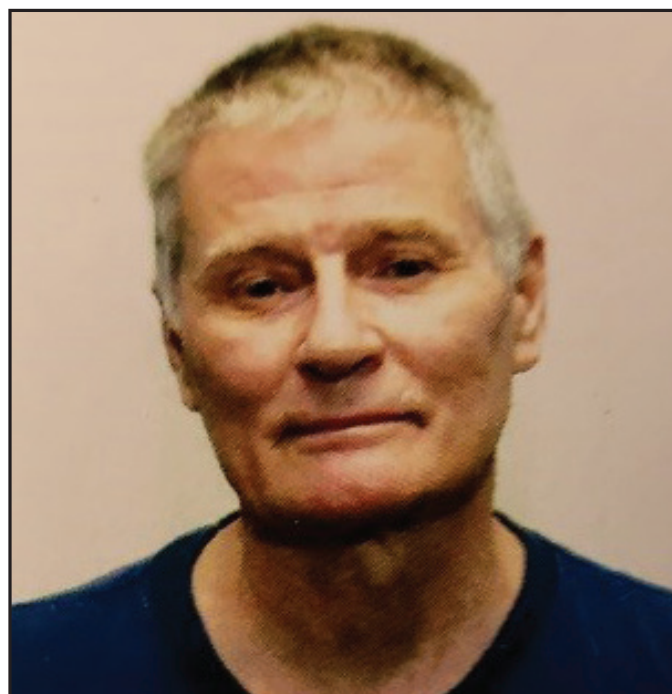
Wendell recently made his directorial debut with the comedic short the **The Dumbletons**, and he is currently developing the feature film version of **Daybreak**.

OTHER WORKS BY WENDELL LAURENT



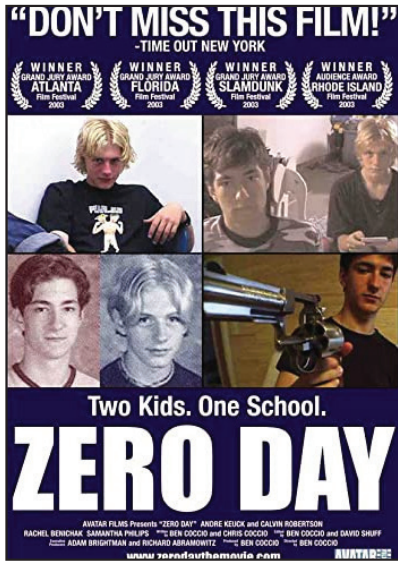
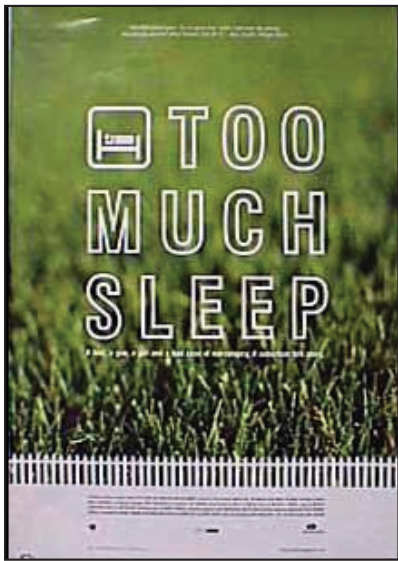
“While doing research for another film project, including interviewing friends whose families were also Cuban ex-pats, I fell in love with Cuba, its culture and music. When presented with the prospect of working on a feature film that would be shot in Cuba, I jumped at the chance. I never in my wildest dreams ever thought I would visit this remarkable island or meet some of its beautiful people. Just as the United States is more than just its government, so too is Cuba. I am excited to be a part of a film that will hopefully help to bridge the divide between the misconceptions about our two countries and the reality.”

—Wendell Laurent



BARNEY OLDFIELD
Producer

OTHER WORKS BY BARNEY OLDFIELD



Since 1998 Barney Oldfield has been General Manager of Angelika Entertainment Corporation where he produced the popular *Too Much Sleep* feature, nominated for the Independent Spirit Award, and the controversial *Zero Day* feature. In addition to successful film projects Barney developed and produced the MetroAngelika series and popular television & Internet programming for Cablevision and other clients.

In 2009 Barney executive produced two Internet-branded series. *Easy to Assemble* with Ileana Douglas and Jeff Goldblum was sponsored by IKEA; and *Ctrl* on NBC with Tony Hale and Steve Howey, by Nestea. He returned to film with the features *Fairfield* and *Grinder*. He is currently producing a series of alternative market films for online distribution.

CAST



ROBERTO ROMERO *as* Carlos

Roberto Romero is a Cuban actor with extensive experience in the world of theater and audiovisual arts. He graduated with honors from the National School of Theater and the Higher Institute of Arts in Havana. He is also an actor with the International Film School of San Antonio de los Baños (EICTV) and has been a lead actor with the theater companies “El Público,” “Teatro de la Luna,” “La Montaña,” and “La Perla Teatro.” Roberto can currently be seen as Ramses in the TV series *Renacer*.



MAYRA MAZORRA PÉREZ *as* Pucha

Mayra Mazorra Pérez is a prolific theater, film, and television actress. A graduate of the National School of Arts and the Higher Institute of Arts, she has worked with the most prestigious theater companies in Cuba. She has also appeared on television in soap operas and series, as well as in national and international films such as *El Beny*, *Ciudad en Rojo*, *Paraíso*, *La Isla de la Guayaba* and *Taxiboll*. She has received acting awards in both theater and television.

JUANNALISE RICARDO *as* Olivia

Juannalise Ricardo is a Cuban actress with a long career in the world of theater and audiovisual arts. She graduated with honors from the School of Dramatic Arts in Santiago de Cuba. She has been an actress at the International Film School of San Antonio de los Baños (EICTV) for seven years, where she has also trained in the Sanford Meisner technique in acting. She is the lead actress in the theater company, "La Montaña." She has also worked with other companies such as "Gaviota" and "Hubert de Blanc." ***Mancha, La Pecera, Cuentos de un día y mas*** and ***El Camino*** are some of the short films and movies she has worked on.



ANNABEL NOVO *as* Julia

Annabel Novo graduated from the Cuban National School of Arts (ENA) in 2019 as an actress and from the Higher Institute of Arts (ISA) in 2023 as a director of photography. She has a short but rich experience as an actress in cinema, theatre and television. Some of her most memorable characters are: Nara (from the eponymous movie directed by Rosa Maria Rodriguez Pupo), Maria (from the TV Show ***Calendar*** directed by Magda González Grau), Beba (from the Cuban play ***The Night of the Murderers*** directed by Arianna Delgado) and Don Liborio (from the Cuban play ***The Golden Cow*** directed by Rei Castaneda).



GEORBIS MARTINEZ *as* Miguel

Georbis Martinez graduated from the National School of Arts of Cuba, specializing in acting. He began his work in the national company Teatro El Público, while debuting in film and television. In a few years he became one of the most prolific actors of his generation in the eyes of Cuban critics and audiences. ***Animal, Yuli, Perfecto amor equivocado, Tres veces dos, El viajero inmóvil, Aída*** and ***Encounters*** are some of his works in cinema and television. His acting performances have earned him awards in Cuba and Spain, where he has lived since 2008.



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Click below to watch the *Havana Coyotes* trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/1074530265>



CONTACT US

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