

# **Cuban Film Festival 2016: Cuba Engages the World!**

**November 12 & 15**

Join recent travelers to Cuba and view the latest documentaries many made in Cuba or as co-productions in a 2- part Cuban Film Festival, *Images of Cuba Engaging the World* on November 12 and 15, 2016. Both Montana State University-Bozeman and Bozeman Public Library will be hosts to the documentary film screenings that explore our nearest island neighbor in their humanitarian and solidarity relationships with the world as part of International Education Week organized by the MSU Office of International Programs.

**Starting on Saturday, November 12 from 1:00-5PM and 6-8PM at the Bozeman Public Library's Large Community Room**, this free film festival will feature 4 Montana premiere film screenings and discussions on about ways in which Cuba engages with the world. Diverse topics include the export of Cuba's health care model to nations in the Global South as well as the United States (Community Doctors, 2016); how Cubans are claiming their gender and sexual diversity and rights as part of a worldwide movement to end homophobia and trans-phobia (*Ni Preguntas, Ni Respuestas es la Vida/No Questions, No Answers is Life*); and why and how Guantanamo, the United States' Naval Base and Detention Center for accused terrorists - located on the eastern end of Cuba since 1903 - impacts the Cuban people (*All Guantanamo is Ours*). The evening documentary film, *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*, will explore ways in which Cuba adapted to the loss of trade and aid - especially oil and food imported from the former Soviet Union - by creating sustainable solutions to agriculture, energy and food. Montana residents who have spent time in Cuba over the past few years will be sharing their perspectives and leading discussions about each of these documentaries.

**On the MSU campus, Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7pm, in the Risa Scott Lab of Jabs Hall**, Part 2 of the **2016 Cuba Film Festival will continue with *Maestra/Teacher***, the story of Cuba's 1961 Literacy campaign which ended illiteracy in 1 year as certified by UNESCO. Cuba's on-going commitment to education from pre-school through University as a human right focuses on the screening and discussion by Cuban and US students with MSU educators. More than 50 nations are using Cuba's educational model to promote literacy in their countries. This program will serve as a preview for a visit by Luisa Campos, Director of Cuba's Literacy Museum, educator and global consultant, to MSU in Fall Semester, 2017, as part of a national US speaking tour.

***Images of Cuba Engaging with the World*** is free and the public is invited. Organized by MSU's Bridges to Cuba, College of Letters and Science and Jacob Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, Gallatin Valley Friends of Cuba with support from MSU's Departments of Modern Languages and Literature and Political Science, Office of International Programs, Bozeman Public Library, Bozeman Doc Fest, Bridges to Cuba LLC and the US Women and Cuba Collaboration with other co-sponsors to be announced. Specific screening times and facilitators are below.

For more information, contact Jan Strout, MSU Instructor and co-founder, of the Gallatin Valley Friends of Cuba at [janchangethatworks@yahoo.com](mailto:janchangethatworks@yahoo.com). Updates on [www.womenandcuba.org](http://www.womenandcuba.org) and FB.

***Schedule follows***

## **Saturday, November 12, Bozeman Public Library Large Community Room**

**1:30 PM - Community Doctors** (Kunle Ekunkonye, United States-Cuba, 2016) 50 minutes

The film highlights Cuba's medical scholarship program for young people from around the world, but especially focuses on U.S. students at the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) and their perspectives on health and medicine. Kunle Ekunkonye wrote, directed and filmed the documentary. His brother, Akin Ekunkonye, graduated from ELAM in July and is credited as the producer of the film. <https://communitydoctorsfilm.com>. *Discussants to be announced.*

**3:00PM - Ni Preguntas, Ni Respuestas/No Questions, No Answers** (Lizette Vila, Cuba, 2016) 20 minutes

Produced by CENESEX, Cuba's National Center for Sexual Education, this powerful documentary looks at the experiences and transformed lives of people who are transgender in Cuba from their participation in workshops on Sex Diversity. ([www.proyectopalomas.com](http://www.proyectopalomas.com)). Also featured is Cuba's leadership in the International Day Against Homophobia Campaign and the Cuba-US Lesbians and Allies Project of the US Women and Cuba Collaboration ([www.womenandcuba.org](http://www.womenandcuba.org)).

*Discussion lead* by Cassidy Medicine Horse, MSU Graduate Student and leader for Transgender peoples rights.

**4:00PM - All Guantanamo is Ours** (produced by Colombian journalist and writer living in France Hernando Calvo Ospina, 2016) 37 minutes

The return of Guantanamo to its legitimate owner, the Cuban people, is one of the central themes and a prerequisite before there will be real normalization of relations between United States and Cuba. The documentary produced by the alternative media *Resumen Latinoamericano* is an excellent tool to make known the reality of this injustice through telling Guantanamo's history and impacts on US & Cuban relations since the Cuban-Spanish-American War of 1898 to today. *Discussion lead* by Attorney Jorge Quintana, Cuban American and founder of Bridges to Cuba, LLC.

**6:30PM - The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil** (Faith Morgan, US-Cuba, 2005) 53 minutes

An unusual look into the Cuban culture during their economic crisis, which the Cubans call the Special Period, when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990 and imports of oil were cut by more than 50% and food by 80% - people were desperate. Cubans share how they transitioned from a highly mechanized, industrial agricultural system to one using organized methods of farming and local, urban gardens. A global model for sustainable human, community and economic development with *Panel and discussion to follow*. ([www.communitysolution.org](http://www.communitysolution.org))

## **Tuesday, November 15, MSU Jabs Hall, Room 207**

**5:00-7:00 PM - Maestra/Teacher** (Catherine Murphy and ICAIC, US-Cuba, 2011) 33 minutes

Opening Reception & Cuba travel and other information. **5:30PM** - Film Screening and program.

***Maestra*** (Teacher) explores the story of Cuba's 1961 Literacy Campaign with 250,000 volunteers – a majority of young women on their own for the first time - who taught 700,000 people in rural communities across the Island to read and write in one year and found themselves deeply transformed in the process. Education as a Human Right in Cuba will be discussed with Q & A by a panel of Cuban and MSU Students with Faculty to follow.

([www.theliteracyproject.org](http://www.theliteracyproject.org))