



# ESCUELA INTERNACIONAL DE CINE Y TELEVISION, CUBA, 26 JUNE - 21 JULY 2017

REBECCA RADMORE(FIRESOUL MEDIA) & PROFESSOR STEPHEN HART (UCL)

[www.firesoulmedia.com/film-school-cuba/](http://www.firesoulmedia.com/film-school-cuba/)



FIRESOUL MEDIA

# WHAT'S ON OFFER?

- Gain a diploma in Directing Documentary
- Learn the art of storytelling through theory and practice
- Work with a professional film crew to make a short documentary
- Discover Havana - one of the most fascinating cities in the world

## WANT TO STUDY DOCUMENTARY FILM IN CUBA?



Join us for the study opportunity of a lifetime this summer.

'Tell Me a Story': A four week intensive, hands-on Documentary Summer School at the world-renowned International Film & Television School (EICTV), Cuba.

- Gain a diploma in Directing Documentary
- Learn the art of storytelling through theory and practice
- Work with a professional film crew to make a short documentary
- Discover Havana - one of the most fascinating cities in the world

APPLY TODAY! VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION



Firesoul Media  
Web: [www.firesoulmedia.com/film-school-cuba](http://www.firesoulmedia.com/film-school-cuba)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/filmcuba](https://www.facebook.com/filmcuba)  
Email: [rebecca@firesoulmedia.com](mailto:rebecca@firesoulmedia.com)

# THE FOUR WEEKS OF THE COURSE

We use the facilities at the Escuela Internacional de Cine y Television in San Antonio as well as facilities in Havana, as follows:

Week 1: Lessons on the theory and practice of documentary film-making at the EICTV

Week 2: Lessons and filming/editing film exercises in Havana

Week 3: Filming your documentary in Havana

Week 4: Editing your documentary at the EICTV



# THE FOUR WEEKS OF THE COURSE

In the first two weeks of the course, we study documentaries in the morning and do film exercises in the afternoon

The idea is to get you used to creating mini-narratives which have a clear visual language; of about 1-2 minutes long

A typical exercise is the “Self-portrait” in which you tell a story about yourself



Photos by Esther Buckareff and Jesse Gibbons

# WEEKS 3 & 4 OF THE COURSE

In weeks 3 & 4 you make your documentaries

This begins with the pitch of your idea, followed by the vote

Typically, if there are 16 students (max 24) on the course, this will mean that there are four teams of 4

The team researches the film – which is going to be filmed in Old Havana – writes out the storyboard, organises the filming schedule, shoots the film in Havana, edits the footage at the EICTV, and then screens it on the final Friday of the course





# THREE MEALS A DAY

Your course fee includes three meals a day, breakfast, lunch and dinner. When shooting in Havana, meals are provided in Havana. The food is healthy but not very varied – i.e. there is a lot of rice

Having your meals taken care of means that you can focus on film making....



# FACILITIES

You can use the video and DVD library as well as the book library

There is a Olympic-size swimming pool

You are able to use the medical facility – which is run by a very competent doctor – but you do need to obtain medical insurance to cover you for any emergencies; once you have bought your insurance, you need to email a pdf copy of the insurance document to [rebecca@firesoulmedia.com](mailto:rebecca@firesoulmedia.com)

You are able to use the 24-hour bar which serves drinks and snacks

Bring your laptop so you can use the EICTV's wifi, but be aware that the internet works VERY slowly in Cuba



# ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is also included in the course fee for the whole duration of the course

At the EICTV accommodation is normally in the teachers' apartments

You do normally have to share

The girls are in one apartment block, the boys normally in another

The apartments are clean and pleasant, and cleaners come round to clean on a regular basis

While filming in Havana we stay in accommodation which is in Old Havana – near the action!!!





# COURSE FEES

The total cost of the course is £100 deposit (payable to Firesoul Media) and 2,400 euros (payable directly to the Escuela Internacional de Cine y Television).

The deposit of £100 must be paid to Firesoul Media by 10 February 2017 and the course fees of 2,400 euros must be paid to the EICTV by 1 May 2017. Please let us know if there are any issues arising when paying the EICTV and we will liaise with them.

Please note that the deposit does not count toward the second payment of 2400 euro and becomes non-refundable 7 days after payment.

Scholarships are not available from the EICTV for this course. When available, scholarships are normally provided by the attendee's home institution or university or by the attendee's national government.



# MONEY

Though your accommodation and all food is covered by the course fee, you do need to take some spending money.

Take UK pounds or Euros, but do not take dollars; take cash : getting money out of ATMs in Cuba is not always straightforward so you need a back-up

Take credit /debit cards such as Visa and Mastercard but do not take American Express

Cuba has two currencies; the CUC (worth about a euro) and the Cuban peso (worth a lot less)



# WEATHER

Cuba is very hot in June and July ; the heat is punctuated by heavy downpours, and sometimes storms

Take it easy for the first few days when you arrive in the School

Take clothing you would wear during a hot summer. Maybe a rain mac/poncho.

Take mosquito spray – there are mosquitoes at the School

Take some extra toilet paper

Take a hat and strong sun cream

Tell me – and the local doctor – about any medication that you are taking



# THINGS TO BRING

If you have a camcorder, or other recording device (even your phone), plus extra memory, bring it. It will be especially useful in the first few weeks when doing your own exercises as the school does not lend equipment for these exercises.

If you have a laptop bring that as well.

If you have film software such as Final Cut Pro so much the better; bring it with you!

Bring a guidebook to Cuba; just in case you want to go travelling after the course

Bring your mobile phone; texting is best when you're there



# THE VISA

Everybody needs a visa to visit Cuba

Apply for a tourist visa at the Cuban Embassy in the country you are currently living in

This can be changed to a student visa when you get to the EICTV; you will be permitted to stay in the first instance for 30 days. If you want to stay longer the EICTV will organise this for you for a small fee, and provide you with a 'proroga' (extension)

For UK citizens the visa is provided by the Cuban Embassy in Holborn, London; get it in good time; see <http://cuba.embassyhomepage.com>

For US citizens: visas can be obtained from the US government as long as you stress that this is an educational experience; I am happy to write a letter for you. You must apply in good time for your visa





# HOW TO PREPARE

Watch some Cuban films: Tomas Gutierrez Alea's *Memories of Underdevelopment* or *Strawberry and Chocolate*, or Steve Soderbergh's *Che* (2008)

Learn some basic Spanish; and read up on the theory of documentary; a good book is Bill Nichols' *Introduction to Documentary* (2001). Read up about the history of Cuba; Hugh Thomas's book *on Cuba or the Pursuit of Freedom* (2008) is a classic

Do some filming and create a self-portrait (of say 1-2 minutes long). Tell us (briefly!) who you are, and, if you can, bring it to Cuba with you.



# INSURANCE & DISCLAIMER

You must get your own travel/medical insurance. You will need to show proof of this to the Cuban authorities upon entering the country. You will also need to provide a PDF copy of your insurance to myself, which I will pass on to the school.

Make sure the policy covers Cuba. We recommend purchasing an insurance plan that covers at least £10,000,000 in repatriation expenses. Please read up on some relevant guidance before purchasing insurance.

Advice for British nationals [www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance)

You may also want to take out separate insurance for your laptops / camera equipment if these are not protected by your travel insurance.

Please note that Firesoul Media is NOT the course provider. We cannot be held accountable for any loss/damage/injury etc. All students must sign a Waiver of Liability, stating that they understand this before any payment is made.



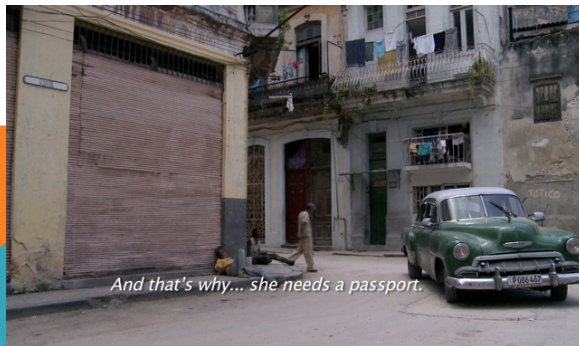
# TRAVEL

The course dates are Monday 26 June 2017 – Friday 21 July 2017. Ideally you should arrive the weekend before the course begins

Virgin Airlines offers a direct flight from London to Havana, but – unless you book early – the fares can be more expensive

The best deals are normally available from Air France, Air Europa, Air Canada, Air Flot and KLM; Iberia also does have some good deals

Everybody should book their own tickets separately. Once you have booked your flight, please let me know the details of your flight so I can pass it onto Aymara Mainet at the EICTV; she can then book your accommodation at the school; her email is [talleres@eictv.co.cu](mailto:talleres@eictv.co.cu)



# ¡NOS VEMOS ALLÁ!

## WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

