

Two Screenings of “CANDELARIA” in partnership with the Vancouver Latin American Film Festival



>> Saturday, Sept 1 @ 7:30 PM | SFU Woodward's | Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

>> Sunday, Sept 2 @ 3:15 PM | The Cinematheque

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW: www.vlaff.org

“CANDELARIA”

Cuba/Colombia, 2017 - Spanish with English subtitles/ 87mins

Havana, 1994. Candelaria, 75, and Víctor Hugo, 76, are more focused on finding enough to eat and preserving their one remaining lightbulb than they are on each other. The days are repetitive, conversations are sparse, dinners are sad. But the monotony is suddenly broken when Candelaria finds a video camera tangled in the dirty sheets of the hotel laundry where she works. Not sure of what to do with it just yet, she brings it home. The arrival of this foreign object in their home unleashes all kinds of unexpected consequences. This sweet and saucy tale of an older married couple re-finding their spark, is absolutely lovely to watch.



Mariela Castro, director of the Cuban National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX) alongside Mike Jackson of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) at the Conga Against Homophobia and Transphobia in Havana, Cuba, May 2018.

Excerpts from the theguardian.com article, “Cuba’s new constitution paves way for same-sex marriage”

Cuba is set to become the latest country in Latin America to approve gay marriage, after the National Assembly on Sunday signed off on a new constitution that defines marriage as “the consensual union of two people, regardless of gender”. The new constitution, known as the Magna Carta - which also recognises private property for the first time since the Cold War - will be put to a referendum later this year.

The news was met with elation by the LGBTQ community, many of whom were hopeful but not certain the measure would pass.

“This is marvellous,” said Pablo Navarro, 70, who spent two years cutting sugar cane in a correctional labour camp in the 1960s because of his sexuality. “I feel proud that the new generation can enjoy this achievement even though we couldn’t.”



The Newsletter of
Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba - VCSC
WWW.VANCUBASOLIDARITY.COM

Summer 2018 - 2nd edition

CUBA TO GET READY FOR SAME SEX MARRIAGE, SAYS MARIELA CASTRO

“It’s a really important step forward,” said Yeandro Tamayo, 40, a gay theatre director from Havana, who watched the National Assembly debate the issue live on television. “I’ve never been interested in marriage, now they they have approved it, I might get married myself!”

Legislators voted unanimously for the

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VCSC is a Community Partner with the Vancouver Pride Society



Call If you want to join the Cuba delegation!

Summer 2018 we will be at:

East Side Pride - June 23

Pride Premiere - July 27

Vancouver Pride Parade & Sunset Beach Festival - August 5

New Westminster Pride Street Festival - August 18

Get Involved with VCSC!

778.882.5223 | vancubasolidarity@gmail.com

@VanCuba_VCSC

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC)

WWW.VANCUBASOLIDARITY.COM

A Free Community Event

Humanity is Diversity

Jornada Cubana contra la HOMOFOBIA Y LA TRANSFOBIA

* Film * Music * Speakers * Trivia*

THURSDAY AUGUST 9 2018
7:00PM
MOUNT PLEASANT NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
800 E Broadway - Vancouver, Canada

Featuring the film:
“Mariela Castro’s March: Cuba’s LGBT Revolution”

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba
www.vancubasolidarity.com

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778-882-5223

VANCOUVER CUBA SOLIDARITY HEATS UP FOR SUMMER

In Canadian mainstream media, the picture painted of Cuba and life for the Cuban people is largely a negative one. That picture is far from the truth! Despite the hardships imposed on Cuba by the U.S. blockade, the Cuban people enjoy a renowned universal healthcare and education system. Cubans live in a dynamic and inclusive political system that the

Cuban people take a direct role in, from their fair and representative elections to participation in social organizations. The truth is that Cuba is an example which anyone interested in building a better world should look to!

One of VCSC's central campaigns is against the over 55 years long U.S. blockade of Cuba, which continues to put enormous strain on the Cuban economy and limits the availability of many import goods which Cubans need. Despite the historic announcement on December 17, 2014, by former U.S. President Barack Obama and former Cuban President Raul Castro that talks were starting for the normalization of U.S./Cuba relations, the U.S. government never lifted the blockade on Cuba. VCSC had the opportunity to discuss the U.S. blockade with hundreds of people at

the annual Main Street Car Free Festival in Vancouver on June 17. The 21-block street festival draws over a hundred thousand people, many of which were attracted to the VCSC booth by the Cuban flags and banners, and by the colourful sidewalk chalk on the busy street reading "Hey Trump! Lift the Blockade on Cuba!"

Another truth that VCSC is talking about is LGBTQ rights in Cuba. As a Community Partner in Vancouver Pride, every year VCSC participates in marches, tabling fairs and parades during the Pride season, breaking down the false notion that Cuba is a dangerous place to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans or queer. In fact, a widespread and effective campaign against homophobia and transphobia has been



Salsa Lesson at Celebration of Che Guevara's Birthday & Brigade Reportback June 24, 2018



BBQ at Celebration of Che Guevara's Birthday & Brigade Reportback June 24, 2018

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba & Proyecto Cultural Sur - Vancouver Report Back!

Vancouver Celebrates "Palabras en el Mundo" Poetry Festival

On May 25, 2018, a special event was held as part of the "Palabras en el Mundo" (Words in the World) International Poetry Festival. In Vancouver, Canada this event was co-organized by Proyecto Cultural Sur - Vancouver and Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC). This annual evening of poetry, song, dance, and friendship was held in Burnaby's Central Park, among the peaceful trees and water. The setting of the event reflected the theme, which was dedicated to Mother Earth and to water, and to celebrating and protecting our natural environment.

Proyecto Cultural Sur - Vancouver is part of an international network which nurtures Latin American culture by bringing people

together to share poetry, music, and dance. The organization has worked together with Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba over several events, including on May 25, to create cultural events which bring together a broad group of people from the Latin American community and other diverse communities.

"Palabras en el Mundo" was emceed by Proyecto Cultural Sur President Lucy Ortiz, who invited up a number of people to share poetry as well as beautiful dances and songs. After an evening of sharing together, diplomas of participation were given to all who contributed their art and everyone gathered together for a group photo with the beautiful natural backdrop of the park and under the open skies.

To find out more about this important cultural project, visit

<http://van.proyectoculturalsur.net>





CELEBRAN EN CUBA JORNADA CONTRA LA HOMOFOBIA CON LLAMADO A LA EQUITAD

(Habana, 12 de mayo DE 2018) Cuba celebra el Día Internacional contra la Homofobia, la Transfobia y la Bifobia con un llamado a promover el respeto a la libre orientación sexual e identidad de género.

Con el lema ‘Por escuelas sin homofobia, ni transfobia’, desde el 4 de mayo comenzaron las actividades relacionadas con la efeméride y las mismas se extenderán hasta mañana en el contexto del 30 aniversario del Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual (Cenesex).

De acuerdo con la máxima responsable de esa entidad, Mariela Castro, la institución realiza un intenso trabajo por los derechos de la comunidad de lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transexuales e intersexuales

y cuenta con el apoyo del gobierno cubano.

‘Todo este tiempo hemos estado sacando aprendizaje de lo hecho. Tenemos nuevas propuestas que no consisten en elaborar leyes nuevas, sino, trabajar en modificaciones de leyes que ya existen en nuestra Constitución para que sean más expeditas’, puntualizó Castro.

El programa contempló espacios para las actividades comunitarias, el intercambio académico y cultural, acciones propicias para el intercambio de experiencias entre activistas y profesionales.

La jornada cubana contra homofobia y transfobia estuvo dedicada al tema del acoso por motivos de orientación sexual e identificación de género en los centros de enseñanza.

De acuerdo con especialistas del Cenesex, la violencia de este tipo en las escuelas afecta a todas las personas que están inmersas en esa situación: víctimas, victimarios y testigos.

Estos aseguran que las manifestaciones discriminatorias tienen un impacto significativo sobre la salud física, mental y el bienestar de la comunidad educativa y crean un clima de inseguridad, miedo y descontento en el círculo escolar.

Asimismo, disminuye la confianza en el personal educativo y en la institución, aumenta el riesgo de conductas autolesivas y obstaculiza la construcción de relaciones enriquecedoras y libres de prejuicios’, opinaron los expertos.

El Día Internacional contra la Homofobia, la Transfobia y la Bifobia se celebra el 17 de mayo para conmemorar la eliminación de la homosexualidad en 1990 de la lista de enfermedades mentales por parte de la Organización Mundial de la Salud.

Desde: www.prensa-latina.cu

in full effect for years in Cuba, with the support of the Cuban revolutionary government. Huge strides have been made in Cuba such as the right to adoption for same-sex couples, and free and accessible gender reassignment surgery. On June 23, VCSC participated in the annual East Side Pride event in Vancouver, with a table of information and a banner proclaiming “Cuba Says: LGBT+ Rights are Human Rights

Also on June 23, VCSC organized an event celebrating the 90th anniversary of the birth of revolutionary hero Che Guevara. The event took advantage of the sunny summer weather and was held in Vancouver’s Trout Lake Park, complete with BBQ and potluck for everyone to enjoy! The event started out with a welcoming by Coast Salish Indigenous elder and activist Kelly White, whose strong voice and drumming led the crowd in song. After the welcoming, VCSC coordinator Tamara Hansen spoke about who Che Guevara was, as a leader in the Cuban revolution and an inspiration to people fighting for justice and a better future all around the world. The



VCSC Tabling at East Side Pride Festival, June 24, 2018

event was also an opportunity for brigadistas from the 26th annual Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade to report back from their recent trip to Cuba. Brigadistas Catherine and Janine shared stories from the trip, followed by Max who read poetry inspired by Cuba, and a voice message shared by Andrew, a brigadista living in Edmonton. The crowd was also treated to music from another brigadista, Andrew, who played on the guitar and sang for everyone to enjoy. Another musical act followed, with a singing debut by Nadia, a young Cuba solidarity supporter! Kids at the event had their fun demolishing a candy-filled

piñata, while participants got up from their picnic tables and blankets to take part in a salsa lesson.

With great summer weather ahead, VCSC will be out around Vancouver holding more events and participating in the upcoming street festivals and Pride events. To join in check for upcoming events at www.vancubasolidarity.com, follow on Facebook or Twitter

@VanCuba_VCSC

CUBA CELEBRATES DAYS AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA WITH A CALL FOR EQUITY

(Havana, May 17, 2018) Cuba is celebrating today the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia with a call to promote respect for free sexual orientation and gender identity, as an exercise of justice and equity.

Under the slogan 'For schools without homophobia, or transphobia,' the activities related to the anniversary began since May 4 and they will be extended until tomorrow in the context of the 30th

anniversary of the National Sex Education Center (CENESEX).

According to its director, Mariela Castro, the institution carries out an intense work for the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex community and with support of the Cuban government.

'We have been taking learning from what has been done all this time. We have new proposals that do not consist in drawing up new laws, but, working on modifications of laws that already exist in our Constitution so they are more expeditious,' Castro said.



Mariela Castro, President of CENESEX & VCSC organizers, Azza and Janine, Havana May 2016

The program included spaces for community activities, academic and cultural exchange, and actions suitable to the exchange of experiences between activists and professionals.

The Cuban day against homophobia and transphobia was dedicated to the issue of harassment based on sexual orientation and gender identification in educational centers.

The International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia is celebrated on May 17 to commemorate the elimination of homosexuality in 1990 from the list of mental illnesses by the World Health Organization.

From: www.plenglish.com

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new constitution, replacing the current constitution's definition of marriage as the "voluntary union between a man and woman". The new constitution does not explicitly address the question of whether gay couples can adopt children, although experts say this will now likely be possible. [...]

The pro-gay marriage campaign was led by Mariela Castro, the director of the National Centre for for Sex Education (CENESEX), a lawmaker, and daughter of former President Raúl Castro. CENESEX organised the "Conga against Homophobia and Transphobia" in March, in which thousands of revellers danced among gay pride flags and Fidel Castro banners.

This "officialista" campaign was accompanied by a small group of around 100 LGBT activists who lobbied on social media, ran queer cinema screenings, and staged public performance art.

"CENESEX has been educating and lobbying on this issue since 2007 and has been the main force here, but all of our actions have played a role," said feminist militant Marta María Ramirez, 42, through joyous tears. "The National Assembly is now responding to specific demands of the people



and not only to their own experiences as bureaucrats."

Cuba's about-face on gay rights has been in train for decades. Employment discrimination because of sexual orientation is illegal in both the state and private sector. Legislation enacted earlier this year allows for steep fines and even the suspension of licenses for private employers who discriminate because of gender, race or sexuality.

Sex-change operations were legalised in 2008 and are carried out at no cost to the patient. Cuban surgeons performed dozens last year.

Elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean, same-sex marriage is legal in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Colombia. But homosexuality remains a criminal offence in seven Caribbean island nations.

GET INVOLVED WITH FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE (FCAB - VANCOUVER)

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