

Memories of Overdevelopment

Memorias del Desarrollo

Directed by Miguel Coyula
Based on a Novel by Edmundo Desnoes



“Thoughtful and cinematically bold... An affecting portrait of modern man becoming more and more isolated from a world he helped to create.”

- James Greenberg, The Hollywood Reporter

“Remarkable... A dazzling and disconcerting work of great bravado... A paradigm for a new digital cinema beholden to no orthodoxy.”

- Michael Chanan, Putney Debater

“Astounding on several levels as it graphically delivers and sums up both the sham of capitalism and the time warp that the Cuban Revolution has created.”

- Nancy Snipper, Arts and Opinion

“A complex kaleidoscope, which in turns dictates the editing of the sequences in a kinetic, non-linear way. Paralleling free association, the structure blurs the lines between actual events, fake memories, projections, irritation at American pop culture, political anger, rambling and resentments.”

- Bérénice Reynaud, Senses of Cinema

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Synopsis

An intellectual leaves the Cuban Revolution and 'underdevelopment' behind only to find himself at odds with the ambiguities of his new life in the 'developed' world. A portrait of an alienated man, an outsider with no clear-cut politics or ideology: a stranger in a strange land struggling with old age, sexual desire and ultimately, the impossibility for the individual to belong in any society.

The film's narrative is a collage of flashbacks, daydreams, and hallucinations comprising live-action, animation, and newsreel footage assembled to suggest the way personal memory works, subjectively and emotionally.

Director's Biography

Miguel Coyula was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1977. He was part of a new wave of independent Cuban filmmakers in the late 90s working outside of the mainstream using digital technology on shoestring budgets. Early on he came to the attention of the public through his shorts which garnered many awards at various film festivals. After graduating from the prestigious International Film School of San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba, in 1999, Coyula came to New York to study at the Strasberg Theater Institute and to direct his first feature, *Red Cockroaches* which has since become a cult classic. *Variety* called it “undeniably inventive, visually stunning” and a “triumph of technology in the hands of a visionary with know-how.”

For his second feature film, Coyula embarked on the challenging job of directing “*Memorias del Desarrollo*” a follow up to the Cuban film classic “*Memorias del Subdesarrollo*” and also based on a novel by Edmundo Desnoes. He received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in support of his work on the film. *Memories del Desarrollo* premiered at Sundance 2010 and subsequently won the Havana Star for Best Film at the Havana Film Festival in New York and other awards. Coyula is currently preparing for his next feature “*Blue Road*” which will start production next fall.

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Memorias del Desarrollo (2010)
Country: Cuba / USA
Language: Spanish / English
Subtitles: English or Spanish
Running Time: 112 minutes

Cast

Sergio Garcet	Ron Blair
Deidre	Eileen Alana
Tia Julia	Susana Perez
Pablo Garcet	Lester Martinez
Ana Maria	Dayana M. Hernández
Angela	Wanda O'Connell
Alba	Kathia Rodriguez
Andre	Jeff Pucillo
Luis	Jorge Ali
Irene	Patricia Portela
Carole Ratner	Jean Marie Offenbacher
French Student	Delphine Dhilly
Yuca Bar waitress	Sarah Elisabeth Ghoneim
College Professor	Phil Wilde
College Dean	Ed Howard
Judge	Howard Weinberg
French Interpreter	Rachida Naceur
Sister Cantrel/Dorothy	Reb Fleming
Sister Angrin	Tamara Howell
Astronaut	Trent Harris

Director	Miguel Coyula - Screenplay, Cinematography, Editing
Producer	David W. Leitner
Executive Producers	Steve Pieczenik, Suzana Dejkanovic
Associate Producers	Michael Ferris Gibson, Juan Martínez, Yukiko Niigata
Production Manager	Marta Aquino - Havana, Cuba
Music	Dika Durbuzovic, Hayes Greenfield, Miguel Coyula

Contact:

David W. Leitner, Producer
Email: david.w.leitner@gmail.com
Tel. [00-1-212] 431-7080

Miguel Coyula, Director
Email: migcoyula@hotmail.com
Tel. [00-1-718] 480-3109