

FESTIVAL DU
NOUVEAU CINÉMA
DE MONTRÉAL
2020 QUEBECOR BROADCASTING AWARD
NATIONAL COMPETITION

MAISON 4:3 AND VOYELLES FILMS
PRESENT

2021 WINNER
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
ashland
independent
film festival

MIAMI
FILM
FESTIVAL
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Sin La Habana

A FILM BY **KAVEH NABATIAN**

CASTING

Leonardo
Sara
Nasim

YONAH ACOSTA
EVELYN CASTRODA O'FARRILL
AKI YAGHOUBI

CREATIVE

TEAM

Written and Directed
Produced by

KAVEH NABATIAN
GABRIELLE TOUGAS-FRÉCHETTE
MÉNAÏC RAOUL
JUAN PABLO RAMÍREZ AMC
VALÉRIE-JEANNE MATHIEU
PATRICIA MCNEIL
KAVEH NABATIAN
SOPHIE LEBLOND
SYLVAIN BELLEMARE
HANS LAITRES
PABLO D. HERRERA VEITIA
JULIO HONG

Cinematography
Art Direction
Costumes
Original Music
Editing
Sound Design
Sound Mix
Original Story
Choreographer

TECHNICAL INFORMATIONS

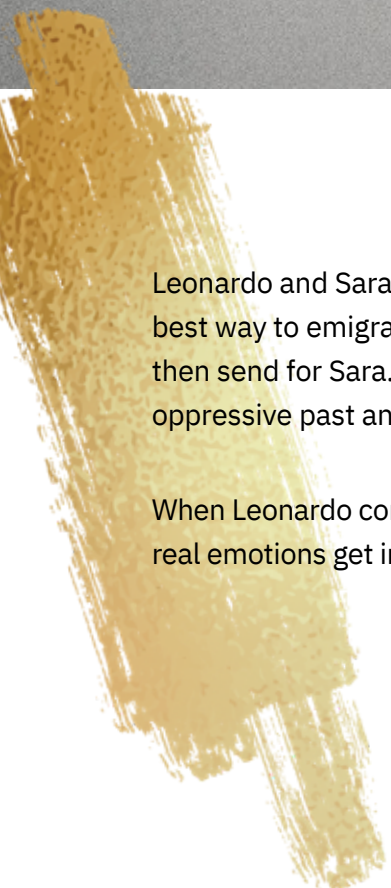
Genre
Format

DRAMA
ARRIRAW AND SUPER 16MM
COLOUR AND B&W
2:39
5.1
95 MINUTES

Aspect Ratio
Ratio (sound)
Length



S Y N O P S I S



Leonardo and Sara, a young Afro-Cuban couple, are desperate to leave the island. They decide that the best way to emigrate is for Leonardo to seduce a foreign woman, get legal status in another country, and then send for Sara. The woman they choose is Nasim, an Iranian-Canadian divorcée who is running from an oppressive past and yearning to have fun for the first time in her life.

When Leonardo convinces Nasim to marry him, he is able to move to Montreal, but his plan derails when real emotions get in the way.

A close-up, profile shot of a person's face, looking towards the left. The scene is bathed in a deep blue light, creating a moody and contemplative atmosphere. The person's features are softly defined by the light. Two thick, expressive orange brushstrokes are visible: one in the upper left corner and another in the lower right corner, adding a graphic, artistic touch to the composition.

B I O G R A P H I E S



K A V E H N A B A T I A N

SCREENWRITER & FILM DIRECTOR

Kaveh Nabatian is an Iranian-Canadian who has directed fiction films, music videos, and documentaries all over the world: from Nunavut, Haiti, India, and Cuba, to his home in Montreal. Kaveh also composes and plays trumpet in Juno Award-winning band, Bell Orchestre. Recent projects include orchestrating an omnibus experimental feature in *The Seven Last Words*, a feature documentary about Leonard Cohen in *A Crack in Everything*, and collaborations with Arcade Fire, Kahlil Joseph, and Half Moon Run.

His award-winning films, which combine evocative imagery and sound with deeply human stories, deal with people on the margins of society.

Sin La Habana is his first fiction feature and tells the story of an Afrocuban ballet dancer who seduces a tourist in search of a better life.



VOYELLES FILMS

PRODUCTION

Voyelles Films, one of the driving forces behind daring Quebec cinema, now counts over twenty shorts and three feature films. The company went international with a selection in Cannes' Official Competition in 2011, and two at the Directors' Fortnight (2012, 2014).

Voyelles' first feature, *Sabali* (Ryan Mckenna, 2015) won the Focus award at the Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, while the Cuban-shot *All You Can Eat Bouddha* (Ian Lagarde, 2017), premiering at TIFF and Rotterdam, continues to wow festivals worldwide.

The producers remain dead-set on supporting extraordinary and ambitious cinematic experiences in Canada and the world.

A portrait of Gabrielle Tougas-Fr  chette, a woman with long brown hair and bangs, wearing a black top and a necklace with a circular pendant. The background is a light, neutral color. There are two large, vertical, textured gold brushstrokes on the right side of the image, one near the top and one near the bottom.

GABRIELLE TOUGAS-FR  CHETTE

PRODUCER

Following the one-two punch of Fine Arts and Film Studies at Concordia University, Gabrielle Tougas-Fr  chette joined the ranks of the cutting-edge Festival du nouveau cin  ma as a programmer, allowing her to produce films outside festival season.

In 2009, she co-founded Voyelles Films, and to this day she has produced over twenty shorts as well as 3 feature films, and that's just the beginning. As if that wasn't enough, she has also assumed costume design duties on a number of productions. Her wide-ranging experience, versatility and insatiable passion for cinema make her a precious ally for creators.

Gabrielle Tougas-Fr  chette is always actively involved in the projects she helms, thus enabling their inherent poetry to breathe through the screen.



M É N A Ï C R A O U L

PRODUCER

After valuable studies in project management and documentary production, Ménaïc Raoul began her career in fiction as a production manager. Then in 2009, her compulsion to produce young Quebec talent drove her to co-create Voyelles Films. At every stage of every project, she strives to help them achieve their unique authorial vision and bring their originality and difference to the screen.

Ménaïc Raoul has also overseen more than 200 top-flight advertising projects all over the world, as well as several feature films and two television series in the capacity of line producer.

Ménaïc's knack for numbers and logistics, combined with her instinctive nature, allow her to take great pleasure in guiding the artists she works with in the most creative of ways.



YONAH ACOSTA

ACTOR

Yonah Acosta was born in Havana, Cuba, and started dancing at the age of 10 at the National Ballet School Cuba. After his diploma he got engaged at the National Ballet in Havana. In 2011, he joined the English National Ballet where he was promoted to principal dancer in 2014.

He won several international dance competitions and was partner of Tamara Rojo and Alina Cojocaru amongst others.

In the season 2017/18, he joined the Bayerisches Staatsballett as a principal. Sin La Habana is his first appearance in the cinema, he plays the lead role of Leonardo.



EVELYN CASTRODA O'FARRILL

ACTOR

Evelyn Castroda O'Farrill is a professional ballet dancer, model and actress of Cuban origin.

Specialized in many dance styles, she has been practicing her art for more than 15 years in several dance companies in Cuba and abroad.

As an actress and model, she participates in several advertising and fiction video projects in Cuba. Sin La Habana is her first leading role outside Cuba, where she plays the character of Sara.



AKI YAGHOUBI

ACTOR

Aki Yaghoubi is an Iranian-Canadian theatre and film artist involved in writing, directing and acting. Dedicated to the arts for over 20 years, she was trained by iconic Iranian director and drama professor Hamid Samandarian at Kanoon.

Over the years, Aki has participated in several major theatre productions as director, assistant director, and stage manager. She moved to Montreal Canada in 2009, bringing with her love and passion for theatre. In 2014, she had her first performance in Canada, in the piece One Minute Silence, which was put on stage at the Segal Centre for performing arts. In 2015, Aki started to write her first full-length play, Reflection of Silence. The play was workshopped in Playwrights' Workshop Montréal on January 2020.

Currently Aki lives in Vancouver working on her new play The Walls Within. She plays the character of Nasim in the feature film Sin La Habana by Kaveh Nabatian.

CONTACTS

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