

The 46th Congress. Havana, April 1990. Newsletter 1

Context

The congress will be held within the celebrations of Cinemateca de Cuba's 30th anniversary. Being a state archive, congress work will run under the support of the Cuban film institute and Ministry of culture. It will also benefit from the collaboration of the Cuban television institute and archive, the National museum of fine arts and, last but not least, the Latin American film foundation.

Date & timetable

Date will be April 19-24 (6 days). Two days for the general assembly, three days for the symposium and one day for the excursion. The EC meeting will be held three days before the GA, as customarily. The Preservation, Cataloguing and Documentation commissions will be also meeting in Havana.

Sessions will start at ⁹10 in the morning and close at 6:00 in the afternoon, so there will be plenty of time for people to meet, screen films, etc.

Meeting rooms

The EC meetings, general assembly and symposia will be held at the ICC (the Havana international conference center), which is about 12 minutes by bus from the hotels, and a rather nice and functional place that meets all our requirements. We will have lunch there, projection facilities: 35 & 16mm, slides, etc., secretariat office, pigeonholes and what you have. The EC met last December at the ICC, so maybe they will be willing to talk a little about their experience in this place.

The FIAF commissions will meet at suitable rooms at the Cuban film institute, scarcely 5 minutes by bus from the hotels. There are screening rooms, videoprojection, etc. although we would appreciate hearing about all their specific requirements in advance.

The symposium

Will be divided in two parts, one and a half day each. First part will be devoted to a technical topic: Film archiving in developing countries and will require the active collaboration of the three FIAF commissions. It also includes a report and discussion about the Latin American experience in the new regional preservation center at Sao Paulo, Brasil.

Second part deals about a cultural subject: The Latin American Film of the 30s, 40s & 50s. A thorough survey on the aesthetics, cultural significance and preservation status of the Latin American film of the 30s, 40s & 50s. Latin American researchers, historians and scholars will be invited to read papers, and to present and discuss film clips. Enclosed is a detailed description (Annex A) of the above two topics.

Symposium registration fee

Non FIAF members may attend the symposium by payment of a registration fee of US \$100-150. Spouses, US \$50-75 or \$25 per day. Fee includes attendance to the General Assembly and the Symposium, receptions, transportation to the ICC, lunch, coffee breaks and free admission to the symposium screenings at the archive film theatre. (Above prices are still under study).

Hotels

Well in advance we shall furnish all FIAF members with leaflets and price lists of a variety of hotels in Havana, although we strongly recommend Hotel Nacional de Cuba, a nice period hotel (from the 30s) that is being remodeled. It has a couple of swimming pools and large surrounding gardens overlooking the ocean. Reduced package prices including lodging, all the meals and transportation airport-hotel-airport are under study. We are also discussing reduced airfare tariffs with airlines flying to Havana, and probable charter flights mainly from Europe, North and Latin America.

Transportation

Airconditioning buses will take participants from the hotels every morning at 9:30 to the ICC and then back to the hotels at 6:00 pm. Also to the receptions, visits and excursions. Free of charge. Three cars with chauffeur will be at the disposal of congress requirements all the time.

Social events

A welcome reception will take place at the patio of the National museum of fine arts, entertained by a 'Plastic-action' performance by one of Cuba's leading painters, Mr. Manuel Mendive, through the courtesy of the Museum and the Afro-Cuban dance company.

A farewell reception will be held at the gardens of the Latin American film foundation's beautiful villa. Next morning, we will be invited to visit the International film and television school, and after lunch, there will be either a boat cruise in the deep blue Caribbean, overlooking Havana skyline, or a promenade along charming old Spanish colonial Havana, a cultural heritage site of Mankind, as declared by UNESCO.

Finances

We are hoping to get some financial help from Unesco, considering the extent and importance of the symposium dealing about the present and future work and survival of archives in developing countries. Airfares and staying costs are beyond the resources of many archives and researchers in Latin America, Africa and Asia. This matter should be brought to the attention of the Unesco-Fiaf round table in Paris.

Cinemateca de Cuba
May 1988.

Annex A to Newsletter 1

The 46th FIAF Congress. Havana, April 1990.

The Symposium

First topic (technical) 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ days

I. Film archiving in developing countries

The Preservation, Cataloguing and Documentation Commissions of FIAF will be meeting in Havana. It would be of great help to developing archives if the three commissions would kindly devote part of their time, before arriving in Havana, to the discussion of the following issues, so they are able to submit their recommendations at the symposium:

I.1 Low cost storage and preservation technics for developing archives in tropical and sub-tropical countries.

It will be greatly appreciated if Mr. Vladimir Opela, Head of Preservation of the Czechoslovakian film archive and a member of the Preservation Commission would submit a report on the results of his research on fungi and bacteria carried out at the Vietnamese film archive.

I.2 Low cost basic cataloguing methods.

I.3 Low cost basic documentation methods.

(I.1, I.2 and I.3 by a coordinator-reporter from each commission)

It will be also greatly appreciated if all FIAF publications would be at display and for sale whenever available, during the congress. A descriptive price list would be most welcome.

I.4 A report on current situation of the African archives.

I.5 A report on current situation of the Asian archives.

(both by a coordinator-reporter from each continent)

I.6 Regional preservation centers:

A review of the Latin American experience

Ms. Maria Rita Galvão, President of the Board of Directors of Cinemateca Brasileira (Sao Paulo) and Mr. João Sócrates de Oliveira, Head of Preservation of same archive and a member of FIAF Preservation Commission, will submit a full report on the advancement and problems of this project under their management and technical care.

Second topic (cultural) 1-½ days

II. The Latin American Film of the 30s, 40s & 50s

A thorough survey on the aesthetics, cultural significance and preservation status of the Latin American film of the 30s, 40s, & 50s.

Researches are currently being made in Latin America on this subject, corresponding to the outstanding boom of this cinema of lasting influence on huge regional audiences.

II.1 The survey

Clips of films mainly from Argentine, Brazil, Cuba, México, etc., will be edited and shown to the participants in the symposium. Latin American film researchers, historians and scholars will be invited to read papers, make the presentations, answer questions and discuss points of view raised by the participants.

II.2 The litterature

Books, filmographies, catalogues, magazines, etc. on Latin American film history and current development, published in the region and elsewhere, will be at display; some will be for sale. A full bibliography will be distributed.

II.3 The films, the way they were

Complementing the symposium (Part II) and as a joint presentation of the Latin American archives, a representative and attractive selection of complete films will be shown, throughout the whole month of April, at the archive film theatre (900 seats, built-in translation facilities, 35 & 16mm, Dolby stereo, airconditioning). The theatre is located just around the corner of the hotels. Hopefully films will have English subtitles, even if through their synchronous projection onto the screen, at least during the congress.

At its two expo halls, and all over the theatre, blown-up stills from the films, original posters, bigger-than-life portraits of the divas, plus related material, will be at display, trying to recreate period looks and moods. We would love to have some of the charming stars. Free entrance with reserved seats for symposium participants. A calendar for 1991 and maybe a video-cassette on the whole thing will be produced, we hope.