



A CUBAN LEGEND

The story of Salvador Gonzalez
A Film by Bette Wanderman

"An engaging, lively and colorful introduction to the Afro-Cuban music and religion... Ms. Wanderman, Mr. Gonzalez and "A Cuban Legend" are good company."
-Lawrence Van Gelder, *New York Time*

"One of the best cinematic portraits of an artist in recent years! Gonzalez is an amazing figure."
-Michael Wilmington, *Chicago Tribune*

"Dazzling colors, crackling Havana street life, the sexual beat of the Rumba and the centuries-old rituals of the Yoruba culture are the backdrop for this lively portrait of Salvador Gonzalez"
-Edward Guthmann, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"Colorful, engaging vidpic should find ready berth in multiculturally oriented fest and broadcast slots".
-Dennis Harvey, *Variety*

A hypnotic journey into the mysterious and colorful realm of Afro-Cuban culture, **A CUBAN LEGEND** takes us inside the world of artist Salvador Gonzalez, a charismatic visionary who has single-handedly transformed a Havana alley into a world-renowned outdoor art and performance space. Salvador's enormous, colorful outdoor murals and surrealist sculptures reach six stories up and encompass the doorways, windows, and walls of two full blocks of Central Havana known as *Callejon de Hamel* (Hamel's Alley), now the center of a musical and artistic renaissance of Yoruba culture, a fusion of African mysticism and pagan ritual.

Though his murals have brought him international recognition, Salvador's art is not limited to painting and sculpture. On Sundays, Salvador presides over the drummers and dancers who come to rumba the day away -- part community activist, part shaman, and indisputable lord of the *barrio*. Inspired by the ancient religious traditions of West Africa, Salvador also uses myth, music, movement and ritual to create breathtakingly sensual performance pieces featuring nude dancers who Salvador has painted himself, transforming them into living embodiments of the African deities known as *orishas*. These unforgettable tableaux reveal an artistic sensibility that is dynamic and modern, yet recalls the ancient origins of human culture.

Directed and produced by New York filmmaker Bette Wanderman, **A CUBAN LEGEND** has played to packed houses at film festivals all over the world. The theatrical premiere of the film was at New York City's Cinema village in October 2002. The film has screened at theatres and Universities across the USA.

Running time: 79 minutes. *In English and Spanish with English subtitles.*

Contact, Bette Wanderman 212 228 8996 bwanderman@mac.com www.bettewanderman.com