



**CURAÇAO**

INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

**10-14 APRIL 2024**

10<sup>TH</sup> EDITION • [THE MOVIES OTROBANDA](#) • [CURACAOIFF.COM](#)

# CONTENT

<b>Welcome</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Festival Highlights</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Yellow Robin Award</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>Film Info A-Z</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Caribbean Focus Program</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Shorts</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Educational Program</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Program Schedule</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>More Than Film</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Practical Information</b>	<b>58</b>

Curaçao IFF 2024 • Fundashon Bon Intenshon: Gregory Elias, Michael Elias • Artistic Manager: Paulette Smit • Program & Bookings: Petra van Dongen • Project Coordinator, Guests & Volunteers: Sulin Passial • Sponsoring & Social Media: Annet Kooistra • Graphic Design: Salt • Print: Repro • Maritime Travel

Special thanks to: The Movies, Kinder Museum Curaçao, Kura Hulanda Village, Percy Pinedo, Sigmund Jansen, Pito Polo, Maarten Schakel, Dennis Aalse, Lex Veerkamp, Dave Schram, David Vos, Monique Ruinen, Patricia van Wetten, Anja van Bergen, Piet Bijlholt.

## Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Curaçao International Film Festival

Dear Film Friends,

Welcome to the 10th edition of the Curaçao International Film Festival ("CIFF"). Celebrating an anniversary is among other things a reason to look back and reminisce. A lot has happened since the first edition in 2012; highs and lows, we've experienced them all, with Covid almost terminating our ability to organize future festivals. Yet here we are, reveling in the start of a new festival filled with features and shorts for aficionados, while also aiming at people who, for a variety of reasons, rarely visit a movie theater. Organizing nine previous editions has been possible only due to the support, enthusiasm and acceptance by a large number of visitors, professionals, sponsors, theaters The Movies, and volunteers. We must not omit to mention a few key people: Rutger Wolfson, the first director of IFFR to recognize the potential of collaboration, as well as his successor Bero Beyer, who enthusiastically embraced the CIFF. Both went the extra mile to further encourage the Yellow Robin Award (YRA) winners during their screenings in Rotterdam. Last but not least Daniela Michel, director of the Morelia International Film Festival, who attended CIFF's first editions, time and again encouraged us to continue the Fest, and offered YRA winners access for screenings at the Morelia Festival.

With this 10th edition we are venturing into a new setup as an independent festival with continued core values, screening films that offer viewers emotion, inspiration, and unpredictable dreams. At the same time we are creating a platform at various levels for established as well as upcoming professionals in the region to pitch their ideas, screen their films and follow masterclasses. In addition, there is a variety of educational programs for students. A call for entries was made last year for the very first time, inviting filmmakers from the islands, Suriname and the diaspora to participate in our Caribbean Focus program. We received very many entries, shorts as well as full-length features, forcing us to make difficult choices during the selection process. The final selections within the Caribbean Focus section highlight a variety of different stories. As diverse as all these stories and their makers are, what they have in common is that they are dedicated and ambitious, sharing a focus on conveying an idea or inspiration to a multicultural audience. In doing so, they also establish a basis for the presence and continuity of their art.

This year's opening film *C'è ancora domani* (There's Still Tomorrow), delicately sheds a light, with a personal touch, on a specific chapter of the history of women's rights in Italy: the beginnings of the process of women's liberation in 1946. This was actually not so very long ago and concerns something that still has not been fully achieved in many countries. In the film, a humble but brave woman takes the first steps against prevailing views in order to free herself of her husband's tyranny.

We are very pleased to share with you that the vast majority of internationally and locally produced films in this year's edition have women directors, writers, or lead actresses. The Caribbean Focus section features four premieres: *Roba Alma* made by Elizabeth Francisco and Sulin Passial, *Nomade in Niemandland* (Nomad in No Man's Land) by Hester Jonkhout, *I Can't Be Moe*; *Alice van Romondt* by Rebecca Roos and *Buskando Juni* by Clayton G.N. Ignecia. At an educational level, Anja van Bergen premieres with one short filmed by students with a smartphone: *Barbershop*.

Our traditional MusiCalls section, consisting of three features, also highlights the role of women in different times and cultures: *Cesária Évora*, *Divertimento* and *De Dirigent* (The Conductor). Last mentioned film directed by Curaçao born Maria Peters will be shown with subtitles in Papiamentu.

In our Yellow Robin Award section we will screen five gems, selected by Chloë Roddick, Morelia's Senior Programmer, and Jim Kolmar, a US based professional film critic and curator.

In further re-establishing connections in the Netherlands, contacts were established by Lex Veerkamp and Dave Schram with the Film by the Sea festival in Vlissingen and we are honored with the presence of Jan Doense and Leo Zuidweg, the Director and Financial Director of Film by the Sea. As a first step in developing a cooperation with Film by the Sea, Jan Doense will chair the Yellow Robin Award Jury, with Ailsa Anastatia and Sinuhe Oomen as jury members.

As an interesting and unique feature of this year's festival, Martin Koolhoven will host a Masterclass on Steven Spielberg and a Storytelling lecture; special treats for professionals, aficionados and all the usual suspects who are more or less permanently present at the theaters during the festival.

These days we are experiencing far-reaching and turbulent events, climate change, energy transition, racism, war, increasing economic inequality within and between countries. All these troubling events are occurring more or less simultaneously, leading to fragmentation and polarization. An answer is not readily available. Like no other form of human expression, film is an art form that is able to convey the darkest drama, rapture, cold rage, melancholy, and joy. Film doesn't begin with the first images, but by impressions preceding them. And film doesn't end with the final shot, but with the own personal images that follow. Loosely based on Pablo Picasso we would put it like this: **Film and other art forms are the guiding lights of the world.**

Gregory Elias & Michael Elias  
Fundashon Bon Intenshon

# Enjoy the films!



As a big supporter of culture and arts, MCB is honored and excited to have joined Fundashon Bon Intenshon as a partner for Curaçao International Film Festival 2024.

*Congratulations on CIFF's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*



## DISCOVER A WHOLE NEW VIBE

We're excited to announce the return of the Curaçao International Film Festival, where art and expression come together in our vibrant capital Willemstad. As the festival grows, so does our island's cultural richness, becoming a vibrant hub for creativity and craftsmanship.

We welcome you for an unforgettable celebration of film and culture!

CURACAO  
FEEL IT FOR YOURSELF

VISIT US AT [CURACAO.COM](https://www.curaçao.com)



## YELLOW ROBIN AWARD COMPETITION

The Yellow Robin Award Competition was established in 2013 to provide a platform for emerging filmmakers from the Caribbean basin and Latin America. This year's edition marks the Award's eight year with a selection of five first of second feature films. The Yellow Robin Award comes with a USD. 5000.- cash prize. In addition, the winning film will be screened in 2024 at the Morelia International Film Festival in Mexico and at the Film by the Sea festival in Vlissingen, The Netherlands.

This year's jury consists of mr. Jan Doense, director of Film by the Sea as chairman and as members, established names in education, arts and culture in Curaçao, mrs. Ailsa Anastatia and mr. Sinuhe Oomen.

Nominated films are:

**Memento Mori** by Fernando López Cardona (Colombia/Germany, 2023)

**Mi tía Gilma** by Alexandra Henao (Venezuela/Peru/Brazil, 2022)

**Mountains** by Monica Sorelle (USA/Haiti, 2023)

**Ramona** by Victoria Linares Villegas (Dominican Republic, 2023)

**When Morning Comes** by Kelly Fyffe-Marshall (Jamaica/Canada, 2022)

We hope you will enjoy the work of these up-and-coming filmmakers!

**JOIN US FOR THE AWARD CEREMONY IN THE MOVIES OTROBANDA 1 ON SATURDAY 13 APRIL AT 18:30**

For film synopses and screening schedule, please visit the A-Z section in this magazine. All film and program information is also available online at [curacaoiff.com](http://curacaoiff.com) or [themoviescuracao.com/otrobanda](http://themoviescuracao.com/otrobanda).

## PROGRAMMERS & JURY



**Chloë Roddick.** Chloë is currently a Senior Programmer and the Head of Mexican Documentary at the Morelia International Film Festival in Mexico. She is a Programme Consultant for Sheffield International Doc/Fest, as well as programming the Yellow Robin Competition at CIFF. She has watched documentaries for *Ambulante* and *SXSW*. She writes sporadically for *Sight & Sound* and curates programmes of Mexican cinema at Festivals and institutions around the world.



**Jim Kolmar.** Jim is a veteran curator, consultant and writer, programming feature films for various festivals such as *South by Southwest Film & TV Festival* since 2009. He programmes for *Trinidad & Tobago Film Festival* and was a founding committee member at *Festival Internacional de Cine Tulum (FICTU)*. Jim has consulted for *Adelaide Film Festival*, and programmes for *CIFF the Yellow Robin competition*. For the last two years he has mentored Latin American students for *London Film School*.



**Jan Doense** (Chairman of the Jury). Jan has organised film festivals and related events in The Netherlands. Since November 2018 he has been the director of *Film by the Sea festival* in Vlissingen, The Netherlands. Jan has (co) produced and directed videoclips, shorts and features. During 2011-2018 he was commercial manager and publisher of *De Filmkrant*, a leading publication in The Netherlands on film.



**Ailsa Anastatia** (Jury member). Ailsa, an established artist in Curaçao, studied at the *Amsterdam University of Arts*. She had various exhibitions in Curaçao and The Netherlands and obtained grants from *The Mondriaan* and *Prins Bernhard Fund*. She was a judge in various *CIFF youth competition programmes*. She is now a board member of *Institution Buena Vista* and *The Manifest Project*.



**Sinuhe Oomen** (Jury member). Sinuhe has his educational and professional foundation in *Industrial Design*, *Interactive Media*, and *Innovation Management* in the Netherlands and Great Britain. His career has occupied a spectrum of these disciplines and practised interdisciplinary management functions. He currently is a member of cultural boards and commissions e.g. the *Government Counsel for Creative Industries Curaçao*.

P. 8/

# YRA NOMI- NEES CIFF 2024

## **Memento Mori** **Fernando López Cardona**

Colombia, Germany | 2023 |



A man's decapitated body is buried unnamed in Puerto Berrio. His dismembered corpse frightens locals. At the funeral, a stranger writes "chosen" on the coffin, sealing a pact to retrieve the missing head and restore the man's dignity.

Fernando López Cardona's work has centered in diverse areas of the film and TV business. He started by producing documentaries and mini series for Colombian broadcasting stations. Simultaneously, he directed shorts films and commercials. His debut feature *Memento Mori* was winner of the Colombian Film Fund and premiered at the Cartagena International Film Festival in 2023.

By Jim Kolmar

## **Mi tía Gilma (My Aunt Gilma)** **Alexandra Henao**

Venezuela, Peru, Brazil | 2022 |



13-year-old Isabel, takes care of her aunt Gilma, who was admitted to a hospital in Caracas, after being beaten up by her partner. In the midst of the chaos that surrounds them, Isabel will do anything to save her aunt and keep a promise.

Alexandra Henao has a graduate degree in Cinematography from the National Film and TV School NFTS (UK), as well as a Bachelor degree in Social Communication from Venezuela's UCAB - Universidad Católica Andrés Bello and a Master's degree in Screenwriting at CSUN California State University Northridge. *Mi tía Gilma* is her debut feature.

By Chloë Roddick

## **Mountains** **Monica Sorelle**

USA, Haiti | 2023 |



A Haitian demolition worker is faced with the realities of redevelopment as he is tasked with dismantling his rapidly gentrifying neighborhood.

Monica Sorelle is a Haitian-American filmmaker and artist born & based in Miami. Her work explores alienation and displacement, and preserves cultural traditions within Miami & the Caribbean with a focus on the African & Latin diasporas that reside there. Monica's feature directorial debut, *Mountains*, world premiered at Tribeca Festival, where it was awarded a Special Jury Mention in the U.S. Narrative Feature competition.

By Chloë Roddick

## **Ramona** **Victoria Linares Villegas**

Dominican Republic | 2023 | doc |



Preparing for a role, an actress interviews and rehearses with 15 young women who have experienced teenage pregnancy.

Victoria Linares Villegas is an award-winning queer Dominican filmmaker whose interests lie in telling stories regarding transgenerational trauma and sociopolitical oppression. Her debut non-fiction film *It Runs in the Family* has won best documentary at the Fine Arts Film Festival in Dominican Republic, Best New Director by the Youth Jury at the Vancouver Latin American Film Festival, among others. Ramona is her second feature.

By Jim Kolmar

## **When Morning Comes** **Kelly Fyffe-Marshall**

Jamaica, Canada | 2022 |



A young Jamaican boy grapples with his widowed mother's decision to relocate the family from Jamaica to Canada.

Kelly Fyffe Marshall is a dedicated director, screenwriter and social activist. Kelly has directed music videos, documentaries and narratives. With her love for film mixed with her passion for humanitarianism, Kelly was invited to speak at TEDx Youth Toronto 2018 about making change in the world, with her speech entitled "Make Ripples Where You Are" she encourages youth to be global citizens. Kelly's debut feature film, *When Morning Comes*, world premiered at Toronto International Film Festival in 2022.

By Chloë Roddick



P. 10/

# CARIBBEAN FOCUS

## SHORTS & FEATURES

For the past 10 editions, the Curaçao International Film Festival has screened movies from all over the world but especially from Latin America and the Caribbean. For this anniversary edition, we have chosen to make a specific appeal to filmmakers from the Caribbean, living there or in the diaspora. We call this section Caribbean Focus.

We are very pleased with the many submissions we received from Curaçao and Aruba, but Suriname was certainly represented as well. What we are particularly pleased about is that the vast majority of submissions are from female directors. In the film world, this number lags far behind films by male directors.

Many short movies were submitted, which is hopeful for the future. The movies can be seen as finger exercises for possible future “feature” movies. After all, what could be better than to stimulate and professionalize these filmmakers through the festival? Some of the material submitted, for example, is not yet technically perfect, but it expresses an imagination and a need to tell a story - based on inspiration from the Caribbean region. These movies have magically realistic or mundane themes, stemming from a deep-rooted superstition and machismo within the community, that are not only specific to the region but also offer universally recognizable themes. The gradual influx of people from Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and Asia has created an eclectic society with unexpected similarities and differences that have proven to be a source of inspiration.

With this particular call, CIFF hopes to contribute to an exciting film climate within the Caribbean region.

**Paulette Smit**  
*Artistic Manager*



## La Última Ascención

Kevin Osepa

Netherlands, Curaçao | 2022 | 23 min | Papiamentu | e.s.

## Watamula

Kevin Osepa

Curaçao | 2020 | 26 min | Papiamentu | e.s.

## Asema

Loëlle Monsanto

Suriname | 2023 | 35 min | Dutch, Sranan Tongo | e.s.

## Barbershop

Made for CIFF Project 'Moments': Anja van Bergen, Shandra Lanoy, Rodangelo de la Cruz, Joheidiene Florianus

Curaçao | 2024 | 10 min | Papiamentu | d.s.

## Buskando Juni

Clayton G.N. Ignecia

Curaçao | 2024 | 14 min | Papiamentu | e.s.

## Roba Alma

(Thieving Soul)

Elizabeth Francisco

Curaçao | 2024 | 21 min | Papiamentu | e.s.

### — CARIBBEAN FOCUS 1 • THU 11 APR 13:30 • SAT 13 APR 17:15 —

Every day a young fisherman goes to the rocky coast of Curaçao to catch fish, although his mother doesn't want him to. There he meets an apparition from the pre-colonial world. Wordless encounters follow, full of magic, ritual and synchronicity. Mother and son seem to be involved in a grieving process that drives them apart, but their pain can be healed. Powered by Afro-Caribbean and indigenous spirituality, *La Última Ascención* is a multilayered and symbolic ode to the island and its countless untold stories.

Watamula is where Curaçao breathes. It is also the destination of René, who emerges from a river and stumbles on his way. As he encounters sharp thorns and sweet rosebuds, rejection and consolation, he clings to the amulet given to him at birth. On his journey, he encounters a magical, realistic landscape where machismo, spirituality, sensuality and destiny come together.

A grandmother warns her 10-year-old grandson, who is visiting her in Suriname, not to go out after dark. There is a vampire-like figure, an 'asema', who likes to eat children. He meets a neighborhood boy who tells him that the new crazy lady who lives next door to him is an 'asema'. She dresses as a woman during the day and turns into an 'asema' fireball at night. They decide to investigate. But Grandma didn't warn them for nothing. Strange things happen after dark...

Film critic Guus Schulting present for introduction and Q&A.

### — CARIBBEAN FOCUS 2 • THU 11 APR 18:30 • FRI 12 APR 13:30 —

Teenager Shandra now takes good care of herself, but at age 7 there was that moment that made a deep impression on her and changed the course of her life.

Juni is missing and his mother will stop at nothing to uncover the truth. On the other hand, is Juni really that good of a son?

Roba Alma delves into the intricate familial bonds within a quaint community steeped in superstition. Set amidst the rustic charm of Boca Sami during the 1990s, the narrative follows 19-year-old Markieta as she navigates the rhythms of her family's fishing enterprise. Her fervent love for photography eclipses her responsibilities, igniting tensions with her sister Ivy and amplifying their already complex relationship. As Markieta's lens captures moments, the community's belief in the soul-stealing nature of photography casts her as an outcast. Amidst this turmoil, she stumbles upon a secret entwined with her camera - an heirloom shrouded in mystery.

Artistic Manager Paulette Smit present for introduction and Q&A.



### Infliction

**Samueldavid Baromeo**

*Curaçao | 2023 | 5 min | Papiamentu | e.s.*

### Someone Lied on the Roommate Form

**Najee Werners**

*USA | 2023 | 8 min | English | n.s.*

### Shabu

**Shamira Raphaëla**

*Netherlands | 2021 | doc | 75 min | Dutch | e.s.*

### Manchá ku goso

**(Stained with Joy)**

**Vesuhely Americaan**

*Curaçao | 2023 | 14 min | Papiamentu, English | e.s.*

### Nomade in Niemandland

**(Nomad in No Man's Land)**

**Hester Jonkhout**

*Curaçao, Netherlands | 2024 | doc | 55 min | Dutch, Papiamentu | e.s.*

## — CARIBBEAN FOCUS 3 • SAT 13 APR 10:15 • SUN 14 APR 19:15 —

Winner of the Public Choice Award, Best Movie, Best Director at 48 Hour Movie Project Curaçao. While a school principal refuses to address allegations of abuse at his school, strange things begin to happen to him. Is he being pursued by evil forces seeking retribution, or is he struggling with his own conscience? As the line between reality and the supernatural is blurred, the movie shows you a man on the edge of madness.

Roommates ShaClean O'Neil and Lionel Messy have a catastrophic clash over cleanliness. As they try to come to terms with their different and conflicting characters and lifestyles, we see the roommates in imaginative scenes as opponents and rivals in various forms.

A heartwarming coming-of-age story about 14-year-old flamboyant Shabu, who lives in a deprived part of Rotterdam. While joyriding, he crashes his grandmother's car. His family punishes him by making him pay for the damage. He goes through hell trying to earn money with jobs and chores he despises. He really just wants to be a musician and become rich and famous. We see how Shabu lives and his enthusiasm and passion for life. Family and rituals play an important role. In the end, he surprises everyone with his ingenuity. A feel-good movie for all ages.

## — CARIBBEAN FOCUS 4 • SAT 13 APR 17:00 • SUN 14 APR 20:00 —

*Manchá ku goso* is a surrealistic exploration of self-forgiveness and compassion. The characters discover that true self-love isn't about erasing flaws, but embracing them as part of one's identity. In the end, the filmmaker invites the audience to embrace their vulnerabilities and begin their own journey of self-discovery and acceptance.

*Nomade in Niemandland* takes you into the eventful life of Caribbean artist Felix de Rooy. De Rooy, queer and 'of color', is considered a pioneer. The first in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, who since the seventies has freely told with his art what it means to be queer and Caribbean. His work challenges the establishment to look at itself in the mirror. In this poetic film, filmmaker Hester Jonkhout explores the motivations of this boundless artist who has an endless creative drive, but who is also confronted with the unpredictability of life. In 2021, Felix suffers a brain attack and must literally rearrange his life. What does it mean that the most important thing in his life, creating art, is no longer possible? What is the value of his work today?

*Felix de Rooy present / film critic Guus Schulting present for Q&A.*





## The Gap

Helen Anna Flanagan

Curaçao | 2023 | 14 min | English, Papiamentu | n.s.

## I Can't be Moe; Alice van Romondt

Rebecca Roos

Aruba | 2024 | doc | 75 min | Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Spanish | e.s.

## Zwarte stem

Matthias Hoekman, Joska Zinkweg

Netherlands | 2023 | 60 min | Dutch | n.s.

## The President's Daughter & the Richest Freeborn Lady

Mildred Roethof

Netherlands | 2023 | doc | 84 min | Dutch | n.s.

— CARIBBEAN FOCUS 5 • FRI 12 APR 19:30 • SUN 14 APR 13:30 —

*The Gap* was born out of a series of workshops with students during a residency at Instituto Buena Vista on the island of Curaçao. Two queer friends are slowly exploring the island when they find a message in a bottle on the beach. They try to decipher its meaning. This leads them to personal reflections, to their own imagination, as they associatively and closely observe their surroundings.

A documentary about Alice van Romondt, the woman who has been a driving force behind the cultural and artistic scene in Aruba for years. Artists of all kinds and creeds have come to her for help and guidance on all fronts. The movie follows her between 2020 and 2022. A portrait of a dynamic and exceptional woman who seems to have an inexhaustible supply of energy, but also an overview of art and culture in Aruba and the Dutch Caribbean in general.

— CARIBBEAN FOCUS 6 • FRI 12 APR 19:00 —

Artist and youth worker Bram Mvambanu (rapper Cycz) discovers his voice in a polarized world. He engages in probing conversations with people on the street and those close to him about racism, the slavery past and identity. He discovers that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to this subject. *Zwarte stem* is a movie that adds color to black and white thinking.

The leading role in this documentary is played by the gifted and always energetic writer Cynthia McLeod (1936). She has set herself one last mission: to bring lasting attention to the history of slavery and the legendary first freeborn woman and first black female millionaire in Suriname, Elisabeth Samson (1715 -1771). Filmmaker Mildred Roethof follows her on a journey through the Dutch colonial past. McLeod debunks the created untruths, myths and stereotypes through thorough factual research. We get to know McLeod as a strong and open character with a great sense of humor, who still lives life to the fullest. A movie about two razor-sharp women who provide insights that shed a unique light on Dutch history.

P. 18/

# CIFF

## MOMENTS

KIBRAHACHA, ONCE A YEAR  
FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS,  
ENCHANTING COLORS AND  
LIGHTS.



Curacao | Aruba | St Maarten | Bonaire | St Eustatius | Saba

NL FILM  
FONDS

# EDUCATION PROGRAM



## EDUCATION PROGRAM

Each year, teachers are invited to register their classes to attend the special free school screenings. The festival is the ideal place where teachers and students can immerse themselves in a colorful film universe. Lesson plans are provided in advance to encourage teachers to discuss the film in class.

This year's program for Group 6-8: *Agua* with feature *Totem*. Program for high-school students: *Barbershop* with feature *Emergency*.

Registered schools only • 10 - 11 - 12 APRIL • THE MOVIES OTROBANDA



### Totem

Sander Burger | Netherlands | 2022 | 98 min | Dutch | e.s.

Family film about a tough girl, unconditional friendship and a smidgen of magic. 11-year old Ama starts wandering around Rotterdam when her Senegalese family threatens to be deported.



### Emergency

Carey Williams | USA | 2022 | 105 min | English | d.s.

Ready for a night of legendary partying, three college students must weigh the pros and cons of calling the police when faced with an unexpected situation.



### Agua

Raúl Morales Reyes | Mexico | 2022 | 5 min | Spanish | e.s.

Water dances and flows with perfect rhythm until its journey is interrupted by humans. The brilliantly illustrated short is not guided by a red thread, but by a blue drop.



### Barbershop

Made for CIFF Project 'Moments': Anja van Bergen, Shandra Lanoy, Rodangelo de la Cruz, Joheidiene Floranus | Curaçao | 2024 | 10 min | Papiamentu | d.s.

Teenager Shandra now takes good care of herself, but at age 7 there was that moment that made a deep impression on her and changed the course of her life.

P. 22/

# MORE THAN FILM

## PELÍKULA DEN BARIO

Come and enjoy a special FREE screening at one of our Sentro di Bario's (community centers), located at Seroe Fortuna and Montagne. Dates, times and location TBA on CIFF's Instagram & Facebook pages.

*Free admission:*

**FRI 5 APR 19:00 • COMMUNITY CENTER FUIK**  
**SAT 6 APR 19:00 • COMMUNITY CENTER SER'I PAPAYA**

## FILM QUIZ

The CIFF Film Quiz is the official warm-up for the Film Festival and takes place on Tuesday 9 April. Quizmaster Maarten Schakel treats you to a night filled with fun trivia about the festival, Hollywood, fragments, movies past & present and much more. Gather your team of max 5 film enthusiasts and win fun prizes. Sign up now at [ciff.curaçaopubquiz.com](http://ciff.curaçaopubquiz.com).

*We start right on time! Fee ANG 15 per team*

**TUE 9 APR 19:30-22:30 • GRAND CAFÉ MAHAAI, MAHAAIWEG 32**

## STUDIO CARIBE

The Dutch Filmfonds is offering local filmmakers the opportunity to participate through Studio Caribe in a program that aims to develop and produce short films from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Filmmakers from the CAS and BES islands can apply for Studio Caribe starting from April 15th, 2024. Dates, times and location TBA on CIFF's Instagram & Facebook pages.

*Free admission:*

**TUE 9 APR 17:30 • RUSTIQUE KURA HULANDA**

## DENNIS AALSE YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The Dennis Aalse Youth Orchestra will be performing at our opening night on Wednesday 10 April from 19:00 until 20:00 at the entrance of The Movies Otrobanda. On Saturday evening the Dennis Aalse Youth Orchestra will play some of the greatest movie soundtracks. Seating is limited so do feel free to bring your own folding chair!

*Free admission:*

**WED 10 APR 19:00 • THE MOVIES OTROBANDA**  
**SAT 13 APR 20:00 • FOUNTAIN SQUARE RENAISSANCE MALL**

## FILM COMMISSIONER'S GET TOGETHER

The Curaçao Film Office was installed mid 2017 with the task of developing and promoting the film industry In Curaçao. We consider networking to be a crucial part of this development. Therefore we would like to invite all local and international guests of the Curaçao International Film Festival to this special edition of our happy hour on Thursday the 11th of April from 17:30 to 20:00 to get together and connect. Location TBA on CIFF's Instagram & Facebook pages.

**THU 11 APR 17:30-20:00 • LOCATION TBA**

## AWARD SHOW • SURPRISE FILM 2024

An evening full of surprises! Join us to applaud the Yellow Robin Award winners of 2024 before we start that one film we keep a secret.

**SAT 13 APR 18:30 • THE MOVIES OTROBANDA 1**

## KIDS ONLY WORKSHOP

Kids turn into artists working with crafts including light and shadow/optical illusions, storytelling, puppet-making, creating mini movie scenes. Recommended for kids aged 6-12. Presented by Stichting Kindermuseum Curaçao. Location TBA on CIFF's Instagram & Facebook pages.

*Fee ANG 25 (incl. materials)*

**SUN 14 APR 10:00 • RENAISSANCE BALLROOM**

## BEST OF THE FEST

Sunday is your chance to catch up. The most popular films of the festival return one more time for you to enjoy. Titles will be announced on our CIFF's website, social media, and at the Central Box Office of The Movies Otrobanda.

**SUN 14 APR • THE MOVIES OTROBANDA**

P. 24/

# FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



## C'È ANCORA DOMANI OPENING FILM

Paola Cortellesi's debut as a director has become a box office hit in Italy. Cortellesi has been entertaining audiences in Italy for decades. She has made a name for herself as a writer for television and acting as a comedian on radio and television. Her stage and television repertoire includes several monologues that use comedy to deal with difficult issues such as male chauvinism and domestic violence.

In her early screenplays her stories often dealt with issues of social injustice involving women. After writing several scripts that were made into movies, she decided that moving into the director's chair felt like a natural progression.

*C'è ancora domani* is in essence an artistic combination of the current neorealist mood in many countries with elements of "commedia all'italiana".

The black and white images\* give the movie a documentary layer, while the audience experiences a drama with some comic touches. It is a delicate balance in which the story is anchored by the directorial virtuosity of Cortellesi, also being the lead actress. There are some intended overacting and action in this movie. A husband who responds to his wife's "good morning" with a backhanded punch; a father-in-law who is just as violent as his maniacal son, urging him to beat his wife more often.

Paola Cortellesi says in several interviews that the movie was also inspired by her grandmother's stories about the patriarchy that prevailed in her time. However, quite some critics point out that in 1946 people in Italy voted against patriarchy, but the fact is that this attitude is still present.

Although the movie has reached and touched a wide audience it is not a propaganda movie, but rather a contribution to cultural awareness around the globe at a time when women's rights and abuse against women are dominating the public discourse in many countries, including the U.S. and Europe.

*\*For aficionados: the first eight minutes of the movie are shot in 4:3 aspect ratio, which was the established format in early cinema and television. As the opening credits roll, the screen widens.*

**WED 10 APR 21:15 • FRI 12 APR 22:15 •  
SAT 13 APR 10:30 • SUN 14 APR 10:30**



P. 26/

# MASTER CLASS



## MASTER CLASS: KOOLHOVEN'S CHOICE STEPHEN SPIELBERG

Film director Martin Koolhoven shares his passion for Stephen Spielberg. He walks us through the films that were important to him and why these films were (and are!) so important in film history. He explains how some scenes made such an impression on him, and he puts himself in the role of the director: why did the director choose this approach and how does it affect our experience of the film? This Master Class will be in English.

*Martin Koolhoven: "With more than \$10 billion in box office receipts, Steven Spielberg is the most successful director of all time. However, there is also a lot to be said about this filmmaker artistically. Anyway, in my early teens he was a star in a way that usually only actors are. As with Hitchcock and later Tarantino, a new movie of his was: "the new Spielberg," no matter who else was in it. This played an important role in my process of understanding how movies were made. I will talk more about that this evening by going through and discussing my favorite Spielberg movies and scenes.*

*From the period when I discovered Spielberg comes Poltergeist, the movie he officially only produced, but where everything shows that his influence went much further than normal for a producer. Anyone who sees the movie will think more of Spielberg than of the other work of director Tobe Hooper. Why this is, I will explain in the introduction. Poltergeist is in everything a typical Spielberg movie, with a dead-normal family getting into a special (and scary) situation."*

---

**THU 11 APR 18:30 THE MOVIES OTROBANDA 1**

---

## STORYTELLING WORKSHOP BY MARTIN KOOLHOVEN

Storytelling is a popular word, but what does it really mean? Storytelling is about how you communicate a message. When you tell a message as a story, people remember it. But how do I tell a story? What exactly is a story? What does a story need to satisfy? In short, when is a story a story? These seem like simple questions, but do you know the answer? Should there be drama, plot, emotion? And why is it important to have these kinds of ingredients if you want to get a message across? For example, within the organization in which you work, or to customers.

In Storytelling, Martin Koolhoven explains, partly by means of movie clips, which characteristics a story has to fulfill in order to leave a lasting impression.

Every task, project or organization needs a story. For employees, customers or the public. Storytelling is crucial in any business process.

For organizations that want to make their communication more effective.

---

**SAT 13 APR 20:00 THE MOVIES OTROBANDA 4**

---



P. 28/

# FILM INFO A-Z

## Abbreviations

d.s. > Dutch subtitles

e.s. > English subtitles

n.s. > No subtitles

n.d. > No dialogue

## Symbols



> Filmmaker present



> MusiCalls theme



> Caribbean Focus



> Yellow Robin Award Nominee

Please visit the Film Info A-Z section on [curacaoiff.com](http://curacaoiff.com) for more information.

All films are in DCP. All foreign language and some English language films are subtitled. Festival films are not rated.

If you need assistance in choosing the right film for you, please stop by the Information Desk in the lobby of The Movies Otrobanda or contact us on our social media channels.



## The Albanian Virgin

Bujar Alimani

*Albania | 2021 | 123 min | Albanian | d.s.*

**WED 10 APR 21:00 • FRI 12 APR 22:15 • SAT 13 APR 21:15 • SUN 14 APR 16:00**

An interesting and moving variation on the Romeo & Juliet theme. The story is set in a small community in a remote country: Albania in 1958. Centuries-old traditions dominate daily life. Luana, the daughter of a respected man, and Agim, the son of traitors exiled by the communists, have known each other since childhood. Despite these adverse circumstances, the two maintain their friendship. As Luana learns to read from Agim, she also develops her own identity and self-respect. With the knowledge and self-esteem she gains, she will make every effort to live her own life, free from all stifling conventions.



## Banel & Adama

Ramata-Toulaye Sy

Senegal, France | 2023 | 87 min | Pulaar | e.s.

**FRI 12 APR 21:30 • SAT 13 APR 12:15 • SUN 14 APR 15:30**

*Banel & Adama* is the debut feature from French-Sengalese writer-director Ramata-Toulaye Sy. A heartbreaking love story set in a remote village in northern Senegal. Fate strikes when Banel's husband falls into a well and dies. According to tradition, his brother Adama must take his place. This is a welcome turn of events for Banel, who has been in love with Adama since childhood. As the two become increasingly inseparable, Adama begins to relinquish his duties as village leader, which causes dissension within the village council

*Banel & Adama* is a timeless and enchanting love story, reminiscent of the classic tale of Romeo and Juliet. The beautiful imagery and poignant moments are within the tradition of African cinema. The movie offers important insights into community, the role of women, and the climate crisis.

## C'è ancora domani

OPENINGFILM

There's Still Tomorrow

Paola Cortellesi

Italy | 2023 | 108 min | Italian | e.s.

**WED 10 APR 21:15 • FRI 12 APR 22:15 • SAT 13 APR 10:30 • SUN 14 APR 10:30**

Rome, 1946. American troops are still in the streets of the capital. Italy is going through a turbulent political period, accompanied by sweeping constitutional changes. Delia is a brave, hardworking woman trapped in an abusive marriage. At home, she is constantly humiliated, both verbally and physically, by her husband, Ivano, who is also encouraged in the background by the resident and bedridden father-in-law. Delia stands by and does nothing. Her first priority is to take care of her three children. Her daughter Marcella's impending engagement to a bourgeois boy makes Delia realize that her daughter faces a future similar to her own. She decides to fight back, thanks to an unexpected encouragement that arrives in the mail.

Paola Cortellesi not only directed the movie, but also played the role of Delia.

## Cesária Évora

Ana Sofia Fonseca

Portugal | 2022 | doc | 95 min | Portuguese, English, French, Creole | e.s.

**FRI 12 APR 16:45 • SAT 13 APR 13:00**

After a very difficult childhood that scarred her, the barefoot diva (1941-2011) became a world star at the age of 50 in an industry obsessed with beauty and youth. Her songs are often about love, homesickness, nostalgia and the history of the people of Cape Verde. Through archival footage, concert footage, home videos and interviews, an intimate picture emerges of a woman who has always remained herself and never surrendered her independence. In the movie, we learn a little more about the person Évora was. "I don't believe in dreams," she says when an interviewer asks her about her greatest dream. "Ask me something else."

An affectionate, musical and compelling portrait of a great singer with a recognizably wistful voice.



## De Dirigent

The Conductor

Maria Peters

Netherlands, Belgium | 2018 | 127 min | English, Dutch, German | Papiamentu

**FRI 12 APR 21:45**

The life story of Antonia Brico, the world's first successful female conductor. A captivating tale of ambition, love and courage, set in early 20th century Amsterdam, Berlin and New York.

United States 1926: The Dutch, 24-year-old Antonia Brico was a child when she and her parents immigrated to the United States. She dreams of becoming a conductor, but nobody takes her ambition seriously. Because she has little to lose, she returns to her motherland, where she begs the famous conductor Mengelberg to teach her conducting lessons. Mengelberg is not comfortable with the idea and sends Antonia to Berlin where she, against all expectations, has a better chance as a woman to make it. After a two-year study at the State Academy of Music she becomes the first woman to conduct the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Emotional strain threatens to overwhelm her, when the love of her life puts her in a difficult position. What choice will Antonia make?







## Divertimento

Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar

France | 2022 | 110 min | French | e.s.



THU 11 APR 19:00 • SAT 13 APR 14:45 • SUN 14 APR 13:15

Based on an inspiring true story. Zahia Ziouani and her twin sister Fettouma pursue a career in music at the urging of their parents. Talented 17-year-old Zahia has one dream: to become a conductor. But she has everything against her - she is a woman and the daughter of working-class Algerian parents. Despite these obstacles, Zahia's desire to make classical music accessible to all leads her to found her own orchestra in the neighborhood where she grew up. A musical gathering of young musicians with different levels of education, from all layers of French society, with all the attendant social and racial tensions.

To this day, the real Zahia conducts the Divertimento Orchestra, which she founded in 1995.



## E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial

Steven Spielberg

USA | 1982 | 114 min | English | d.s.

THU 11 APR 20:15

*Beloved classic E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial is Spielberg's most magical movie about an extra-terrestrial, E.T., who is accidentally left behind on earth after collecting plant specimens. He befriends the curious and compassionate Elliott (Henry Thomas) and his younger sister Gertie (Drew Barrymore), forming an unbreakable bond. As they navigate the challenges of keeping E.T.'s presence a secret, they embark on a mission to help E.T. return home.*

*The original cut of Spielberg's 1982 masterpiece is shown in a fully restored digital (DCP) format.*



## 20.000 Especies de Abejas

20.000 Species of Bees

Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren

Spain | 2023 | 129 min | Spanish, Basque, French | e.s.

FRI 12 APR 14:00 • SAT 13 APR 12:00

Eight-year-old Aitor (whose name means “good father” in Basque; played by Sofia Otero) makes it clear that he would rather be a girl. His understanding mother, Ane, gives him a more gender-neutral name: Cocó, which means “sweetheart”. Aitor prefers to be called Lucía, a reference to light. The Aitor-Cocó-Lucía family experiences personal and financial stress. Ane experiences her own identity crisis. She sacrifices her artistic ambitions for the needs of her family with three children. A stay in the countryside with grandma Lita and especially with great-aunt Lourdes, a beekeeper who offers Lucía a sympathetic ear, opens up new perspectives for the family, which is also in transition.

A beautiful and confident debut of the young director, awarded in Berlin with a Silver Bear for the best performance by the even younger Sofía Otero.



## The Eternal Memory

Maite Alberdi

Chile | 2023 | doc | 84 min | Spanish | e.s.

FRI 12 APR 22:00 • SUN 14 APR 21:45

A loving couple, Augusto and Paulina are both living with the effects of his Alzheimer's disease. Two public figures in Chile, both linked by their work to their country's recent (violent) history. Paulina is an actress and was also Minister of Culture for several years. As a (television) journalist, Augusto documented the crimes of the Pinochet regime. He emphasized that not only numbers and statistics are important, but also feelings and traumas: emotional memory.

The intensely intimate moments shared by these two individuals, with sadness and humor, give this documentary a power and radiance not often seen. Memory, after all, is an indispensable and essential part of human functioning in the puzzle of everyday life. When the functioning of memory stagnates or breaks down, reality becomes foggy, unclear and distant. A movie not to be forgotten.



## Fallen Leaves

**Aki Kaurismäki**

*Finland, Germany | 2023 | 81 min | Finnish | e.s.*

**THU 11 APR 20:45 • FRI 12 APR 18:00 • SUN 14 APR 18:00**

A tender romance, first love. Two lonely people, Ansa and Holappa, try to find the love of their lives. Kaurismäki, one of our favorite directors, presents an indie playfulness, dark and dry humor in this vibrant tragicomedy. A movie that does not lose sight of the complications of dating when you have other things on your mind.

Accompanied by a perfect selection of songs from the fifties, Kaurismäki shows us once again that the little things in life can make all the difference. A charming movie that you'll want to watch again as soon as it's over.

## The Great Escaper

**Oliver Parker**

*United Kingdom | 2023 | 97 min | English | d.s.*

**SAT 13 APR 21:30 • SUN 14 APR 21:30**

In the summer of 2014, Bernard Jordan (Michael Cane) made global headlines. He had staged a "great escape" from his care home to join fellow war veterans on a beach in Normandy, commemorating their fallen comrades at the D-Day Landings 70th anniversary. *The Great Escaper* not only tells the inspiring story of a man trying to come to terms with his lasting war trauma. Bernie's adventure also celebrates the enduring love in his 60-year marriage to Rene (Glenda Jackson) who wonderfully supports her husband in his adventure.

A heartfelt British feel-good movie with top actor Michael Caine in the leading role and the final performance by the late, great Glenda Jackson.

## The Holdovers

**Alexander Payne**

*USA | 2023 | 133 min | English | n.s.*

**THU 11 APR 20:00 • SAT 13 APR 13:00 • SUN 14 APR 20:45**

After Nebraska, shot in black and white in 2013, another movie by grandmaster Alexander Payne in the CIFF program. At first glance a simple movie, shot in a straightforward style in the 1.66:1 aspect ratio common in the 1970s. The setting is a boarding school for the elite, where at Christmas it is the turn of the lonely and strict classics teacher to watch over the largely deserted school, the cook and some students (the holdovers), who for various reasons cannot go home for Christmas. Paul Giamatti stars as the "nanny-teacher" amidst all the gossip about him and the mischief of the remaining students. Between the trio of remaining teacher-cookie-students, a broad story unfolds about racism and white privilege, as well as grief and friendship between polar opposites.

A story with a fine mix of lightness and darkness, without becoming sentimental. A movie you will want to see again.

## I Can't Be Moe; Alice van Romondt



**Rebecca Roos**

*Aruba | 2024 | doc | 75 min | Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Spanish | e.s.*

**FRI 12 APR 19:30 • SUN 14 APR 13:30**

A documentary about Alice van Romondt, the woman who has been a driving force behind the cultural and artistic scene in Aruba for years. Artists of all kinds and creeds have come to her for help and guidance on all fronts. The movie follows her between 2020 and 2022. A portrait of a dynamic and exceptional woman who seems to have an inexhaustible supply of energy, but also an overview of art and culture in Aruba and the Dutch Caribbean in general.

*Screened together with:*

**The Gap | Helen Anna Flanagan**

*Curaçao | 2023 | 14 min | English, Papiamentu | n.s.*

*(Refer to the Caribbean Focus section of this magazine for more information)*



## Inshallah a Boy

**Amjad Al Rasheed**

*Jordan | 2023 | 113 min | Arabic | e.s.*

**THU 11 APR 13:00 • FRI 12 APR 15:30 • SAT 13 APR 16:45**

This first Jordanian movie to screen at Cannes, is a passionate story about the country's legal and social barriers to single motherhood. The movie establishes a world of dominant masculinity through details such as the freedom to use one's own cell phone. After the sudden death of her husband, Nawal, played by actress Mouna Hawa, must fight for her share of the inheritance. The funds are desperately needed to save her daughter and her home in a society where having a son would be a game changer. Hawa's very credible performance reflects the unstoppable force of maternal love.

## Io Capitano

**Matteo Garrone**

*Italy, Belgium | 2023 | 122 min | Wolof, French | d.s.*

**THU 11 APR 15:45 • SAT 13 APR 15:45**

A poetic, unsentimental movie about survival, ignorance and loss. The fate of two 16-year-old boys, Seydou and Moussa, who decide to leave Dakar, Senegal, is heartbreaking. They experience hell on earth as they face the horrors of detention centers in Libya and the dangers of the sea. This odyssey of immigration through the eyes of two young people leads them to discover the harshness of nature and the dark side of mankind. Will they make it?

## Itu Ninu

**Where the Corn Fields Are**

**Itandehui Jansen**

*Mexico, United Kingdom | 2023 | 72 min | Mixtec, English | e.s.*

**SAT 13 APR 19:30**

In a highly controlled smart city in the year 2084 two climate migrants try to connect through old-fashioned letters. In the not-so-distant future of 2084, Ángel finds himself trapped as a climate migrant in an undisclosed city, where surveillance reigns supreme. Amidst a bleak and oppressive existence, Ángel makes a living by cultivating plants, preserving the fading wisdom of seeds. Within this desolate landscape he crosses paths with Sofia, another climate migrant toiling away at a recycling facility. Fate intertwines their lives when a chance encounter reveals an unexpected connection: a shared language. Fueling Ángel's longing for human connection and a glimmer of hope, he reaches out to Sofia. Aware of the omnipresent digital monitoring, Ángel decides to communicate with her through the timeless medium of pen and paper, fostering an intimate, clandestine bond. As their secret correspondence unfolds, a friendship grows between Ángel and Sofia as does their desire for liberation from excessive control.

## Je verrai toujours vos visages

**All Your Faces**

**Jeanne Herry**

*France | 2023 | 119 min | French | e.s.*

**WED 10 APR 20:00 • THU 11 APR 16:30 • SAT 13 APR 10:30  
• SUN 14 APR 15:15**

In France, there is a form of restorative justice that offers victims and perpetrators of offences to engage in mediated dialogue, supervised by professionals. Although the movie is a work of fiction, the experience is very realistic for the viewer. Two storylines complement and reinforce each other. The general part deals with the group sessions and within them the special confrontation between the victim Chloë and her half-brother who raped her.

The cast, containing many French stars, fully and believably take on the assigned roles of perpetrator, victim, or counselor. The dosage of personal information from and about all involved is the great strength of this movie. With an ingenious script that includes the lives of the recovery coordinators, the director manages to maintain a delicate balance between emotion, reason, self-reflection and empathy.



## La Última Ascención

Kevin Osepa

Netherlands, Curaçao | 2022 | 23 min | Papiamentu | e.s.



THU 11 APR 13:30 • SAT 13 APR 17:15

Every day a young fisherman goes to the rocky coast of Curaçao to catch fish, although his mother doesn't want him to. There he meets an apparition from the pre-colonial world. Wordless encounters follow, full of magic, ritual and synchronicity. Mother and son seem to be involved in a grieving process that drives them apart, but their pain can be healed. Powered by Afro-Caribbean and indigenous spirituality, *La Última Ascención* is a multilayered and symbolic ode to the island and its countless untold stories.

Screened together with:

**Watamula** | Kevin Osepa

Curaçao | 2020 | 26 min | Papiamentu | e.s.

**Asema** | Loëlle Monsanto

Suriname | 2023 | 35 min | Dutch, Sranan Tongo | e.s.

(Refer to the Caribbean Focus section of this magazine for more information)

## Memento Mori

Fernando López Cardona

Colombia, Germany | 2023 | 110 min | Spanish | e.s.



THU 11 APR 21:30 • FRI 12 APR 13:00 • SAT 13 APR 12:45 • SUN 14 APR 10:45

A decapitated corpse is found in a river in rural Colombia, assumed to be a victim of conflict, and is quickly buried anonymously. But Animero (César Badillo) deems the corpse "chosen" and ventures to find the head and reunite it with the body. His journey takes him deep into dark terrain, spiritually and physically.

Fernando López Cardona's striking debut feature is a potent exploration of life and death, but is unwilling to demarcate a separation between the two - instead the two blur, overlap and intertwine. With a dense visual and sonic palette that seems to slide effortlessly between the crepuscular and the luminous, it matches thematic complexity with a clear aesthetic vision. This elemental, richly metaphorical movie ultimately conveys the understanding that the true power of death is to assert the vulnerability and transience of the living.

By Jim Kolmar

## Mi tía Gilma

My Aunt Gilma

Alexandra Henao

Venezuela, Peru, Brazil | 2022 | 82 min | Spanish | e.s.



THU 11 APR 15:30 • FRI 12 APR 15:15 • SAT 13 APR 14:30 • SUN 14 APR 13:00

In Caracas 13-year-old Isabel (Maryale) takes care of her aunt Gilma (Diana Peñalever), who was admitted to hospital after being brutally beaten by her partner, a high-ranking military official. As the days pass and Gilma's surgery is constantly pushed back, the young girl is faced with a series of increasingly difficult decisions to try and save Gilma's life.

The crisis facing Venezuela is ever present in the background of Alexandra Henao's debut fiction feature, but the close relationship between Isabel and Gilma offers an almost idyllic counterpoint. Doctors smuggle contraband medicine into a hospital that lacks even the most basic supplies; power cuts are a constant threat; money is scarce, and crime and corruption are always threatening to upset the balance. Navigating the city and the situation alone, Isabel's resolve is as steadfast as her love for her Aunt, and she becomes a symbol of strength and resistance within a rapidly crumbling social structure.

By Chloë Roddick

## The Miracle Club

Thaddeus O'Sullivan

Ireland, United Kingdom | 2023 | 91 min | English | d.s.

FRI 12 APR 15:45 • SAT 13 APR 10:00 • SUN 14 APR 11:00

A couple of elderly ladies sign up for a talent show at the local church and end up winning a pilgrimage to Lourdes. They have been longing to escape, even for a moment, from their dreary lives and husbands. When a friend from their past, now living in America, suddenly appears and joins them on the trip, a lot of unfinished business comes up.

A warm comedy-drama set in the late seventies about working class women from Dublin who all have a secret and keep hoping for a miracle in their lives.



## Modelo 77

Prison 77

Alberto Rodríguez

Spain | 2022 | 125 min | Spanish | e.s.

**FRI 12 APR 13:15 • SAT 13 APR 17:15 • SUN 14 APR 12:45**

Spain, Barcelona, 1977. A country and a city in transition after the death of dictator Francisco Franco. A new social order emerges, leading to far-reaching attacks on prevailing conventions. The established order does not accept this without a fight. In this context, a young accountant, Manuel Gómez, is imprisoned for embezzlement. He faces an unjust sentence of six to eight years. Confronted with this prospect, Manuel, along with his cellmate Pino, joins a collective of prisoners fighting for prisoners' rights. Manuel becomes the spokesman and negotiator for the activists. This role is not appreciated by the prison administration and guards. Based on true events.



## Mountains

Monica Sorelle

USA, Haiti | 2023 | 95 min | Creole, English, Spanish | e.s.



**THU 11 APR 20:30 • FRI 12 APR 20:00 • SAT 13 APR 12:30 • SUN 14 APR 17:00**

Xavier (Atibon Nazaire) and his wife Esperance (Sheila Anozier), a Haitian couple living in Miami's Little Haiti, struggle with economic precarity and feeling like outsiders in their rapidly gentrifying neighbourhood. Their son Junior (Chris Renois), who was born in the US and always replies in English when his parents speak to him in Creole, nonetheless mines his Haitian background for material for a stand-up comedy routine that he keeps secret from his overbearing father.

Monica Sorelle's impressive debut feature is a sensitive, character-focused exploration of the immigrant experience in the United States. Exquisitely shot in lurid, crisp colours, the movie is meditative and poetic, delicately weaving together a series of moments to tell a story that is both quietly personal and richly symbolic.

By Chloë Roddick



## Nomade in Niemandland



Nomad in No Man's Land

Hester Jonkhout

Curaçao, Netherlands | 2024 | doc | 55 min | Dutch, Papiamentu | e.s.

**SAT 13 APR 17:00 • SUN 14 APR 20:00**

*Nomade in Niemandland* takes you into the eventful life of Caribbean artist Felix de Rooy. De Rooy, queer and 'of color', is considered a pioneer. The first in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, who since the seventies has freely told with his art what it means to be queer and Caribbean. His work challenges the establishment to look at itself in the mirror. In this poetic movie, filmmaker Hester Jonkhout explores the motivations of this boundless artist who has an endless creative drive, but who is also confronted with the unpredictability of life. In 2021, Felix suffers a brain attack and must literally rearrange his life. What does it mean that the most important thing in his life, creating art, is no longer possible? What is the value of his work today?

Screened together with:

**Manchá ku goso | Vesuhely Americaan**

Curaçao | 2023 | 14 min | Papiamentu, English | e.s.

(Refer to the Caribbean Focus section of this magazine for more information)



## La Nuit du 12

The Night of the 12th

Dominik Moll

France | 2022 | 114 min | French | e.s.

**THU 11 APR 17:30 • FRI 12 APR 13:30 • SAT 13 APR 19:30**

In the corridors of the criminal police, it is said that all the investigators have a crime that haunts them. One day or another, they come across a case hurting them more than the others, without always knowing why. It starts spinning in their heads to the point of obsession.

Young and ambitious Captain Vivés has just been appointed group leader at the Grenoble Criminal Squad when Clara's murder case lands on his desk. Vivés and his team investigate Clara's complex life and relations, but what starts as a professional and methodical immersion into the victim's life soon turns into a haunting obsession.



## The Old Oak

**Ken Loach**

*United Kingdom | 2023 | 113 min | English | d.s.*

**FRI 12 APR 22:00 • SAT 13 APR 21:30 • SUN 14 APR 19:15**

The movie, part of the trilogy, *I, Daniel Blake* and *Sorry We Missed You*, is set in a small mining town in decline, where the last remaining pub has little chance of survival. Inevitable closure threatens the town's only remaining social gathering place. The arrival of a group of Syrian refugees adds to the turmoil, fueling already latent feelings of unrest. In the midst of this divided community, the pub owner cautiously tries to bring the different worlds closer together.

Socially conscious director Ken Loach, working with professional and non-professional actors, once again creates a moving story set in contemporary working-class England. Sincere, hopeful and topical.



## Perfect Days

**Wim Wenders**

*Japan, Germany | 2023 | 125 min | Japanese | d.s.*

**THU 11 APR 16:00 • FRI 12 APR 16:00 • SAT 13 APR 17:00**

A delicate portrait of the world of an introverted janitor in Tokyo, who cleans state-of-the-art public toilets specially designed by renowned architects for the Tokyo Toilet Project. German director Wim Wenders manages to portray a complex Japanese point of view that is warm and optimistic. In essence, it is a praise of the so-called insignificant little things of life, events and encounters. A simple and routine life, contemplative, where the unexpected is welcomed with kindness.

The music of the sixties and seventies the janitor plays on his cassette recorder is infectious. If you feel an uncontrollable urge to sing along, we are confident that everyone will understand!



## Plan 75

**Hayakawa Chie**

*Japan | 2022 | 112 min | Japanese, Tagalog | e.s.*

**THU 11 APR 14:00 • FRI 12 APR 19:45 • SAT 13 APR 19:00**

A quiet dystopian movie about the Japanese government and its plan to deal with an aging population. In a country where 30% of the population is over 65 and the birth rate is low, an economic and health crisis is looming. The program, Plan 75, offers financial and logistical support to citizens over that age who wish to be euthanized. Those who volunteer will receive a bonus for a last dream vacation and a free funeral. The plan seems to be catching on in government institutions with many seniors.

An absurd, uncomfortable, sensitive, thought-provoking sketch of the future of a rapidly aging country.



## Le Pot-au-Feu

**The Taste of Things**

**Trần Anh Hùng**

*France | 2023 | 135 min | French | e.s.*

**THU 11 APR 21:15 • FRI 12 APR 18:45 • SUN 14 APR 18:45**

France at the end of the 19th century. A beautiful chateau with a lovely, lush garden. Fresh vegetables and herbs. All the ingredients for a place where haute cuisine must have been invented. Eugenie, a great role played by Juliette Binoche, shines as a chef alongside the grand master Dodin Bouffant (Benôit Magimel). Together, they create culinary delights shaped by their years of shared intense passion for tasting. With their shared love for cooking, a romantic relationship is inevitable. But Eugenie is an independent woman who values her freedom and does not want to give up her independence.

*Le Pot-au-Feu* is a gorgeous movie about food, love, and sensory pleasures. Love goes through the stomach, but rarely has it been portrayed so sublimely.



## The President's Daughter & the Richest Freeborn Lady



Mildred Roethof

Netherlands | 2023 | doc | 84 min | Dutch | n.s.

FRI 12 APR 19:00

The leading role in this documentary is played by the gifted and always energetic writer Cynthia McLeod (1936). She has set herself one last mission: to bring lasting attention to the history of slavery and the legendary first freeborn woman and first black female millionaire in Suriname, Elisabeth Samson (1715 -1771). Filmmaker Mildred Roethof follows her on a journey through the Dutch colonial past. McLeod debunks the created untruths, myths and stereotypes through thorough factual research. We get to know McLeod as a strong and open character with a great sense of humor, who still lives life to the fullest. A movie about two razor-sharp women who provide insights that shed a unique light on Dutch history.

Screened together with:

**Zwarte stem** | Matthias Hoekman, Joska Zinkweg

Netherlands | 2023 | 60 min | Dutch | n.s.

(Refer to the Caribbean Focus section of this magazine for more information)



## The Quiet Girl

Colm Bairéad

Ireland | 2022 | 96 min | Irish Gaelic, English | e.s.

THU 11 APR 20:45 • SAT 13 APR 10:00 • SUN 14 APR 17:45

The director's debut feature. A silent movie on many levels. In rural Ireland in 1981, people live and work mostly in silence. Beneath the surface there are all kinds of soul stirrings that are suppressed as much as possible. This is the background against which 9-year-old Cáit grows up. In a large chaotic family, poor, desperate, with neglectful parents. Because her mother is about to give birth, she is allowed to spend the summer with a distant relative. Cáit experiences the completely different and loving environment in silence. But her presence also has a growing influence on her aunt and uncle.

A beautifully crafted movie. A small story with great emotional impact, delicate and fragile like the taciturn Cáit.



## Ramona

Victoria Linares Villegas

Dominican Republic | 2023 | doc | 81 min | Spanish | e.s.

THU 11 APR 13:15 • FRI 12 APR 15:30 • SAT 13 APR 15:15 • SUN 14 APR 15:00

Filmmaker Victoria Linares Villegas' second feature is a deceptively simple prospect on paper - a young actress (Camila Santana) prepares to portray a teenage mother in the Dominican Republic by interviewing actual teenage mothers in the region. As Ramona follows the process, a rather more slippery, uncategorizable meta-film swims into view, where things are far from simple.

With her debut feature *It Runs in the Family*, Linares Villegas demonstrated an uncommon formal irreverence that announced her enthusiasm for playing with narrative and documentary convention. Building on those techniques, she introduces a variety of strategies into Ramona, including overt artifice, theatricality, telenovela aesthetics, and a sense of play as Camila works with the young women to interrogate their own stories and circumstances. Gradually, the movie unfurls along with them, revealing themes that include class, gender, and bodily autonomy. It is a thrillingly unfettered approach, and a deeply compelling movie that feels as spirited and fluid as it does rigorous and cathartic.

By Jim Kolmar



## Los Reyes de la Salsa

The Kings of Salsa

Raúl García

Puerto Rico | 2023 | 120 min | Spanish, Castilian | e.s.

THU 11 APR 18:45 • FRI 12 APR 17:30 • SUN 14 APR 21:30

*Los Reyes de la Salsa* is a vibrant musical journey that chronicles the ups and downs of salsa sensation duo Richie Ray and Bobby Cruz. The movie delves into their lives. From their first meeting in New York City, Richie, a child prodigy, and Bobby, a young man immersed in the harshness of the street, find the passion that will unite them for the rest of their lives: music. Through the formation of one of the most successful salsa groups in the history of the genre, both find solace in their music and their religion.

The movie explores their battles on and off the stage, from their musical origins, family conflicts, and their struggle to rise to the top, as they transform Latin music forever.





## Roba Alma

Thieving Soul

Elizabeth Francisco

Curaçao | 2024 | 21 min | Papiamentu | e.s.



THU 11 APR 18:30 • FRI 12 APR 13:30

*Roba Alma* delves into the intricate familial bonds within a quaint community steeped in superstition. Set amidst the rustic charm of Boca Samí during the 1990s, the narrative follows 19-year-old Markieta as she navigates the rhythms of her family's fishing enterprise. Her fervent love for photography eclipses her responsibilities, igniting tensions with her sister Ivy and amplifying their already complex relationship. As Markieta's lens captures moments, the community's belief in the soul-stealing nature of photography casts her as an outcast. Amidst this turmoil, she stumbles upon a secret entwined with her camera - an heirloom shrouded in mystery.

Screened together with:

**Barbershop** | **CIFF Project 'Moments'**

Curaçao | 2024 | 10 min | Papiamentu | d.s.

**Buskando Juni** | **Clayton G.N. Ignecia**

Curaçao | 2024 | 14 min | Papiamentu | e.s.

(Refer to the Caribbean Focus section of this magazine for more information)

## Shabu

Shamira Raphaëla

Netherlands | 2021 | doc | 75 min | Dutch | e.s.



SAT 13 APR 10:15 • SUN 14 APR 19:15

A heartwarming coming-of-age story about 14-year-old flamboyant Shabu, who lives in a deprived part of Rotterdam. While joyriding, he crashes his grandmother's car. His family punishes him by making him pay for the damage. He goes through hell trying to earn money with jobs and chores he despises. He really just wants to be a musician and become rich and famous. We see how Shabu lives and his enthusiasm and passion for life. Family and rituals play an important role. In the end, he surprises everyone with his ingenuity. A feel-good movie for all ages.

Screened together with:

**Infliction** | **Samueldavid Baromeo**

Curaçao | 2023 | 5 min | Papiamentu | e.s.

**Someone Lied on the Roommate Form** | **Najee Werners**

USA | 2023 | 8 min | English | n.s.

(Refer to the Caribbean Focus section of this magazine for more information)

## She Came To Me

Rebecca Miller

USA | 2023 | 102 min | English | d.s.

THU 11 APR 18:15 • FRI 12 APR 17:15 • SUN 14 APR 10:30

A comedy with an all-star cast about love in all its forms set in the bustling metropolis of New York City. *She Came to Me* follows Steven Lauddem (Peter Dinklage), a composer who is plagued by a creative block which leaves him unable to finish the score for his big comeback opera. When his former therapist-turned-wife Patricia (Anne Hathaway) suggests he rekindle his creativity by getting lost in the city, Steven sets out in search of inspiration. His epiphany comes after he meets a spirited woman named Katrina (Marisa Tomei) and discovers his life has much more potential than he bargained for, or ever could have imagined.

## Simple comme Sylvain

The Nature of Love

Monia Chokri

Canada, France | 2023 | 110 min | French | e.s

WED 10 APR 20:15 • THU 11 APR 15:45 • SAT 13 APR 15:00

Philosophy professor Sophia has a pleasant but not very intimate relationship with Xavier. While renovating their country house, Sophia meets the rough and attractive Sylvain, a builder from a completely different background. Sophia comes from a wealthy family, while Sylvain comes from a family of manual workers. It is love at first sight and Xavier is pushed aside. There is a huge cultural gap between Sophia and Sylvain and the question is whether love can bridge it.

In the movie, the friction between urban culture (Sophie) and rural culture (Sylvain) provides a fine satire on so-called good taste, elitist attitudes and prejudices of the wealthy. Director Moni Chokri also shows in a relative way: isn't everyone prejudiced sometimes?





## Sur l'Adamant

**On the Adamant**

**Nicolas Philibert**

*France | 2023 | doc | 109 min | French | e.s.*

**THU 11 APR 16:00 • FRI 12 APR 17:45 • SAT 13 APR 20:00 • SUN 14 APR 14:15**

A heartwarming and touching documentary about the Adamant, a unique day-care center in a boat located on the Seine river, in the heart of Paris. A safe place where psychiatric patients can spend their days making music, developing creative activities and lending a listening ear. People who have difficulty communicating because of fears, obsessions or because their heads work differently. At the Adamant, the focus is not on pills and protocols but on people. A community where otherness is not excluded, but embraced. A place where the management team tries to resist the deterioration and dehumanization in psychiatry as best they can. In the process, director Philibert shows that there is poetry in deviating from the norm.

## Tótem

**Lila Avilés**

*Mexico, Denmark, France | 2023 | 95 min | Spanish | e.s.*

**WED 10 APR 20:45 • THU 11 APR 13:45 • SUN 14 APR 13:00**

Seven-year-old Sol (Naíma Sentíes) spends the day at her grandfather's house, where the family is preparing a surprise party for her terminally ill father. As the day progresses, the family's relationships are put to the test. Shot in a single interior location, the movie takes the viewer inside the delicate family relationships that are soaked in life as well as grief and loss. The movie is rich in empathetic observations through the eyes of a lonely child. After the party, Sol realizes that her world will never be the same...

An admirable role by the debutant Naíma Sentíes.

## Utama

**Alejandro Loayza Grisi**

*Bolivia | 2022 | 87 min | Spanish, Quechua | e.s.*

**FRI 12 APR 20:00 • SAT 13 APR 10:15 • SUN 14 APR 11:15**

Elderly couple, Virginio and Sisa, live remotely on the parched Altiplano, the Bolivian plateau subject to severe erosion, with no amenities such as running water or electricity. The local community, playing versions of themselves, add a documentary layer to the movie. Climate change casts a dark shadow over this Bolivian drama. But the debutant and award-winning director, originally a photographer, has not formulated an angry indictment. Rather, it is a wistful and meditative movie about a slowly but surely dying culture. The beautiful images of barren landscapes and weathered faces contrast sharply with the underlying reality.



## When Morning Comes

**Kelly Fyffe-Marshall**

*Jamaica, Canada | 2022 | 91 min | English | n.s.*

**THU 11 APR 13:30 • FRI 12 APR 13:00 • SAT 13 APR 14:45 • SUN 14 APR 20:00**

Ten-year-old Jamal (Djamari Roberts) has just been suspended from school, but his protestations of innocence fall on deaf ears, and his mother (Shaquana Wilson) decides to send him to live with his grandmother in Canada. The premise for Kelly Fyffe-Marshall's feature is simple, but it offers scope for a rich, sensitive examination of life in Jamaica for a single mother and her young son living on the poverty line.

The movie is shot almost exclusively from Jamal's perspective. Unhappy with and confused by his mother's decision he runs away from home, and the fluid camera follows him on an immersive, soulful journey into the heart of his small Jamaican beach-side community. The movie's tight focus, coupled with a strong performance from the young actor, gives it a powerful emotional resonance. As Jamal's fate is sealed, these moments become a love letter to his childhood and to a country already fading into memory.

*By Chloë Roddick*



P. 50/

# SHORT FILMS



## Agua

**Raúl Morales Reyes**

*Mexico | 2022 | 5 min | Spanish | e.s.*

---

### SCREENS BEFORE EMERGENCY

---

Water dances and flows with perfect rhythm until its journey is interrupted by humans. The brilliantly illustrated short film is not guided by a red thread, but by a blue drop.



## Ajá

**Dennis Noel López Sosa**

*Mexico | 2022 | b&w doc | 6 min | Spanish | e.s.*

---

### SCREENS BEFORE UTAMA

---

In the Chontal language of Oaxaca, Ajá means water. This cinematic essay explores and reinterprets the Chonta, the mystical rain ceremony of the people. This audiovisual creation was made by the filmmaker in honour of his late uncle Simitrio, a healer, musician and prayer. Simitrio will guide the viewer with his narration.



## Sakhaldand

**The Shackles**

**Suraj Vilas Dalvi**

*India | 2022 | 9 min | Marathi | e.s.*

---

### SCREENS BEFORE C'È ANCORA DOMANI

---

This is the story of a husband and wife, with the woman trapped in a male-dominated society and the man trapped in his own macho behaviour. A simple, uncomplicated story that underlines the grip of a male dominant system around women.



## Santos Inocentes

**April Fools' Day**

**Luis Arrieta**

*Mexico | 2023 | 13 min | Spanish | e.s.*

---

### SCREENS BEFORE INSHALLAH A BOY

---

Her and Him live together and love each other. Him wants to have kids and Her is not so sure. Everything changes when Him believes Her is pregnant. Him realizes that maybe having kids with Her, is no quite what he really wants.

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE



WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00	00:00	01:00
THE MOVIES OTROBANDA 1		19:30 C'È ANCORA DOMANI					
THE MOVIES OTROBANDA 2		20:00 JE VERRAI TOUJOURS VOS VISAGES					
THE MOVIES OTROBANDA 3			20:45 TÔTEM				
THE MOVIES OTROBANDA 4			21:00 THE ALBANIAN VIRGIN				
THE MOVIES OTROBANDA 5			21:15 C'È ANCORA DOMANI + SHORT SAKHALDAND				
THE MOVIES OTROBANDA 6		20:15 SIMPLE COMME SYLVAIN					

## FILM PROGRAM INFORMATION

For director information, please visit the FILMS A-Z section on the website [curacaoiff.com](http://curacaoiff.com).



MAIN PROGRAM



YELLOW ROBIN AWARD NOMINEES



SPECIAL SCREENINGS



MUSICALLS THEME



CARIBBEAN FOCUS FILMS





# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## The Movies Otrobanda Box Office

The main film festival will take place at one central location: The Movies Otrobanda at Renaissance Mall, Otrobanda. Ticket sale starts on Saturday March 30, 2024 at 10:00. Online ticket purchase is possible. Please visit the website of The Movies Otrobanda for more information and guidance [www.themoviescuracao.com/otrobanda](http://www.themoviescuracao.com/otrobanda).

## Opening Hours Otrobanda Box Office

- 12:00 during the week
- 13:00 during the weekend
- 09:30 on Saturday April 13th
- 10:00 on Sunday April 14th

The Central Box Office closes 15 minutes after the start of the last screening of the day

## Admission Fee

- ANG 18.50 Regular ticket price
- ANG 20.50 VIP ticket price without food service
- ANG 27.50 Admission Fee Master class & Special Screening

## Discounts

For all films starting between 10:00-12:00 on Saturday and Sunday:

- ANG 16.50 Regular ticket price
- ANG 18.50 VIP ticket price without food service

## BUY 10 get 1 FREE offer

For every 10 tickets you buy in one transaction, you will get one free ticket based on the lowest ticket price. Only available at the Box Office.

## Press Information

Percy Pinedo | [percy.pinedo@gmail.com](mailto:percy.pinedo@gmail.com)

## Sponsoring & Social Media

Annet Kooistra | [annet@factory360-marketing.com](mailto:annet@factory360-marketing.com)

## Where to Find us

Visit the website [CuracaoIFF.com](http://CuracaoIFF.com) regularly as new information is added all the time. Or connect with us on social media channels Instagram or Facebook. Use hashtags #curacaoiff or #ciff to share your stories.

## Official Festival Meeting Place

Meet & greet fellow festival visitors and international guests.

## Made Possible By



FUNDASHON  
BON INTENSHON





**curaçao**  
**north**  
**sea Jazz**  
**festival**  
**29.30.31 AUGUST '24**

**STAY TUNED AT [CURACAONORTHSEAJAZZ.COM](https://www.curaçao-north-sea-jazz.com)**  
**RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW! CALL 522-JAZZ**  
**OFFICIAL TICKET SALE STARTS ON MONDAY, 1 APRIL**  
**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TICKET OUTLETS:**  
**MENSING'S CAMINADA • 24 UIT DE MUUR • TIK-TAK**  
**TICKETMASTER.NL**

**TICKETS ARE \$ 195 OR ANG 355 PER DAY**