

Gibara Film Festival takes off high on opening day

- Last Updated: Wednesday, 02 August 2023 16:52

Written by Departamento de Comunicación Institucional

Hits: 452



Gibara International Film Festival, whose 17th edition was attended by high-ranking political, governmental and art world authorities, got off to a great start on August 1st.

The traditional people's parade to the heart of the so-called Villa Blanca de los Cangrejos was followed by a brief ceremony that officially inaugurated this event, where Viva Gibara, kind of an anthem for the proud inhabitants of the most cinematographic town in the province of Holguin, is always interpreted.

Jibá cinema, main venue of the Festival, also hosted the opening gala where the people of Gibara applauded their idols, Humberto Solás himself (deceased) who has immortalized it with the renowned Lucia, film production that gives name to the honorary award that is given in each edition to creators of great contribution to the seventh art.

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On this occasion, the award was given to costume designer Violeta Cooper, about whom Luis Alberto García said that no one like her has made so many films; precisely this multi-awarded actor received the Honorary Lucia Award of this edition of the Festival founded by Solás.

In the inaugural gala, which was a successful showcase for young actors like Flora Borrego, the Chamber Orchestra of Holguin, under the accurate baton of Maestro Orestes Saavedra, performed three emblematic pieces of the Cuban musical pentagram, closely associated with the seventh art: *La Bella Cubana*, by José White; *Un día de noviembre*, by Leo Brouwer and the Love Theme from *La Gran Rebelión*, by Frank Fernández, which the audience applauded excitedly at the same time that on the big screen of the Jibá cinema, Domingo García, projected ironic images of Cuban cinematography.

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Precisely, Domingo, a Gibara native who has contributed to raise the taste for cinema as an operator of projection equipment, was presented with another old but working projector, to further expand his collection of cinematographic devices.

The Swiss film Foudré, which was chosen to draw the curtains of this Festival, had its presentation and projection to local people's delight, who are passionate about cinema, as for their land sprinkled by the saltpeter of the Bay of Gibara and the Atlantic Ocean, and its breeze that purifies their lungs as the edifying art that the homeland demands, far from selfishness and idolatrous fatuity.