



THE ETERNAL NIGHT

A FILM BY COCO FUSCO



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BASED ON THE TESTIMONY OF
NÉSTOR DÍAZ DE VILLEGAS

HD VIDEO, 70 MINUTOS, 2022

PRODUCED BY **COCO FUSCO** AND **DAVID LEITNER**

SCRIPT BY **ENRIQUE DEL RISCO**

MUSIC BY **ROBERTO POVEDA**

CAST **LUIS MANUEL ÁLVAREZ,**
ENMANUEL GALBÁN, JOEL LARA

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The Eternal Night is the story of three Cuban young men that were condemned for their beliefs and their creations. It is about the power of the imagination to transcend circumstance.

The film is based on the true story of Cuban writer and former political prisoner Néstor Díaz de Villegas. In 1974, Díaz de Villegas was sentenced to six years in prison for writing a poem. He was eighteen years old and had already been branded as a political non-conformist. At the time, those Cubans who were considered too intellectual, too enamored of American popular culture, too effeminate or too attached to their religious faith were marginalized and subject to incarceration and reeducation.

The film begins when the poet arrives at the prison and meets a young Evangelical man from the country-

side and an older actor who was accused of trying to assassinate Fidel Castro. The actor ushers them into the social world of the prison. To enliven the prisoners' evenings, he convinces the warden that screening films would be a more effective means of teaching inmates about the benefits of socialism and creates a cinema inside the prison.

Coco Fusco combines a dramatized version of Díaz de Villegas' prison experience with archival footage and print culture from the 1970s, as well as interviews with Díaz de Villegas and his friend, the actor and former political prisoner José Manuel Castiñeira.

**THE ETERNAL NIGHT WAS COMMISSIONED BY
SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION AND CO-COMMISSIONED
BY THE WAPPING PROJECT.**

