



LIU INSTITUTE FOR  
GLOBAL ISSUES

## Screening of *Ticket to Paradise* and roundtable discussion with Director Gerardo Chijona



During Cuba's "Special Period" (1990-1999) —a severe economic and political crisis spearheaded by the downfall of the communist bloc, the US-lead embargo and the failure of its farming industry— a crowd of young people known as *frikies* took over the streets of Havana. They established a vibrant counter-culture scene influenced by an international punk culture. It was the same period in which Cuba endured one of the worst health crises in the nation's history due to the scarcity of nutritious food. Throughout the crisis, Cuba's public health care system not only managed to stay afloat but sustained worldwide recognition, in part due to its approach in treating the AIDS epidemic. People living with HIV were housed in "Los Cocos, a clinic located near Havana. Equipped with excellent medical facilities, patients were given salaries, allowed to bring their families to live with them, and were fed high protein meals not easily available to other Cubans. Loosely based on the diaries of Dr. Jorge Pérez, director of "Los Cocos Sanatorium", Gerardo Chijona's film *Ticket to Paradise* tells the story of a group of Cuban *frikies* who see in the AIDS sanatorium system an escape from the socioeconomic conditions they encountered.

### Film Screening

Thursday, September 6, 2012, 4-7pm  
Liu Institute, Multipurpose Room

### Roundtable Discussion

Friday, September 7th, 2012, 2-4pm  
Liu Institute, Caseroom

RSVP at:

[ligi.ubc.ca/events/register.htm](http://ligi.ubc.ca/events/register.htm)

#### Film Screening: *Ticket to Paradise* (Cuba/Spain/Venezuela, 2011)

Followed by discussion with filmmaker **Gerardo Chijona**, moderated by **Alejandra Bronfman** (History, UBC).

#### Roundtable Discussion: "Cuba's Special Period: Frikies, Film and the AIDS crisis"

With **Gerardo Chijona** (filmmaker from Cuba), **TONEL** (Art History, Visual Art, and Theory, UBC), **Jerry Spiegel** (School of Population and Public Health, UBC), and **Oralia Gómez-Ramírez** (Research Group on Gender and Sexuality in Latin America, UBC).



a place of mind

Hosted by the **Liu Institute's Research Group on Gender and Sexuality in Latin America**.  
For more information, please visit: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/genderandsexuality/>