

Amílcar O. Cárdenas

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SUMMARY OF SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

- **Media Production:** Experience working both independently and in institutional settings to produce diverse types of media products including commercial, promotional, and documentary videos. Training in and hands-on experience with various aspects of production such as camerawork, video editing, and sound production and postproduction.
- **Musical Performance, Teaching, and Production:** More than fifteen years experience in diverse musical skills that include performance, teaching, and sound production. Have collaborated with renown and emergent musicians in freelance settings as well as in artistic institutions and on television productions. Experienced teacher in both individual and group settings.
- **Social Justice and Anti-racism:** More than 5 years of experience writing, researching and working on issues related to racial discrimination, gender equity, and the cultural contributions of the African Diaspora in Cuba. Particular interest in documenting grassroots movements and visibilizing the richness of Afro-Cubans' everyday anti-racist work.

EXPERIENCE

- 2011-2016: **Video Production**
Directed, edited, and did camerawork for a broad array of video projects such as music concerts, promotional videos, and independent documentaries.
Freelancer
- 2005-2013: **Music and Motion Montage**
Carried out musical and video selection, editing, and montage for the Department of Advertising of the National Cuban Television.
Cuban Institute for Radio and Television
- 2004-2005 **Musical Production for Dance Performance**
Soundtrack production—editing and musical montage—for live and television performances of the Cuban TV National Ballet.
Cuban Television National Ballet
- 2002-2004 **Sound assistant**
Provided technical sound assistance in class settings as well as for electronic music productions with emerging DJs. Focused on both teaching and utilizing digital platforms.
National Laboratory for Electroacoustic Music
- 2001-2004 **Electric Bass Teacher**

Taught one-on-one courses on electric bass performance technique and on the particularities of popular Cuban musical genres.

Freelance

2002-2005

Teacher of Cuban Music

Taught workshops on ensemble performance and history of Cuban music to exchange students in their last year of high school.

Putny Student Travel Excel Program, USA

1999-2001

Bass Player

Performer and collaborator with various Cuban pop and fusion groups such as *Calle Abajo y Natura*.

Freelance

INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

INVISIBLES (in progress)

The idea for this documentary was born of the desire to visibilize the extraordinary grassroots work that the *Red Barrial Afrodescendiente (Afrodescendant Neighborhood Network)* has been carrying out to combat gender and racial discrimination. The basic purpose of this film is to show the magnificent work that these women carry out without social or institutional recognition and often against the latter's resistance. *Invisibles* seeks to recognize and praise the role of Cuban women in the battle against racism.

Cuba y el Caribe (en curso)

Why is it often difficult for Cubans to feel connected to the rest of the Caribbean? How do we understand this separation, this perceptible sense of distance between Cuba and the Caribbean? Are we, Cubans, prepared to recognize the rich foundations at the heart of Caribbean identities? This documentary project takes us through a historical journey guided by a small group of scholars and public intellectuals who uncover the deep connections that tie Cuba to the Caribbean through their racial formations, their cultural practices, and their interconnected sense of political consciousness.

Against the Ropes (2015)

This documentary tells the story of a racial debate that initiated in Cuba in 1959 with the triumph of the revolution and disappeared from the national public sphere only three years later. What prevented this debate and discussion of the issue of racism from taking place? What fate has befallen discussions of race on the island in the last 55 years? What is the state of racism today? These questions are at the heart of debate that is still unknown to the vast majority of Cuban society and which this film explores through interviews with some of the pioneers of the study of racism in Cuba.

EDUCATION

2008 -2013:

School of Media and Audiovisual Communications (Radio, Film, and Television) of the *Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA)*

BA in Audiovisual Communications with a concentration in editing.

Havana, Cuba

1995-1999:

Escuela Nacional de Música

Graduate of the National School of Music with a concentration in teaching, Bass Guitar, and Ensemble Performance.

Havana, Cuba

ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Language: Native Spanish Speaker and Conversant in English.
- Communication: Ease of communication with politicians, scholars, and activists as well as with grassroots populations. Experienced public speaker.
- Writing: Excellent Spanish language writing skills.
- Software: Avid, Final Cut, After Effects for Motion Picture, Photoshop
- Interests: Film, dance, music, photography, technology for film/video, cultural anthropology.