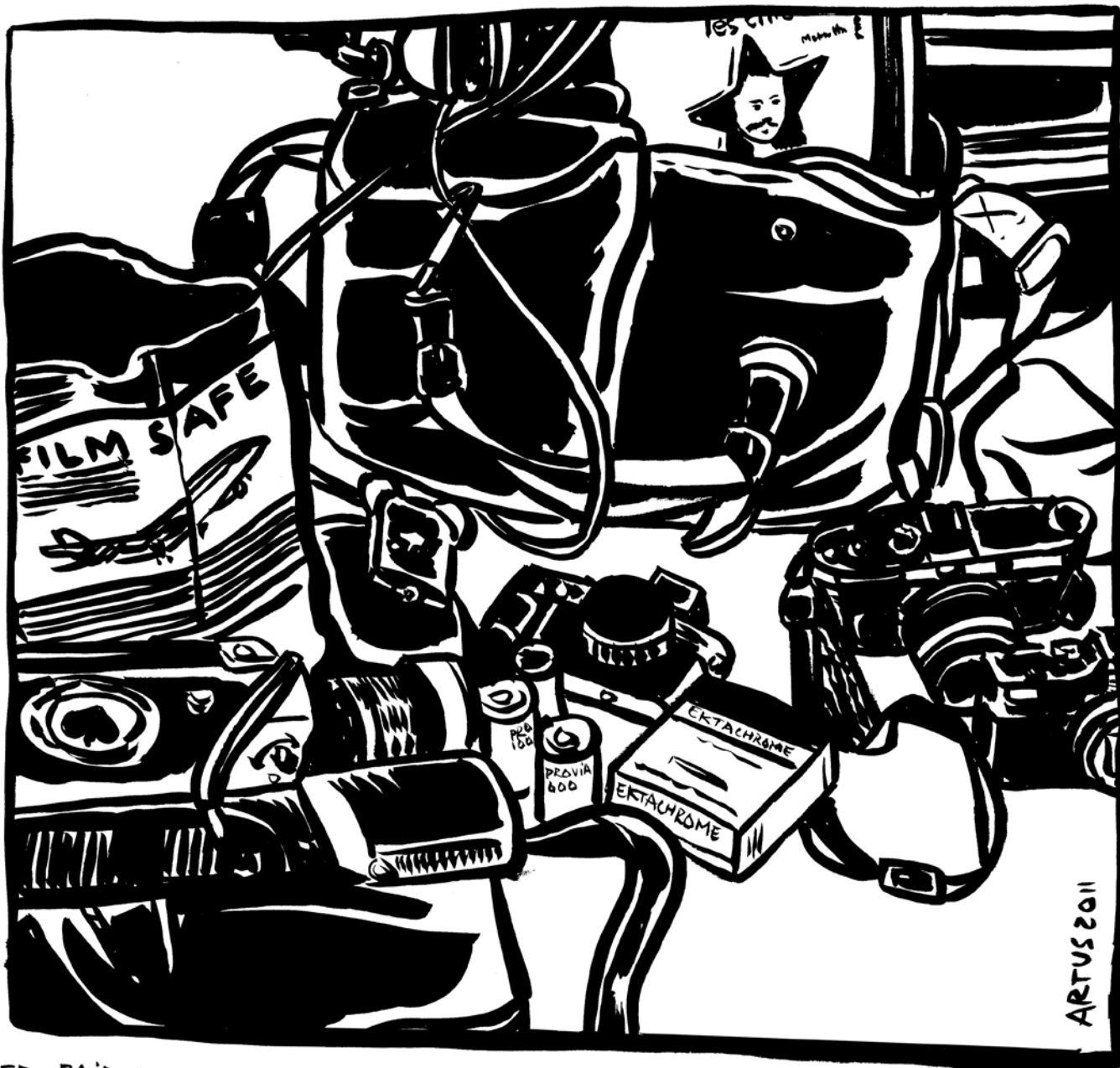


DEADPAN

SPECIAL ISSUE ~~NUMBER~~ CUBA



OFFERED PAID BY THE
ADVERTISING INDUSTRY



IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WARNED
" A STORY OF FILMS, DIRECTORS, AND STRANGE
ENCOUNTERS... HAVANA CLUB,
AND WHY NOT? I LEFT WITH A LOT
OF PHOTOGRAPHIC FILMS IN MY BAG...
AND, OF COURSE, JESSICA!

LA SEMAINE S'ANNONÇAIT COMPLIQUÉE...



QUELQUE CHOSE ME D'SAIT QUE MA VIE N'ALLAIT PLUS CESSER D'ÊTRE PASSIONNANTE... LA PRÉSENCE D'UNE FEMME EXTRAORDINAIRE À MES CÔTÉS PEUT-ÊTRE ? ET TOUS CES PROJETS QUI SE RÉPÉSENT... À LA VITESSE D'UNE VIE.

IT ALL STARTED ~~WITH~~ WITH
A PHONE CALL FROM MY AGENT
AND A MEETING IN AN AD
AGENCY...

FROM WHAT I
UNDERSTOOD
THAT DAY, MY
JOB WOULD BE
TO ASSIST IN
THE PRODUCTION
OF 7 SHORT
FILMS IN HAVANA
SUPPORTED BY
HAVANA CLUB
INTERNATIONAL

I ALSO WOULD BE
RESPONSABLE FOR ~~RECORDING~~
RECORDING MY TIME
THERE IN THE FORM
OF DRAWINGS, TEXT,
PHOTO, ETC... TO AID IN

☐ THE FUTURE
PROMOTION
OF THE FILM.

THERE WAS A LICHTENSTEIN PAINTING
FROM 1961 IN THE WAITING ROOM...

SINCE I WAS GOING
TO BE
"THE ARTIST", I TOOK THE
OPPORTUNITY TO ASK
IF MY GIRLFRIEND,
A JOURNALIST / WRITER /
EDITOR / FILM MAKER,
COULD ~~COME WITH ME~~
COME WITH ME



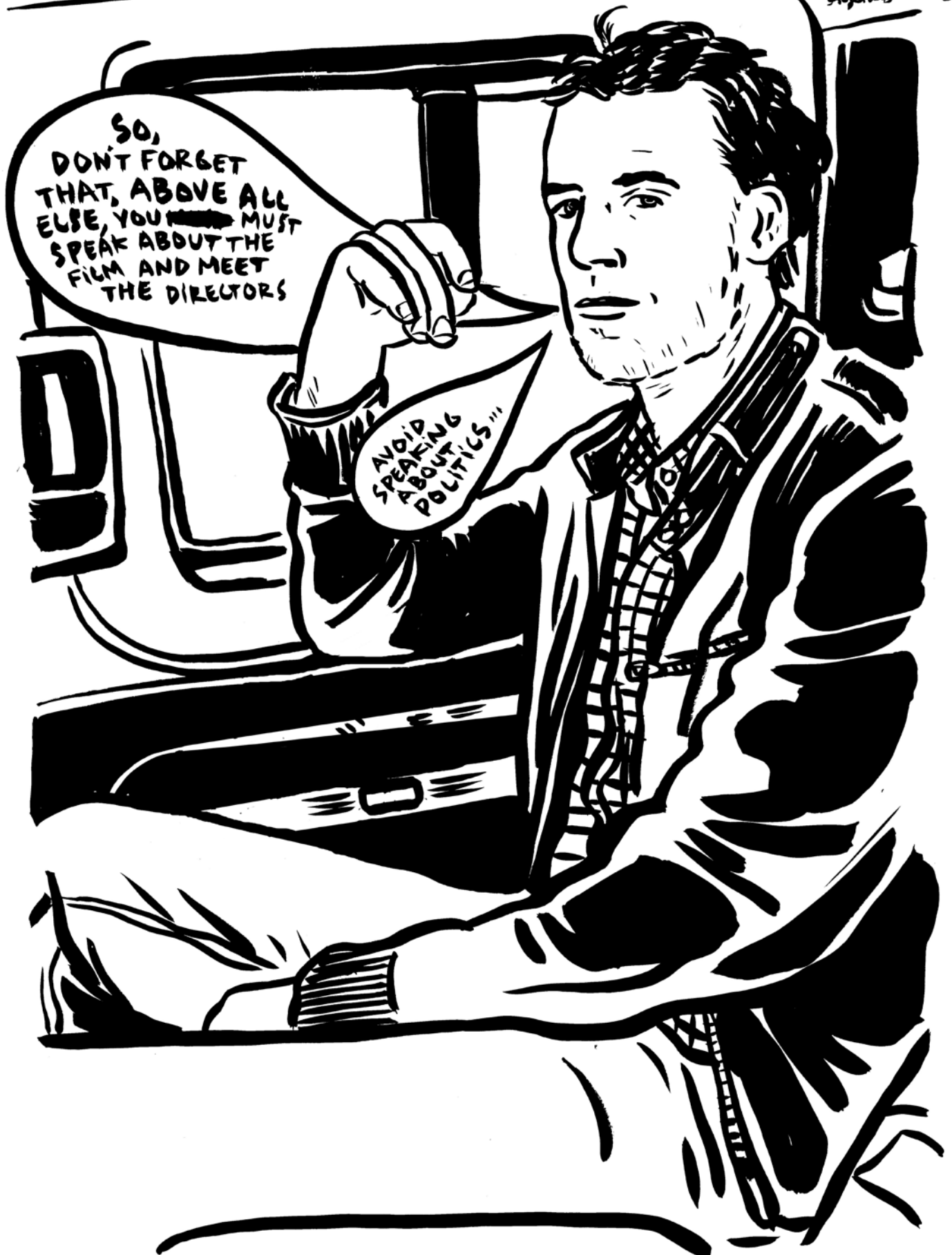
IT ALL SEEMED TO BEGINNING
RATHER WELL.*

*ESPECIALLY SINCE HAVANA CULTURA IS KNOWN FOR ITS

ABILITY TO PORTRAY AND PROMOTE CUBAN CULTURE BRILLIANTLY..

15 DAYS LATER, WE WERE IN THE TAXI THAT WAS TAKING US TO THE AIRPORT WITH OLIVIER, A CONTRACT DULY SIGNED IN OUR POCKET.

*The Guy from
the Advertising
Agency*





I LEFT WITH A LOT OF EQUIPMENT IN MY BAG INCLUDING A SUPER 8 CAMERA (THAT I WOULD NOT USE) AND A BOOK BY THE CUBAN WRITER LEONARDO PADURA (ABOUT TROTSKI AND HIS KILLER) WHO ALSO WROTE "7 DAYS IN HAVANA", A "BIBLE" OF SORTS MEANT TO INSPIRE THE FILM DIRECTORS THROUGH A SERIES OF SHORT STORIES.

IN THE PLANE A MAN EXPLAINED TO
MY GIRLFRIEND THAT THE DOWNSIDES OF
CUBA ARE RELATED TO POVERTY,
HOUSING PROBLEMS AND, OF COURSE,
TO THE AMERICAN EMBARGO...
BUT HE WAS REALLY PROUD TO
BE CUBAN (WITH A GREAT
SMILE)

YOU
SEE... WE
HAVE FREE
ACCESS TO SCHOOL
AND THE BEST
HEALTH SERVICE
OF THE WORLD

AND SPORT AND MUSIC
ARE IMPORTANT THINGS
HERE

ALSO KNOW DO YOU
GO PEOPLE THAT
1000 ARE
DOCTORS

AND SOME
ARE SENT
TO HELP
OTHER
COUNTRIES
SUCH AS
AFRICA,
SOUTH
ASIA...

EVEN IF WE ONLY HAVE 17 COMPUTERS
FOR 1000 PEOPLE WITH THE HELP OF
VENEZUELA WE ARE GOING TO MULTIPLY
THE SPEED BY 3000... BUT I'M AFRAID, WE
ARE AFRAID, THAT IT WOULD CHANGE EVERYTHING...
IT IS AN AMAZING COUNTRY YOU KNOW!

HAVANA CLUB
EL RON DE CUBA



JUST ARRIVED IN
CUBA, AN
IMPRESSIVE HAVANA
CLUB AD WELCOMES
US AT THE AIRPORT.
THEY ARE ALSO
PROMOTERS OF
CUBAN CULTURE
AROUND THE WORLD.
"EL RON DE CUBA"
... A MUST...
UNMISSABLE!

THERE WAS A TV IN
THE TAXI PLAYING
SHAKIRA...





THE HOTEL WAS
JUST
MAGNIFICENT...


IT WAS A
TORRID DAY...

VIVA LA
REVOLUCIÓN.



JESSICA WAS VERY HAPPY TO MEET HER FRIEND
GASPAR NOÉ... FOR A PIZZA! ^(OUR FIRST MEAL IN CUBA) HE TOLD US THAT
HE WAS VERY STRESSED BY THE ~~VERY~~ SMALL AMOUNT
OF TIME HE HAD FOR THE LOCATION SCOOTING AND
FILMING OF HIS MOVIE. TO FURTHER COMPLICATE THINGS,
HE WAS TRYING TO FIND A LESBIAN ACTRESS IN A
COUNTRY WHERE ~~HOMO~~
HOMO SEXUALITY HAD BEEN
FORBIDDEN FOR YEARS





IN THE PRESS KIT OF "2 DAYS IN HABANA" WE
COULD READ THAT PABLO ~~TRAPERO~~ TRAPERRO HAS
CLAIMED A UNIQUE PLACE IN ARGENTINE CINEMA
I HEARD THAT HE STARTED HIS MOVIE
HERE WITH EMIR KUSTURICA... ~~BAR~~
UNFORTUNATLY THEY WERE ALREADY
GONE WHEN WE ARRIVED...

YOU SHOULD HAVE
SEEN THE FACE OF THE ~~BAR~~ BAR
OWNER OF THE ~~BAR~~ BAR
WHEN WE ASKED TO SEE THE
BATHROOM...
WERE THE SCENE
HAS BEEN SHOT
HILARIOUS...

JUAN CARLOS TABIO
KNOWN AS "THE MOST
FAMOUS CUBAN MOVIE
MAKER" WAS
BUSY SHOOTING
WHEN WE ARRIVED
... THAT IS THE
CLOSEST WE COULD
GET TO HIM ON
THIS PARTICULAR
DAY.

FROM THE BACK
HE LOOKED LIKE A REALLY NICE
PERSON

THE TITLE OF HIS MOVIE WAS
THE BITTERSWEET TASTE OF DESPAIR...





THEY WERE
FILMING A GUY GOING BACK
AND FORTH WITH HIS
BICYCLE... THE NEXT DAY
HE WAS DOING (ALMOST) EXACTLY
THE SAME THING BUT
THIS TIME SOMEONE WAS
HOLDING AN UMBRELLA ON HIS
WAY BACK.

SOMEBODY TOLD ME HE WAS
A GREAT ACTOR... I HAVE TO
SAY THAT I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM
WHEN I MET HIM IN THE HOTEL
(WITH A BUNCH OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN)
HE DIDN'T LOOK AT ALL THE SAME...



ELIA SULEIMAN,

THE PALESTINIAN DIRECTOR,
SCRIPTWRITER AND ACTOR, WAS TOO
CONCENTRATE ON HIS WORK (LIKE
HIS ASSISTANT TOLD ME: HE NEEDS TO BE ALONE) AND
WORKING ON PLAYA 16 TO HAVE TIME TO
PAUSE FOR MY PICTURES/DRAWINGS.

BUT JESSICA SUCCEEDED^{IN} MAKING A DEAL: HE
WOULD GRANT US AN INTERVIEW IF I COULD HELP HIM
FIND SOME LOST PHOTOGRAPHS ON HIS COMPUTER.
HE IS AN INTERESTING CHARACTER SHE TOLD
ME, VERY SWEET AND FUNNY... LIKE HIS
MOVIES... THE ONLY THING HE SAID TO ME, AFTER
HE SAW MY BLACK TATTOOED ARM, WAS THAT I WAS
PROBABLY A CRAZY PERSON. I NEVER FOUND HIS PICTURES
IN HIS LAPTOP AND I'VE STILL NEVER SEEN ANY OF HIS MOVIES... MAYBE I SHOULD...



SULLEIMAN
WAS PLAYING THE
LEAD ~~ROLE~~ ROLE
IN HIS MOVIE.

(SOMEBODY GAVE ME THIS
PICTURE)
(WHERE HE LOOKED
REALLY GOOD)
(JUST NEAR A
BRONZE OF
HEMINGWAY)

(NOT ON MY DRAWING)

HEMINGWAY'S
BRONZE

THE SHIRT OF THE
PHOTOGRAPHER?

HAVANA CLUB WAS EVERYWHERE
IN CUBA



ARTUS 2011

GILLES, WHO WAS
SHOOTING THE MAKING OF
~~THE~~ WORKED IN MANY MEDIA-RELATED JOBS IN HIS LIFETIME.
HAS HE HAS BEEN A DOCUMENTARIST, A WAR JOURNALIST,
AND HAS INTERVIEWED PEOPLE LIKE FELIPE
GONZALES, FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND, BILL CLINTON
AND JACQUES CHIRAC (TO NAME ONLY A FEW)



ARTUS,
LET ME TELL YOU...
IT IS HARDER TO GET A MOMENT
WITH A FILM DIRECTOR
WHEN HE IS WORKING
THAN WITH A
PRESIDENT.

AFTER CHASING THE DIRECTORS FOR A WHILE WITHOUT ANY SUCCESS, WE DECIDED TO GO TO ROOM 312,

THE BUSY HOTEL PRODUCTION OFFICE TO TRY TO GET A PROPER SCHEDULE OF THE MOVIE FROM DIDAR, ONE OF THE PRODUCERS.

WELL, YOU KNOW... IT IS A LITTLE HECTIC... THEY ARE ALL VERY STRESSED, STILL TRYING TO PREPARE

THE BEST IDEA IS STILL TO JUST GO ON SET AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS

THE DIRECTORS SUITCASES?

BÉN... C'ÉTAIT PAS GAGNÉ, COMME QUI DIRAIT...

FINALLY I GOT THE PICTURE/DRAWING OF
TABIO, WITH WHOM I THINK IS ONE OF HIS ACTORS
- THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE ON THE SET..

EN EL AIRE



WHILE WE WERE WAITING
● BY CHANCE JESSICA STARTED TO TALK
WITH MIRTA IBARRA WITHOUT KNOWING SHE
WAS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS ACTRESSES IN CUBA
(FROM HER ROLE IN "FRESA Y CHOCOLATE" ^{THE LEGENDARY} BY TOMAS GUTIERREZ ALEA
AND JUAN CARLOS TABIO)

SO... YOU ARE AN ACTRESS?


WELL... YES...

MIRTA TOLD
JESSICA THAT
WHEN SHE LIVED
IN PARIS IN THE
70'S SHE WAS
SURPRISED TO BE
TREATED LIKE ONLY
A HOUSEWIFE
EVEN IF SHE
HAS RETAINED
FOND
MEMORIES OF
OUR
COUNTRY.

I WAS WONDERING HOW WAS
CUBA IN THE 70'S...

FABIAN PISANI, A CUBAN PRODUCER, WAS
THE BEST HOST WE COULD WISH FOR, DESPITE
BEING VERY BUSY

WITH ~~██████████~~
MANAGING THE FILMING
AND LOCATION SCOUTING
FOR ALL THE FILMS, HE
SHOWED US A SIDE
OF CUBA WE WOULD
NEVER HAVE DISCOVERED
WITHOUT HIS HELP.




WHILE WATCHING
JESSICA TALKING
WITH MIRTA HE
WAS ~~██████████~~ SMOKING
A CIGAR LIKE ONLY
A CUBAN COULD...
WITH A TOUCH OF
ENGLISH STYLE... WITHOUT
LOOKING... PEDANTIC?

(I ALWAYS FOUND CIGAR SMOKERS
RIDICULOUS BEFORE HIM, ~~██████████~~
AND HIS GIRLFRIEND!)
ESPECIALLY MONEY PEOPLE.

STUCK BETWEEN THE CUBAN
FLAG AND SOME OTHER TEE
SHIRTS, THE CHE WAS
WATCHING US (FROM
A TOURIST SHOP IN THE HOTEL
NACIONAL WHERE EVERYONE WAS
SUPPOSED TO SHOOT)





REVOLUCIÓN ES:

no mentir jamás
ni violar principios éticos

LAURENT CANTET WAS WORKING ON A SANTERIA
STORY AND HAD A ^{QUITE ESTONISHING} WAY OF FILMING

HE WAS
ASKING PEOPLE TO
BE THEMSELVES
(I'M NOT BEING
IRONIC HERE)



THE MORE
WE WERE GETTING
THE HANG OF FILMING THE
DIRECTORS, THE MORE
INTERESTING THINGS BECAME.

LAURENT
CANTET WAS
FILMING THE REHEARSALS
WITH A LOT OF KINDNESS
AND A SMALL CAMERA...



THE LEAD ACTRESS OF LAURENT CANTET DEMANDED THAT EVERYONE IN HER BUILDING WOULD BE PART OF THE MOVIE OR ELSE SHE WOULD NOT DO IT!

THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS TO FIND A ROLE FOR EVERYONE "OR WAS IT?"

THEY (WE) WERE ALL BORN ACTORS

IT WAS COMPLETELY LIKE BEING IN GODFATHER I, II OR III BUT FOR REAL



WHEN LAURENT
LANTET WAS TALKING
EVERYONE WAS
LISTENING... INTENTLY..

THERE WERE SO MANY KIDS AROUND.

GASPAR NOÉ
WAS SHOWING
A PICTURE TO HIS
ACTRESS ON HIS
3D CAMERA

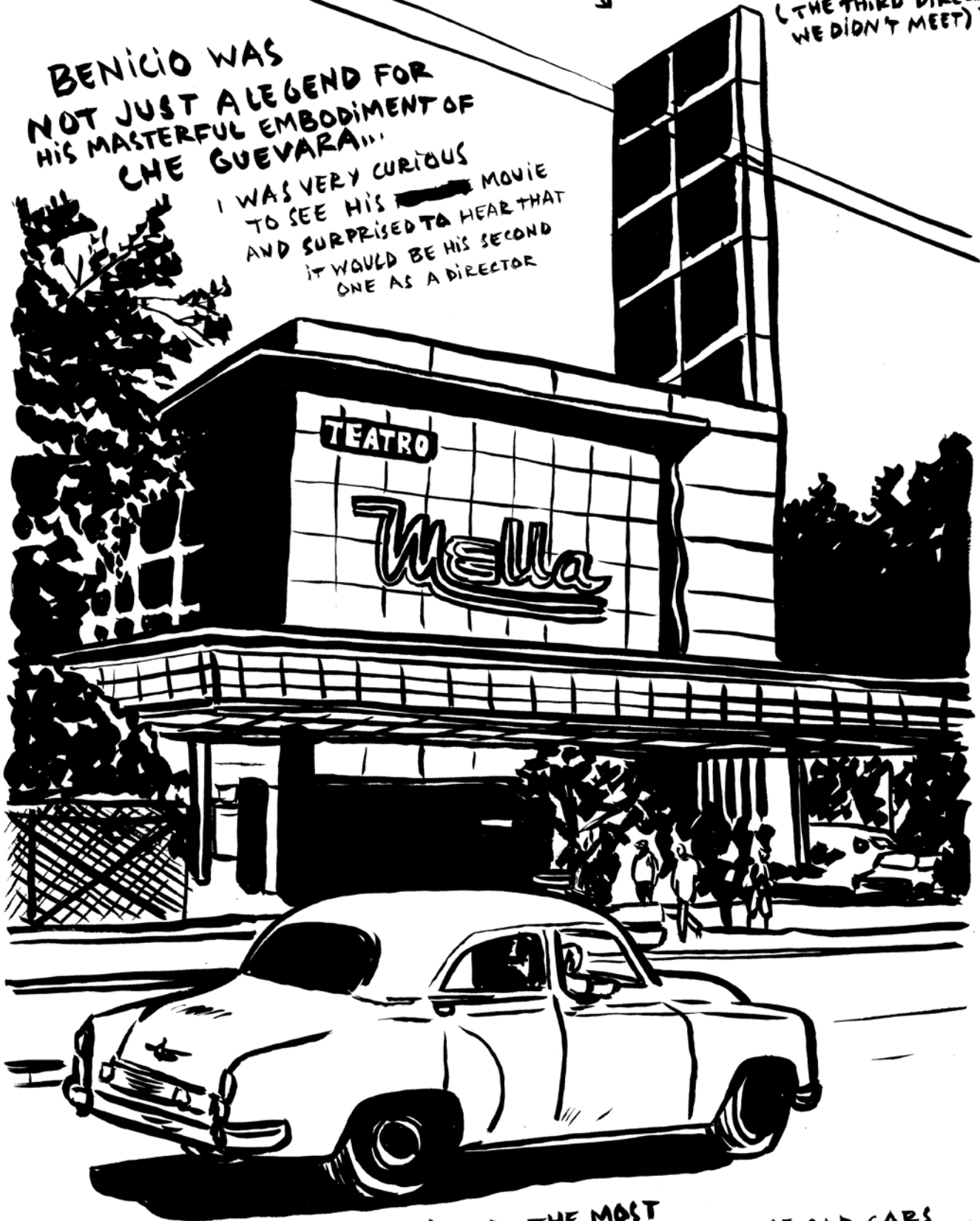


I WAS WONDERING WHAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN
A PICTURE OF?

SOMEBODY TOLD US
THAT BENICIO DEL TORO
FILMED HERE ... BUT WAS IT HIM
OR JULIO MEDEM
(THE THIRD DIRECTOR
WE DIDN'T MEET)?

BENICIO WAS
NOT JUST A LEGEND FOR
HIS MASTERFUL EMBODIMENT OF
CHE GUEVARA...

I WAS VERY CURIOUS
TO SEE HIS ~~MOVIE~~ MOVIE
AND SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT
IT WOULD BE HIS SECOND
ONE AS A DIRECTOR



IN THE END WHAT I LIKED THE MOST
IN CUBA WHERE ~~EVERYWHERE~~ THOSE OLD CARS
OF A COUNTRY STILL
WRITING ITS FUTURE
EVERYWHERE AND THE HISTORY
THE BEAUTIFUL PAST FOREVER PRESENT...

ANOTHER MOVIE LOCATION?
OR OUR FAVOURITE BAR IN HABANA?
IT WAS INTERESTING HOW WE WOULD ALWAYS
FIND OURSELVES IN THIS BAR IN CENTRAL HAVANA
AND HOW IT WOULD BECOME FOR
JESSICA, OLIVIER AND I, WHAT WE PROBABLY
WOULD REMEMBER THE MOST FROM OUR
TRIP IN CUBA...

THE NICE SMILE OF THE LOCALS
A DAVID BOWIE SONG
AND THE TIME SEEMING TO STAND
STILL...



ABOUT
TO CHANGE?



POLITICAL? HOW NOT TO BE?

THE
CAST
PARTY
WAS TAKING
PLACE NOT
FAR FROM THE
ORIGINAL BUENA

VISTA SOCIAL
CLUB WHICH
CLOSED A LONG
TIME AGO

The End
IS JUST ANOTHER WAY TO SAY
A NEW BEGINNING...