

BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB



With a small film crew, Wim Wenders accompanied his old friend Ry Cooder, who had previously written the music for *PARIS, TEXAS* and *THE END OF VIOLENCE*, on a trip to Havana. Cooder wanted to record his material for Ibrahim Ferrer's solo album at a studio there - following the first "Buena Vista Social Club" CD (which had not yet been released at that time). Wenders immersed himself in the world of Cuban music. Over the course of several months, he observed and accompanied the musicians - first at home in Havana and then, weeks later, in April 1998, on their trip to Amsterdam for the first public performance of the band (who had never played together outside a studio) and then, still later, in July 1998, to their triumphal concert in New York's Carnegie Hall.

He thus followed the old heroes of the traditional Cuban Son music on their path from being completely forgotten to becoming world famous - within the period of just a few months. "I thought I'll shoot a documentary," Wenders said, "and here we were, about to witness a fairy tale that no one could have imagined in this form."

The music documentary became a cinematic sensation and an international success. Along with an Academy Award nomination for the best documentary film, *BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB* won this category of the European Film Awards, the German Film Prize in Gold, Germany's Golden Camera and the Grand Prize for Film in Brazil as well as numerous other awards.



BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB

Germany/USA 1998/99

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

1999 European Film Awards (European Documentary Award – Prix Arte)
1999 New York Film Critics Award (Best Documentary)
1999 Los Angeles Film Critics Award (Best Documentary)
2000 Academy Awards (Nominee: Best Feature Documentary)
2000 German Film Awards (Best Documentary)

FORMAT

Length:
105 min, 2864 m

Format:
Digital Betacam, transferred to 35mm, color; 1:1,85;
Dolby Stereo Digital

Original Language:
English, Spanish

CREDITS

Production:
Road Movies Filmproduktion GmbH (Berlin)

Director:
Wim Wenders

Producer:
Ulrich Felsberg, Deepak Nayar

Screenplay:
Wim Wenders

Director of Photography:
Jörg Widmer (DoP and Steadicam), Robby Müller
(additional camera Amsterdam), Lisa Rinzler
(additional camera New York), Wim Wenders
(additional camera Havana and New York)

Editor:
Brian Johnson

Sound:
Martin Müller

Music:
Ry Cooder, Joachim Cooder, Ibrahim Ferrer, Juan de
Marcos González, Rubén González, Eliades Ochoa,
Omara Portuondo, Compay Segundo and others

Steadicam:
Jörg Widmer

Still Photographer:
Donata Wenders, Susan Titelman

Location Manager:
Linda Moran

In Cooperation with:
Kintop Pictures (Los Angeles), Arte G.E.I.E.
(Strasbourg), ICAIC (Havana)

Primary Distribution:
Senator Film Verleih GmbH (Berlin)

First Release (DE):
17.06.1999