



Portrait of Teresa (*Retrato de Teresa*) is a classic Cuban film being shown in honor of International Women's Day on March 8. Cuba issued a postage stamp on International Women's Day in honor of the 30th Anniversary of this milestone feminist film.

In 1979, *Portrait of Teresa* was released as a film about the contradictory roles of women. Regarded by many as one of ICAIC's most controversial films, it caused an uproar following its release and had an

important impact in Cuba because its open portrayal of machismo. It followed a few years after gender issues being in the forefront of revolutionary policy making. New policies called the Family Code, passed in 1975, provided Cuba with a detailed definition of the equal roles and responsibilities of women and men in marriage and the family, and legislated politics of domestic life in order to free women from a double standard. The Cuban Constitution also guarantees equal rights, and sex discrimination is forbidden by law.

This film looks at the view of Cuban feminism 35 years ago and became one of the most popular films in the history of Cuban cinema. It focuses on the issues women face in terms of traditional ideas that were held by both men and women regarding gender roles and responsibilities as well as the machismo so prevalent in Cuba even though government policies made equal rights for women official. *Portrait of Teresa* examines practical day to day difficulties women confront in their struggle for self-determination as they balance conventional duties as married women with additional duties that come with being a part of the Cuban revolution.

Directed by Pastor Vega (1940 – 2005) who was the first director of the Havana International Film Festival. It was his first feature length film and stars well known actress Daisy Granados. The film was nominated as best film in many international film festivals including those located in Moscow, London, Telluride and Chicago.

The film is preceded by a short film *Oracion* (*Prayer*) directed by Marisol Trujillo. It is an homage to Marilyn Monroe inspired by a poem by Nicaraguan Ernesto Cardinal.

Join us after the film for a discussion led by University of Minnesota Professor Amy Kaminsky from the Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies as well as the Department of Global Studies and Giselle Garcia Castro, a Cuban film student spending a year in residence at St. Thomas University. This is an opportunity to discuss the views of different generations of women about *Portrait of Teresa*. We will be gathering at Pracna on Main adjacent to the theater (take a left at the bottom of the stairs).