

# ISLA FAMILIA



CACHA FILMS presenta "ISLA FAMILIA"  
una película de ABRAHAM JIMÉNEZ ENOA y CLAUDIA CALVIÑO  
en coproducción con HUMANISTIC y PROMENADES FILMS

presentando a ABRAHAM JIMÉNEZ ENOA

CÁMARA Claudia Calviño / Abraham Jiménez Enoa / Xuban Intxausti / Jep Brengaret  
ASISTENCIA DE DIRECCIÓN Joanna Montero MEZCLA DE SONIDO Marisol Cao Milán DISEÑO SONORO Sergio Fernández Borrás  
MONTAJE Dami Sainz Edwards GUIÓN Abraham Jiménez Enoa y Carlos Lechuga COPRODUCCIÓN Xuban Intxausti / Samuel Chauvin  
PRODUCCIÓN Claudia Calviño DIRECCIÓN Abraham Jiménez Enoa y Claudia Calviño

CON EL APOYO DE GOCUBA - BEQUES BARCELONA CREA - AJUNTAMENT DE BARCELONA - INSTITUT DE CULTURA DE BARCELONA  
FONDO DE SOLIDARIDAD A LOS PROYECTOS INNOVADORES DE LA EMBAJADA DE FRANCIA EN CUBA - HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION  
FONDO NORUEGO PARA EL CINE CUBANO - INSTITUTO DE ARTIVISMO HANNAH ARENDT (INSTAR)



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# ISLA FAMILIA



**Cuba | auto-ethnographic doc | 85 min | Spanish | 2024**

**Directed by:** Abraham Jiménez Enoa & Claudia Calviño

**Written by:** Abraham Jiménez Enoa & Carlos Lechuga

**Produced by:** Claudia Calviño

a CACHA FILMS (CUBA) production

In co-production with HUMANISTIC (SPAIN) & PROMENADES FILMS (FRANCE)

World sales:

**Habanero**





## TAGLINE

Life. Not a film.

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## SYNOPSIS

The documentary follows independent journalist Abraham Jiménez Eno during the last 3 years of his life, beginning with the arrival of the Covid pandemic in Cuba though his political exile in Spain. An intimate and epic journey into the experience of resilience and displacement through the eyes of a couple, filming their daily life with a cellphone and a big heart.

## PLOT KEYWORDS

Cuba | journalism | press freedom | dissent, protest | police interrogation | repression | police harassment | house arrest | exile | diaspora | family & kinship | husband wife relationship | childbirth | childbearing | mixed-race family | home movie | subjective camera | mobile camera | true story

# DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

In 2020, when the Covid pandemic arrived in Cuba, coinciding with the pregnancy of our son Theo, we started to film our life. At first, our intention wasn't to make a film, but to create a project together that would lift our spirits and keep us busy during the lockdown.

Abraham Jiménez Enoa, who is one of the most important voices of Cuban independent journalism, had been depressed for several months due to the constant harassment he had been subjected by the Cuban government, meaning: interrogations, threats, house arrests, mistreatment of his family, among others. He was also sanctioned with a regulation that barred him from leaving Cuba for five years, not even for an academic or professional event. All these had plunged him into deep sadness. In the meantime, Claudia Calviño, an audiovisual producer who had always been wholeheartedly dedicated to filming and producing films, suddenly found herself pregnant and forced to endure lockdown restrictions in a small Havana apartment.

With these mix feelings of hopelessness and expectation we began to film little bits from our private daily life such as Abraham working out on the rooftop and prenatal check-ups. Little by little, however, the harsh, sometimes surreal reality in which we live starts sneaking into our home and therefore into our film. Like what happened on that rainy May 1st (one of the most emblematic Cuban national holidays) when Abraham went out to "hunt" some groceries into a deserted city and suddenly hears revolutionary slogans such as "this May 1st we all march... from home!"... We also witness Abraham's last visit to his grandmother's house, where he lived most of his life, full of revolutionary memorabilia. He was born in Havana into a revolutionary family, where almost everyone was a member of the Communist Party. His paternal grandfather was a bodyguard for Fidel Castro and Ernesto "Che" Guevara. A few days after that visit we see Abraham at home under surveillance by political police to prevent him from going out to cover a protest for the murder of a young black man on the outskirts of Havana.

As the film continues to keep track of our life, from the perspective of our small family, the audience will witness one of the most important events in recent Cuban history, the one that took place on July 11th, 2021, when thousands of Cubans took to the streets in the largest national demonstrations against the government since 1959. In November, 2021, the government gave Abraham an ultimatum: leave the country for good or be jailed.





Nowadays we live in Barcelona with our 3 year-old son, as we face new challenges as exiles in a foreign land. As time comes for our film to finally reach (hopefully) audiences worldwide, we hope that it will be appreciated as it was meant to be — not merely the recount of a persecuted journalist, or as a diary of the joys and hardships of childbearing a pandemic baby in Cuba. Our hope is that it will succeed in transcending its important testimonial contribution by exposing a political regime that silences anyone who dares to dissent. Or that same people would feel inspired by our experience as an interracial family that fled their country and was forced to make a living in a system unfamiliar to them, that so many times feels scary, where many despise Latin Americans —usually referred to as “sudacas”— and where black people are assumed to be bandits who steal shopping carts.

Even when some could think our story is heart-wrenching, we believe it is actually heartwarming. It is about our struggle to see love, hope and humanity prevail. In our own lives and in today's world, in spite of the fact that everything everywhere seems to threaten those very basic concepts.

Abraham Jiménez Enoa & Claudia Calviño





# TECHNICAL SPECS

**Original film title:** ISLA FAMILIA

**International film title:** ISLA FAMILIA

**Languages of the original version:** Spanish & English

**Running time:** 85 min.

**Aspect ratio:** 1:85:1

**Original capture format:** HD VIDEO / Cellphone

**Exhibition format:** DCP

**Resolution:** 2K

**Color or B&W:** COLOR

**Original framerate:** 24 FP

**Sound:** 5.1

**Genre:** Documentary Feature

**Principal photography locations:** HAVANA (CUBA) + BARCELONA (SPAIN)

**Period of principal photography:** FROM March 2020 - UNTIL May 2023

**Release year:** 2024

**Countries of production:** CUBA – SPAIN - FRANCE

**Production company:** CACHA FILMS (Cuba)

**Co-production companies:** HUMANISTIC (Spain) & PROMENADES FILMS  
(France)

**With the support of:**

GOCUBA

BEQUES BARCELONA CREA / AJUNTAMENT DE BARCELONA / INSTITUT DE  
CULTURA DE BARCELONA

FONDO DE SOLIDARIDAD A LOS PROYECTOS INNOVADORES DE LA  
EMBAJADA DE FRANCIA EN CUBA

HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

FONDO NORUEGO PARA EL CINE CUBANO

INSTITUTO DE ARTIVISMO HANNAH ARENDT (INSTAR)







# MAIN CREW AND CAST

**Directors:** ABRAHAM JIMÉNEZ ENOA (CUBA) & CLAUDIA CALVIÑO (CUBA)

**Writers:** ABRAHAM JIMÉNEZ ENOA (CUBA) & CARLOS LECHUGA (CUBA)

**Editor:** DAMI SAINZ (CUBA)

**Sound Designer:** SERGIO FERNÁNDEZ BORRÁS (CUBA)

**Producer:** CLAUDIA CALVIÑO (CUBA)

**Co-producers:** XUBAN INTXAUSTI (SPAIN) & SAMUEL CHAUVIN (FRANCE)

**Camera:** ABRAHAM JIMÉNEZ ENOA (CUBA) & CLAUDIA CALVIÑO (CUBA) &  
XUBAN INTXAUSTI (SPAIN)

**Principal cast:** ABRAHAM JIMÉNEZ ENOA & THEO JIMÉNEZ CALVIÑO

**Web site:**

<https://www.habanerofilmsales.com/portfolio/isla-familia>

**Instagram:**

@cacha\_films

**Facebook:**

@cachafilmscuba

**Trailer:**

<https://vimeo.com/1015885157>

**Press & news - dossier:**

<https://bit.ly/4eHbEu0>



# THE FILMMAKERS:

## ABRAHAM JIMÉNEZ ENOA

Afro-Cuban freelance journalist and author born in Havana. He is the co-founder of El Estornudo, the first independent Cuban magazine dedicated to narrative journalism, and was the recipient of the 2022 International Press Freedom Award.

Jiménez Enoa has a degree in journalism from the University of Havana, and over the course of his career, he has addressed taboo topics not otherwise covered, including prostitution, poverty, human rights and racism in Cuba. His work made him one of the most respected voices of Cuban independent journalism but came at the expense of repeated persecution by the Cuban authorities. Following his coverage of the 2021 anti-government protests, Jiménez Enoa was forced to flee the country.

He is a columnist for The Washington Post and a regular contributor to numerous outlets such as The New York Times, BBC World, Al Jazeera, El País, and Revista Gatopardo.

In 2023 Jiménez Enoa won the Michael Jacobs Prize for Travel Writing, telling the story of his first year out of Cuba. He currently lives exiled in Barcelona with his family, where he has published "La Isla Oculta: Historias de Cuba" and "Aterrizar en el mundo".

The documentary ISLA FAMILIA is his directorial debut.





# ABOUT ABRAHAM JIMÉNEZ ENOA:

Abraham Jiménez Enoa is a prominent Afro-Cuban journalist forced into exile.

Over the course of his journalistic career, Jiménez Enoa has devoted himself to revealing the true realities of life under authoritarian rule in Cuba. His work has come at the expense of repeated persecution by the Cuban authorities. Despite facing violent interrogations, arbitrarily enforced restrictions, blocked internet access, and house arrest, he continued writing, cementing himself as an outspoken critic.

Jiménez Enoa was a pioneer in the Cuban media community, co-founding *El Estornudo*, the first independent Cuban magazine dedicated to narrative journalism. It was later one of the first publications blocked by the regime.

As a columnist for *The Washington Post* and a regular contributor to numerous publications such as *The New York Times*, *BBC World*, *Aljazeera*, *Vice News*, *El País*, and *Revista Gatopardo*, Jiménez Enoa has exposed gross human rights violations committed by the Cuban regime.

Following his coverage of the 2021 anti-government protests, Jiménez Enoa was confronted with an impossible choice by the Cuban regime. He could either leave the country immediately or stay forever and face imprisonment and the persecution of his family. He fled for Spain with his family soon after.

In exile, Jiménez Enoa published *La Isla Oculta: Historias de Cuba* (translation: *The Hidden Island: Stories of Cuba*), a compilation of his articles on the real Cuba. Highlighting the regime's violent and undemocratic rule, the book highlights the continued plight of the ordinary Cuban in face of totalitarianism.

Jiménez Enoa has earned international recognition for his work, winning the International Press Freedom Award from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Michael Jacobs Scholarship Grant from the Gabo Foundation among other distinctions.

Source: Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy

# CLAUDIA CALVIÑO

Claudia is a prolific independent film producer from Cuba.

She holds a degree in Film production from Havana's Instituto Superior de Arte, and later on she pursued further studies at the San Antonio de los Baños Film School and EAVE producer's academy.

Since 2005 Calviño has been working as an independent producer in Cuba, first as a partner of "Producciones de la 5ta Avenida" and later on as co-founder of "Cacha Films" together with Carlos Lechuga.

Her credits as a producer and executive producer include an impressive slate of titles such as the global hit "Juan de los muertos" (Juan of the Dead, 2011) and all 3 of Carlos Lechuga's multi-awarded features: "Melaza" (2013), "Santa y Andrés" (2016) and "Vicenta B" (2022). In 2018 she co-produced the films "Yuli", by celebrated Spanish director Icíar Bollaín, and Arturo Infante's "El viaje extraordinario de Celeste García". She was also the co-producer of "A media voz" (2019), by Patricia Pérez and Heidi Hassan, which won IDFA's top award. In 2023 she produced "La Mujer Salvaje", debut film of Cuban director Alán González, which premiered at Toronto International Film Festival and co-produced "Oceans are the real continents" by Tommaso Santambrogio which premiered at Venice's Giornate degli Autori.

She currently lives with her husband and little son in Barcelona, where she works at The Mediapro Studio.

ISLA FAMILIA is her debut film as director.





# CLAUDIA CALVIÑO'S FILMOGRAPHY

- 2006. Cuca y el pollo (short) — producer
- 2010. Los bañistas (short) —
- 2010. El accidente (short) —
- 2011. Habana muda — executive producer
- 2011. Operation Peter Pan: Flying Back to Cuba — producer
- 2011. Comité 666 (short) — producer
- 2011. Juan de los muertos — executive producer
- 2012. Melaza — producer
- 2014. Hotel Nueva isla — co-producer
- 2014. The cut — line producer
- 2014. The ABC of death — executive producer segment E
- 2016. Santa y Andrés — executive producer — producer
- 2017. Buena Vista Social Club: Adios — line producer
- 2017. Candelaria — producer
- 2018. El viaje extraordinario de Celeste García — producer
- 2019. Yuli — co-producer
- 2019. Los amantes (short) — producer
- 2019. A media voz — co-producer
- 2022. Vicenta B — producer
- 2023. Los océanos son los verdaderos continentes — co-producer
- 2023. La mujer salvaje — executive producer — producer
- 2023. En la caliente: tales of a reggaeton warrior — executive producer
- 2024. Isla Familia — director — writer — executive producer — producer







# ISLA FAMILIA: FESTIVALS & AWARDS

World Premiere. Official Selection. DOCNYC. 2024

World Sales:  
**Habanero**

Marina Porto Búzios  
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil  
[www.habanerofilmsales.com](http://www.habanerofilmsales.com)

Alfredo Calvino  
[acalvino@habanerofilmsales.com](mailto:acalvino@habanerofilmsales.com)

+55 22 999.728481

Patricia Martin

+55 22 999.439657

[patriciamartin@habanerofilmsales.com](mailto:patriciamartin@habanerofilmsales.com)