



‘CASTRO’S DAUGHTER’

A Film by the Oscar winning filmmaker of *Crash* and *Million Dollar Baby*: Bobby Moresco
Original Screenplay by Bobby Moresco & Pulitzer Prize Winner: Nilo Cruz

Based on the life of Fidel Castro’s daughter, Alina Fernandez

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

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CASTRO'S DAUGHTER

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CASTRO'S DAUGHTER

About the production

Academy Award winner Bobby Moresco embarks on the journey to tell the riveting true-life story of Fidel Castro's exiled daughter, Alina Fernandez.

Fernandez was the result of a love affair Castro had prior to taking power in Cuba, and grew up in the shadows of her father and the Revolution. As a child, Fernandez recalls Castro secretly visiting her home during the odd hours of the night; and at the age of ten, she finally learned the truth: that the man who would bring her gifts, and who she had seen on television giving speeches for hours on end, was her father.

Growing up Fernandez realized her position in Cuban society, and as she matured recognized her personal differences with her father and his form of government. Eventually, after conditions began to decline, Fernandez began speaking out against Castro and the Revolution--and became a dissident forbidden to leave Cuba. In 1993, after several failed attempts, her international escape made headlines around the world when she fled the island on an airplane disguised as a Spanish tourist.

Bobby Moresco (*Crash*, *Million Dollar Baby*) will be producing, directing and co-writing with Nilo Cruz, a Cuban American who was the first Hispanic to win the Pulitzer Prize for drama.

The film is set against a larger story, and takes a historical glance through the eyes of the daughter of one of the most influential, longest standing communist leaders the world has known.

ABOUT ALINA FERNANDEZ – CASTRO’S DAUGHTER

CASTRO'S DAUGHTER

Alina Fernandez – Castro's Daughter



Photo by Esther Haven

Alina Fernandez was born on March 3, 1956. Fernandez's mother, Naty Revuelta, is said to have had an influence on the Revolution—as she maintained written communication with Castro during his imprisonment for his first failed attempt at overthrowing Fulgencio Batista in 1953. Revuelta was a highly attractive Cuban socialite, and was a die-hard believer in Fidel Castro as a revolutionary. After Castro was released from prison and rose to power, Fernandez's mother was married and had a family--which didn't stop Castro from regularly visiting their home late at night. Fernandez's mother is also said to have sold some of her expensive jewelry to help purchase guns for Castro's army. As time went on, Castro discontinued his relationship with Revuelta—while maintaining his father/daughter relationship with Fernandez.

After years of expressing her personal differences, from relationships to politics, Fernandez began to speak out against her father and the Revolution after conditions began to decline, and eventually became one of Castro's biggest critics in a country where freedom of speech is forbidden.

Although never jailed, Fernandez made several failed attempts at escaping Cuba. Her punishment instead was her being deemed a dissident forbidden to leave the island.

CASTRO'S DAUGHTER

Alina Fernandez – Castro's Daughter

In 1993, Fernandez devised a fool-proof escape plan, and with help from the international community, successfully fled Cuba disguised as a Spanish tourist—leaving behind her family, her career as a model and public relations director at a fashion company, and more importantly: her daughter. A year later Fidel permitted his granddaughter to join Fernandez in the U.S.

Today Fernandez is known around the globe as one of Castro's most outspoken relatives, and is frequently called upon to hold lectures in front of large audiences on subjects related to Cuba. She now lives in the U.S., and is at home in Miami, where she lives in exile. Besides her role as a public speaker, Fernandez is also a news commentator, and hosts a nighttime radio talk show *Simplimente Alina*, or *Simply Alina*, which is based on US-Cuban politics.

THE OSCAR WINNING FILMMAKER

CASTRO'S DAUGHTER

About Bobby Moresco



Photo by Esther Haven

Bobby Moresco is co-writing, producing and directing the film.

Moresco is known for creating both moving and award-winning films, and is also known for delivering blockbuster success. He co-wrote and produced *Crash*, for which he won an Oscar for best screenplay—the film also took two additional Oscars for: Best Motion Picture and Best Editing. Soon after, he co-produced *Million Dollar Baby*, which took 4 Oscars for: Best Motion Picture, Best Performance by an Actor in a Lead and Supporting Role, and Best Directing. His two winners also took 91 additional awards.

Moresco's proven ability coupled with the story's mass market appeal creates the potential for a highly successful film, which comes with a pre-established awareness in nearly every foreign film market around the world.

CASTRO'S DAUGHTER

Bobby Moresco-Awards

In addition to his Oscar for Best Screenplay for *Crash*, Moresco has won numerous other awards. Below is a list including some of his other awards.

Type	Award
1 BAFTA	Best Screenplay
2 Black Film	Outstanding Motion Picture
3 Critics Choice	Best Writer
4 CFCA	Best Screenplay
5 Humanitas Prize	Feature Film Category
6 Independent Spirit Award	Best First Picture
7 ALFS	Screenwriter of the Year
8 SEFCA	Best Screenplay - Original
9 WAFCA	Best Screenplay - Original
10 WGA	Best Original Screenplay

THE PULITZER PRIZE WINNING CO-WRITER

CASTRO'S DAUGHTER

About Nilo Cruz



Photo by Esther Haven

Nilo Cruz is a Cuban-American, award-winning playwright. Born in Cuba in 1961, Cruz arrived to the U.S. on a freedom flight his parents took in 1970. His family settled in to the Little Havana area of Miami.

Cruz began studying the arts in the early 80's, and earned his MFA in 1994 from Brown University—he later taught drama at Brown, Yale, and the University of Iowa. In 2003, Cruz became the first Latino to win the Pulitzer Prize for drama for his play *Anna and the Tropics*—the play also took that year's Steinberg Award. A year later his winner landed a premiere on Broadway with Jimmy Smits (*Star Wars*, *The Jane Austen Book Club*) starring as the lead actor.

Cruz's works are widely produced throughout the U.S. His personal connection to the story, and his Pulitzer powered ability, will add greatly to the success of the film.

THE MUSIC SUPERVISOR AND SOUNDTRACK PRODUCER

CASTRO'S DAUGHTER

About David Franco



Photo property of New Conservatory of Music

David Franco, an internationally renowned Music Supervisor and Producer, has been tapped to supervise music and package/produce the soundtrack for *Castro's Daughter*.

Franco began his career working as Director of International Production for multinational record labels such as Columbia, RCA, Warner-Elektra-Atlantic. Franco, who speaks five different languages, has worked on over 150 feature films, television movies and miniseries during the span of his career; included in his works are 50 soundtrack albums. Franco frequently consults to major film production companies and studios in the U.S., and around the world.

Franco has worked with a variety of producers and directors including acclaimed filmmakers Oliver Stone, Steven Spielberg, Wes Craven, Ted Turner and Sean Penn. Some of his most notable projects include *Ghost*, *Platoon*, *Nightmare on Elm Street*, and TNT's *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*. His most recent project, *Into the Wild*, received two Golden Globe nominations in 2007.

In addition to his vast experience in music production around the world, Franco works closely with acclaimed and up and coming film composers, recording artists, music publishers and record labels, as well as world-renowned orchestras and recording studios.

ABOUT ARTISTS RELATIONS GROUP – PRODUCTION COMPANY

CASTRO'S DAUGHTER

About Artists Relations Group



Photo by Esther Haven



Photo by Esther Haven

Story rights for the film were acquired and are managed through Artists Relations Group (ARG); the company has steered the project from concept to obtaining seed financing, to assembling the writer team—and will continue to drive the project through development and lead casting, and through production and distribution.

ARG, headed by producers John Martinez and Noel Tristan, is an Austin, Texas-based company with a multitasked focus on development, lead casting, PR, marketing and film production.

Martinez originally worked as an operations manager and consultant at an entertainment law firm for three years, and comes with extensive experience in Hollywood agency consulting, and comes with experience in directly negotiating literary and talent contracts. His close relationship with Alina Fernandez began in 2005, and eventually led to their connection with the film.

Tristan, a former pro-tennis player, comes with extensive business and real estate investment experience, and produced *The Sno Cone Stand Inc.*, starring Tony Sirico (*The Sopranos*) and Morgan Fairchild (*Fashion House, Falcon Crest*), where he and Martinez met and immediately formed a working relationship—which led to the co-founding of ARG, and the acquiring of the rights to Fernandez's story.

CASTRO'S DAUGHTER

Worldwide PR

The story's initial press release landed stories in *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Variety* and *The Miami Herald*, and went on to get picked up in headlines around the world, and in virtually every language—including newspapers such as *Corriere della Sera*, which has 6 million copies distributed from Italy and throughout Latin America.

Fernandez is also directly involved in the project as a story consultant and with media relations. Her involvement alone has helped take the project to an awareness level unparalleled; and will ensure that the project will continue to gain more momentum as development continues.

Besides the story's strong ability to gain the interest of reporters and columnists around the world, there are several television shows that have expressed interest in having Fernandez, as well as the to-be-announced lead actress, on their show.

Look out for more news on the story and for updates on the website as developments continue.