

# World Premier Film at the 2005 Queens International Film Festival PRINT

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*Looking For Cuba by Roberto Monticello and Jim Ryerson*

The revolutionary new film Looking for Cuba featuring Cuban dissident and film director Roberto Monticello will be premiering world-wide at the 2005 Queens International Film Festival directly following the ribbon-cutting ceremony on the Festival's opening night, November 17th.

In his new, groundbreaking documentary, Looking for Cuba, Jim Ryerson takes us where few U.S. citizens can venture, illustrating the impact of the U.S. embargo on Cuba's people. As a dissident in Cuba, Mr. Monticello was imprisoned by the state but later escaped and made his way to freedom in the States. After meeting director Jim Ryerson, their vision for Looking for Cuba crystallized and the film was born. Recognizing that the U.S. embargo mostly effects Cuba's vast poor population, the filmmakers traveled there to document human suffering on the ground and raise world-wide awareness to their plight. Conditions in Cuba have gotten worse as the embargo has gained strength under the current Bush administration, this development urged the filmmakers and their cameras to Washington D.C. with a further mission: to lobby Congress for the lifting of the embargo and to document his efforts. Looking for Cuba is a rare look into the inner workings of the political bodies embattled over the U.S. / Cuban embargo and the devastation of ordinary Cuban citizens caught up in this war of ideas.

Check out the 2005 Queens International Film Festival ([www.queensfilmfestival.com](http://www.queensfilmfestival.com)) for the thought provoking films that are making a difference the world over.

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