

**SARGASSO**  
— 2012-13, I & II

**CUBA GLOBAL / GLOBAL CUBA  
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE 21ST CENTURY**

**SARGASSO 2012-2013, I & II**  
**Cuba Global/Global Cuba**

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# INDEPENDENT CUBAN FILMMAKING FROM 2003-2013: ARAM VIDAL'S TRAJECTORY WITHIN AND BEYOND CUBA AN INTERVIEW<sup>\*+</sup>

Michelle Leigh Farrell  
Fairfield University

## Abstract

This interview explores the exceptional body of work of Cuban filmmaker Aram Vidal, as well as that of his generation of *nuevos realizadores*, a cadre of filmmakers under the age of thirty-five who exhibit at an annual independent Cuban film showcase. Our conversation discusses the ways this generation has created a space for alternative, inexpensive, easy-to-distribute and thought-provoking films, as well as how Cuba's complex relationship with film continues to change, particularly as the nation reconsiders the centralized role of the Instituto Cubano de Artes e Industria Cinematográficas (ICAIC; Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry) for the first time since its creation fifty years ago. From both within and beyond the island, Vidal and his peers debate and reflect on their daily lives, futures, and fictional narratives through filmmaking that gains increasing visibility in a technological landscape, dialoguing both among themselves as well as with a global audience.

**Keywords:** Aram Vidal, Cuban cinema, ICAIC, Latin American filmmaking

## Resumen

Esta entrevista explora el trabajo excepcional del cineasta cubano Aram Vidal así como el trabajo de la generación al que pertenece de los nuevos realizadores, un grupo de cineastas menores de treinta y cinco años que exhiben en una exposición anual de cine cubano independiente. Nuestra conversación discute las formas en que esta generación ha creado un espacio

\* Interview submitted on July 15, 2013, accepted on July 30, 2013.

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