

PRESS KIT

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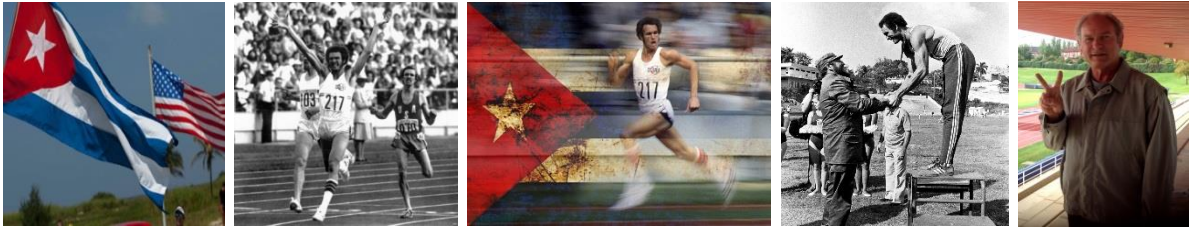
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RUNNING FOR THE REVOLUTION



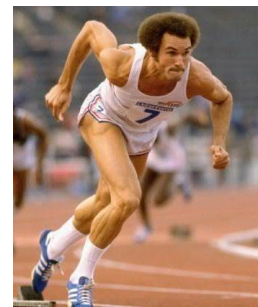
A feature documentary – Running time: 81 mins
(56 mins TV version available)

SYNOPSIS

Running for the Revolution is the story of Cuba's greatest Olympic track & field athlete Alberto Juantorena. His double gold medal success at the Montreal Games catapulted him onto the world stage during a time of turbulent politics and social change and made him an international sporting icon – much to the delight of Cuba's controversial leader Fidel Castro.

Juantorena shares his remarkable personal journey through a cauldron of sport and politics. We re-live his epic on-track battle with US Olympian Fred Newhouse, a man born in poverty in a segregated America, but who saw the 400m gold medal as his destiny. And we see the thrilling 800m duel with ace Kenyan runner Mike Boit who, along with other African nations, sacrificed his Olympic dream by standing up to apartheid in a boycott of the 1976 Olympics.

Granting unique access, Juantorena gives fresh insight into his fascinating country, its Revolution, and its complex and uneasy relationship with America. Along the way he is reunited in Cuba with former US rival Fred Newhouse - and forges a surprisingly close bond.



Production Team:

Mark Craig – Director / Producer

Mark started out as a graphic designer at the BBC and Channel 4 before moving into indie documentaries in 1998. Since then he has directed and produced a diverse slate of films, several with sporting subjects. His trilogy of British motor-racing biographies (Jackie Stewart / Graham Hill / Jim Clark) received an RTS nomination and a FOCAL award for best use of archive footage, whilst his 2007 short film *Talk to Me* won a Grierson Award. His most recent film is the critically-acclaimed, multi-award winning feature documentary *The Last Man on the Moon*.

Keith Haviland – Executive Producer

After leading technology services for Accenture on a global basis, Keith moved into film production in 2014. He has produced several notable documentaries including Emmy-nominated *Chasing the Moon*, *The Last Man on the Moon*, *Dying Laughing*, *Mission Control: The Unsung Heroes of Apollo*, *Spitfire*, and *Armstrong*. He has several new documentary & dramatic projects in development and production.

Daniel Gordon – Co-Producer

Daniel Gordon is best known for his recent double BAFTA-winning film *HILLSBOROUGH*. He also notably produced & directed a trio of acclaimed documentaries set in Nth Korea: *THE GAME OF THEIR LIVES*, *A STATE OF MIND* & *CROSSING THE LINE*. Since then, Daniel has produced & directed several feature documentaries that tell the human story behind achievement in sport: *9.79** about the infamous race won by drug cheat Ben Johnson, and *THE FALL*, about the rivalry and personal stories of track Olympians Mary Decker and Zola Budd.

Roberto Chile – Director of Photography

Arguably the most renowned documentarian in Cuba, 'Chile' has participated in more than one hundred documentaries and feature films, most of them related to political, social and cultural development of his country. As well as working with numerous international filmmakers and journalists, he has accompanied the Cuban Revolution leader Fidel Castro in more than 50 trips abroad, as well as numerous activities within the country for 25 years.

Sound Recordist: Javier Figueiroa

Editor: Simon Brooks

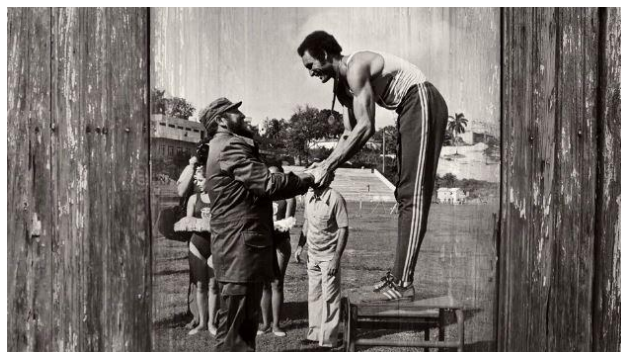
Original Music: Pip Greasley & Cohimbre

Animation: Penny Holton

Online Editor: Simon Brooks

Sound Mixing: Nick Adams

Colourist: Gabriel Xavier





Mark Craig – Director / Producer

FULL BIOGRAPHY

Mark was born and raised in Singapore. After studying graphic design at De Montfort University, he began his career as a graphic designer at the BBC before moving to Channel 4 where he designed title sequences, channel idents and other motion graphics content. One of his Channel 4 idents won a Promax award. He moved into directing in 1998.

Since then, he has directed and produced a diverse slate of documentary films, several with sporting subjects. His trilogy of British motor-racing biographies (*Jackie Stewart / Graham Hill / Jim Clark*) received an RTS nomination and a FOCAL award for best use of archive footage, whilst his 2007 short film *Talk to Me* won a Grierson Award. His most recent film is the critically acclaimed, award winning feature documentary *The Last Man on the Moon* about the life of Apollo astronaut Gene Cernan.

He is currently in development with several new documentary and creative film projects - and is currently co-writing a feature film script. He also directs music promos and brand films and is a regular guest speaker and lecturer at a number of UK universities and astronomy clubs.

He is a keen runner, hillwalker and scuba diver and also plays the drums.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

As a teenager I remember watching Alberto Juantorena explode onto the sporting scene at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. He was fast. He was enigmatic. He was poetry in motion. He made me want to find out more about Cuba.

I was too young to understand the complex history and politics of his country at the time, but I could sense that something deep inside his soul was fuelling his burning desire to win, much more than was typical of a top-level runner. So what was it that drove the man known as 'El Caballo' (The Horse)?

We first met in 2014. I made my first filming trip to Cuba in 2015, just as John Kerry was reopening the US Embassy for the first time in 54 years - no small thing given the troubled relationship between these two nations. And so began my journey into the world of Alberto Juantorena... understanding the man behind the myth, and learning of his unique story.

His story is deeply entwined with the story of Cuba during the era of Fidel Castro, and inevitably, its relationship with the USA. Running for the Revolution is the documentary film of that story...

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Director / Producer: *'Running for the Revolution'* (81 mins)

Cuba's greatest Olympian, Alberto Juantorena, reflects on his life and his country's turbulent relationship with America. Sales: Outlook Films.

Director / Co-Producer: *'The Last Man on the Moon'*.

A theatrical feature documentary on Apollo astronaut Eugene Cernan (95mins)

Winner 2015 Audience Award, Newport Beach Film Festival; Winner 2015 Student Jury Award InScience Film Festival, Netherlands: Winner Best Director, Boulder International Film Festival, 2016 Winner, Best Documentary, AARP Film Awards; Winner, 2016 Houston Film Critics Awards

Director / Producer / Camera / Narrator: *'English Roses'*

Observational doc on the hugely physical & emotional sport of women's rugby, focusing on the England squad in their attempt to win the World Cup.

Director / Producer: *"Jim Clark – The Quiet Champion"*

1-hour film on the enigmatic Scottish sheep farmer who, in his day, became the greatest racing driver of all time, before being tragically killed at a minor event

Nominated 2010 Focal Archive awards (Best use of Sports Footage)

Director / Producer / Narrator: *"Junk Mail Britain"*

24min primetime documentary on a personal 5-year collection of leaflets and flyers, through which emerges a vivid portrait of a rapidly changing Britain

Director / Producer: *"Graham Hill – Driven"*

1-hour character piece on a popular yet complex national hero - the only man ever to win the Formula 1 World Championship, Indy 500 & Le Mans titles

Winner 2009 Focal Archive awards (Best use of Sports Footage)

Director / Producer: *'Ball & Chain'* - short documentary

A former rock musician turned taxi driver takes us on a ride through his home city and his life, reflecting on events & changes that have forced him to face reality.

Winner 2012 Edge of the City Film Festival (Best Editing)

Director / Producer: *"Talk to Me"* - short documentary

Short doc comprised of real answer machine messages recorded over 20 years.

Winner 2007 Grierson Awards (innovation in documentary) / Special mention Toronto Hotdocs.

Director / Producer: *"Jackie Stewart – The Flying Scot"*

90min feature documentary on a Formula 1 racing legend

Nominated 2002 Royal Television Society Awards (Best Sports Documentary).

Director: *"Jaguar - The Big Cats"*

50min history of the famous motor racing marque

Shooting Director / Prod: *"Iwan Thomas - Second is Nowhere"* - BBC Wales

48min observational piece filmed over 4 years, following the highs & lows of an athletics champion

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Film Title (English):	Running for the Revolution
Film Title (Original Languages): English & Spanish	Running for the Revolution AND Corriendo por la Revolución
Country(ies) of Production:	UK, Cuba
Year of Production / Month of completion:	September 2020
Running Time	English version: 81min / 56min Spanish version: 80min / TBC
Original framerate	25fps / Progressive
Original aspect ratio	16:9
Original Language(s):	English & Spanish
Subtitles:	Yes, burnt-in on both versions (English & Spanish)
Original format:	HDProRes Quicktime
Other available formats:	H264 + DCP + BluRay
Available audio tracks:	Broadcast Stereo mix, with festival screenings in mind. To EBU R128 spec + M&E mix
With Narration? (yes,no)	There is no v/o or conventional narration
M&E tracks available	Yes
Other available languages	Spanish version: Fully mastered, 80 min.

SELECTION OF SCREENSHOTS

INTERVIEW with MARK CRAIG by MARIBEL ACOSTA / Cuba Periodistas

1) Why did you want to make documentary about Juantorena?

I became aware of him as a teenager. At that time I also dreamed of running in the Olympics, but instead I found myself running out of talent! I always enjoyed watching the sport of athletics and was lucky enough to see Juantorena compete in Europe a year after his great success in Montreal. There was something really special and enigmatic about him. His presence on the sporting arena opened the doors to Cuba for me, since I knew very little before. Over the years I became more interested in the country and its history and culture, and then when I became a documentary filmmaker about 20 years ago, I had the idea of making a film there. For me, the best stories often focus on one character set against an interesting context of larger events. And Juantorena seemed to have good potential for this. It was a journey into the unknown, but I was ready for a new film-making adventure. I emailed him and we met at a training camp in Spain to discuss possibilities.

2. When did filming start? How did you approach it? Who else was in the production team?

My first trip to Havana was in August 2015, mainly to connect with Juantorena; see and understand his world; meet his family, to learn. Also to begin building a relationship with the local film crew that included Director of Photography Roberto Chile, sound recordist Javier Figueroa, and our 'fixer' Susana Rios-Moore. All are among the top level of film people in Cuba. We didn't do much filming on that first trip, just 2 days, including 1 day with our theme, as it was mostly a recce. But by complete coincidence, it was when John Kerry reopened the United States Embassy after 54 years, a historic occasion, and so we captured some of that. I always wanted some historical / political context for Juantorena's story, otherwise it would only be one-dimensional. My feeling was that if you are an outside filmmaker and you are going to tell the story of a man like him, you also have to really understand the country that created him. And to understand Cuba, it is necessary to understand its relationship with the United States, because that is an aspect that permeates everything, past and present. I knew enough about Juantorena's sports career to know that there would be good sporting drama, but we also needed to explore the more personal side of him, in addition to the historical and political subtext.

I returned the following year (2016) for the second filming trip, and this time I was lucky enough to capture the annual Workers' Parade on May 1st. And then the next day, the highly emotional occasion of the first tourist cruise ship from the United States to arrive in Havana in more than 50 years. Another important milestone. Those were the days when Fidel was still alive, Barack Obama was United States president, and there were high hopes in Cuba for a positive change ... Then Donald Trump came to power and things changed...

3. When a filmmaker tells a story, they often discover unexpected things along the way ... how about you?

*I think the main thing I learned during my 4 filming trips to Cuba was simply a deeper appreciation of the 'Cuban way'. The culture, the history, the strong spirit of the people and their friendly manner. I was also happy to visit other parts of Cuba, such as Santa Clara, Trinidad and of course Santiago de Cuba, which plays an important role in the story of Juantorena. Between filming days, I learned everything I could at museums and art galleries, and also from just watching. I was always asking our DoP Roberto Chile and Juantorena himself many questions! One of the first things he told me when we met was that I should 'go with the flow'. In other words, don't make any filming plan too rigid. So I didn't. If he was doing something as apart of his normal routine, we would follow him - to his office, to the auto repair shop, or to pick up his son from school. Normal things. And then there were times when I searched through Juantorena's personal photo archive and interviewed other people in his life: his wife, his sister, his friends. All of these were important building blocks in building the whole story. The complete picture of man. But going back to your original question, one of the things that I really began to understand was just how influential and significant a figure Fidel Castro was. I don't think I've been to any other country in the world where there was this feeling of respect among the population for a leader. Whatever people in the west may think of him, he made Cuba what it is today, and created the conditions that produced Juantorena. So I decided to call the movie **Running for the Revolution**. Because in truth, he was. And when, during filming, Fidel Castro passed away, it really hit him hard.*

4. What impression has Cuba left on you?

Cuba is one of those places that the more you learn, the more you realise that there is even more still to learn. It is like an onion with many, many layers. I look forward to the next time I can visit and just be a tourist, not work, but enjoy a slower pace of life and see many other parts of the island. I have seen many documentaries about the place and I am glad to have produced one as well. I hope the film is well received and is a real and honest portrait of an important figure in Cuba in a very interesting moment in time. Interest in Cuba seems to be strong in other countries. I can see why. It is a unique and special place, but it faces some real challenges.

5. How do you see the health of documentary making in the world today?

Documentary making is today probably at the strongest level it has ever been. Stories are arriving from all over the world, and from many more diverse voices. As long as they are made with integrity and not just for throwaway entertainment, I think they are vitally important in helping human beings understand each other better. We really need to at this moment in time. Media technology has allowed filming to be done by a wider range of filmmakers, and content to be viewed much more easily and reached more people. And, of course, film festivals play an important role in bringing these stories to the big screen. In many ways it is becoming increasingly difficult to find financing, because there are more of us making films, but at the end of the day that helps drive up the quality, and we have to find other ways to find money and then shoot stories in a creatively original way to make our films stand out. I am lucky to be doing what I do. Filming has taken me to many countries and I have experienced a lot of real life in all its forms. I only started making movies in my mid-30s, and I'm still hungry to make more.

6. What projects are you currently working on? And into the future ...

*I am developing several new ideas at the same time. You never know which one will come to life first. There is a historical space story; another about a famous Irish singer, another about two women bikers and, in the background, an animated feature film that I am co-writing. Too many films, not enough time! But *Running for the Revolution* will continue to occupy my mind for at least another 6 months as we approach the Tokyo Olympics. I hope they can still take place. It's been an extraordinarily challenging time for everyone as we continue to battle against Covid, and those normal human activities such as sport, films and music can help people get through it. I hope that *Running for the Revolution* can play a small part in that process too.*

CONTACTS

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