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Elena: A Story of Poverty, Uncertainty, and Hope- Film Screening with Director Marcelo Martin

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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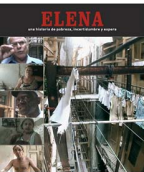
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Cuban Research Institute



Elena: **A Story of Poverty, Uncertainty, and Hope** Film Screening with Director Marcelo Martín

Friday, October 7, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Graham Center 150

In 1988, the Cuban government decided to demolish the bathrooms and kitchens of an apartment building named "Elena," located in Central Havana. The residents are still waiting for the government to repair the structure, built in 1927. The deplorable living conditions have led to the anguish, despair, and social degradation of those still trapped inside the building. Fearing an imminent crumbling down of their homes and without options or resources, the residents have adapted to coexisting with misery, like the inhabitants of thousands of other housing structures with similar conditions throughout today's Havana.

The documentary *Elena* follows and interviews several residents of the building over a period of three years. It was filmed with a MiniDV camera by Marcelo Martín. The 43-minute documentary is one of the most compelling testimonies of Havana's housing collapse. A panel discussion, including the director, will follow the film's screening.

Marcelo Martín is a Cuban filmmaker and screenwriter, now living in Miami. With over 13 years of experience in the film industry, he has produced 26 documentary films and advertising productions. His documentary films *Elena* (2012), *A ultranza* (*At All Costs*, 2010), *Séptima estación* (*Seventh Station*, 2009), and *Molegnia* (2006), amongst others, have been showcased in several film festivals. His most recent film, *The Train on the Northern Railway* (2015), has received documentary film awards and was shown at the Coral Gables Art Cinema to sell-out audiences.

This event, to be conducted in Spanish, is free and open to the public. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please call (305) 348-1991 or write cri@fiu.edu.



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