

# 1950s Havana recreated for The Lost City



photograph **The Lost City**, a labor of love that he has dreamed about making for 16 years. "As we approached pre-production, I realized that with the extreme budgetary and schedule constraints I was under, I needed a cinematographer not only with artistry to recreate the tapestry and light of Havana circa 1958-59, but also with enormous speed and efficiency, without sacrificing photographic excellence," says Garcia. "After my extraordinary experience of working with Emmanuel Kadosh on the film **Modigliani**, I knew Manu was such a man.

"I have been fortunate in my career to have worked with some of the world's greatest cinematographers," says Garcia. "These include Gordon Willis, ASC, Conrad Hall, ASC, David Watkin, BSC, John Alonzo, ASC, Stephen Burum, ASC, and most recently Steven Soderbergh. I rank maestro Kadosh immediately in that company. I entrusted my dream to the right man."

**The Lost City** is an independent feature film in which a Havana nightclub owner is caught between the oppressive, American-supported regime of Fulgencio Batista and the Marxist revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro. Eventually the nightclub owner flees to New York City. Garcia co-produced, directed and acted in the film, which was photographed in the Dominican Republic.

"It was important to Andy that the light communicated the atmosphere of Cuba," says Kadosh. "There is the strong heat outside, and when you're inside you feel that bright light coming through the windows. The film required a very high contrast between the exteriors and the interiors. Shooting in the Dominican Republic in July also means hurricanes, clear sky, haze, heavy rain, all on the same day and every day.

"I can use Kodak Vision 500T 5279 film in any situation from a bright sunny day to candle light, and I love it. It produces beautiful whites and excellent blacks. Andy calls my approach 'freestyle.' I just light the set and let the actors act, moving in the space without limitations and join them with the camera handheld. It makes the shoot lighter, faster and more enjoyable."

Kadosh and Garcia wanted to portray 1950s Cuba with dark, shadowy interiors and glaringly bright exteriors. Kadosh also had kudos for the excellent support the production received from Kodak and the local distributor Trio Trading. Rosa Gold of Trio often hand-carried film to difficult locations and helped smooth the way with airlines, X-ray machines and customs officials. In one emergency situation, a plane was chartered to deliver last-minute film to Santo Domingo. "The Kodak and Trio people were in constant touch with us," says Kadosh. "They were very supportive, and with us every step of the way."

Kadosh is currently in London filming **Land of the Blind** with director Robert Edwards. ■

**Above:** Andy Garcia on location for *The Lost City*.

**Main Picture:** DP Emmanuel Kadosh on location shooting *The Lost City*.

Andy Garcia met Emmanuel Kadosh in Romania when the actor collaborated with the cinematographer on **Modigliani**, the 2004 film chronicling the painter's rivalry with Pablo Picasso and his tragic love affair with Jeanne Hébuterne. (See *In Camera* October 2003 issue for an article of the filming of this production)

The Hollywood Reporter said of Kadosh's work on that film: "... (He) unveils scene after scene of rare cinematic beauty. He creates sharp contrasts between the whites and the blacks, creating tableaux almost like early tintypes. He bathes dreamlike sequences in color tints that capture the sensuality of those long ago days."

Garcia, who starred in the film as Modigliani, asked Kadosh to

