

As one of the people interested in *Improper Conduct*, I would like to make the following comments on the article by B. Ruby Rich:

Ruby Rich is right. It is no accident that *Improper Conduct* had to wait until 1984 to be made. People like her—knee-jerk Stalinists when it comes to Castro's sacrosanct regime—have successfully prevented Cuban exiled intellectuals from being heard until now. That only the bombs of exasperated Cuban extremists have been heard by the Left in this country is a tribute to the efficacy of people like Rich and of the Castro public relations machinery.

Rich, who has lately become a zealous pro-Castro media crusader, hints at some sort

of right-wing conspiracy behind the making of the film. She has even gone so far as to say elsewhere that gay Cuban intellectuals were either bought or blackmailed by the CIA into defaming Castro.

There's no hidden agenda here, no conspiracy. *Improper Conduct* was made because co-directors Orlando Jimenez-Leal and Nestor Almendros were willing to risk their reputations by tackling an extremely unpopular subject. And because there was a Socialist government in France whose state-subsidized television was willing to produce the film, something none of the American producers or funding sources originally approached wanted to do.

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