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SCREEN

INTERNATIONAL CANNES

Barroco

Un Certain Regard

PAUL LEDUC'S *Barroco* is one of the most unusual and international of the films screening in any of the official sections of the Festival.

A Spanish television (TVE)/Cuban Film Board (ICAIC) co-production, with a Mexican director, it boasts a Spanish/Cuban cast which, in the course of the film, travels from Mexico, through Cuba and the Caribbean to Europe.

In keeping with its international flavour, *Barroco* has no dialogue, only music, though it is based on Cuban novelist Alejo Carpentier's *Concierto Barroco*.

Carpentier's works explore the radical difference between Europe and Latin America, which Carpentier says is characterised by a "magic realism" unique to the sub-continent. That magic realism runs through Leduc's *Barroco*.

Born in Mexico in 1942, Leduc studied architecture and theatre and, at the beginning of the 1960s, worked as a film critic there before moving to Paris. Then, in 1967, he returned to Mexico to produce 17 documentaries for the Olympic Committee.

Indeed, most of Leduc's early directorial experience was with documentaries, his first feature being the well-received *Frida*, which reconstructed the life and works of the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

Barroco is one of the first tangible results of the growing number of co-production treaties signed between Spain and the Spanish-speaking nations of Latin America.

"Spain is a natural bridge from Europe to Latin America," says Antonio Pozuoco, who was head of external production at TVE under Pilar Miro.

"We would like to combine European financial potential with Latin American talent."

Chris Pickard

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