

## FILM INFORMATION

### CUBA'S FORGOTTEN JEWELS

#### a Haven in Havana

Directed by Robin Truesdale and Judy Kreith

#### Worldwide Distribution

The National Center for Jewish Film

Waltham, MA, USA

[jewishfilm.org](http://jewishfilm.org)

781.736.8600

Attention: Lisa Rivo, NCJF Co-Director

[lisarivo@brandeis.edu](mailto:lisarivo@brandeis.edu)

**Length:** 46-minutes

**Shooting format:** HD1080 24p

**Screening formats:**

DCP

Blu-Ray

Quicktime (Pro-Res)

DVD (NTSC)

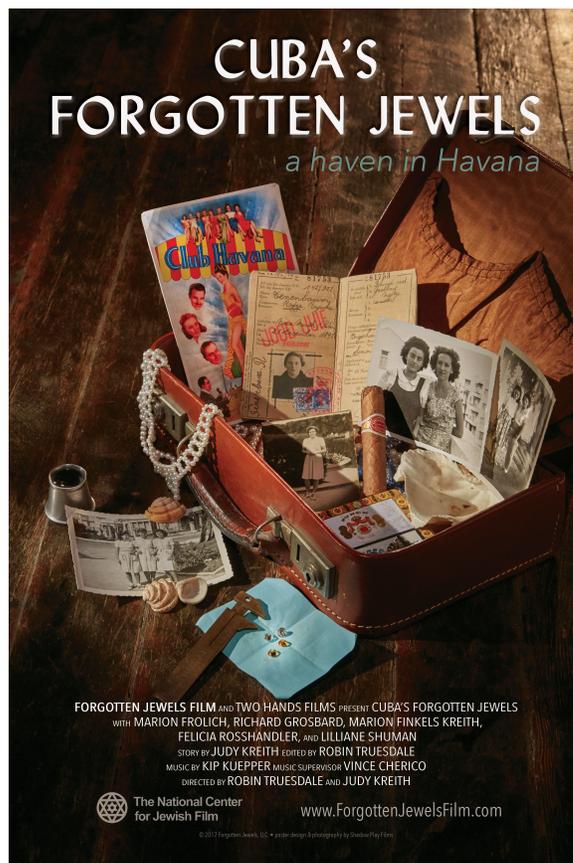
**Filming Locations:** Colorado, New York City, Havana

**Fiscal Sponsor:** National Center for Jewish Film

**Official Site:** <http://forgottenjewelsfilm.com/>

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/ForgottenJewels/?fref=ts>



*"Cuba's Forgotten Jewels" was born of the tales about Cuba that Marion Kreith told her daughter (co-director Judy Kreith) over the years. Marion escaped war torn Europe as a young girl with her family, evading Nazi capture and crossing the Atlantic to a tropical paradise. Her story mingles with the personal accounts of other refugees who recall their escape to Havana and life in an exotic and unfamiliar land. With a stunning musical score of Jewish melodies and the pulsating music of Havana, the film merges the realities of two vastly different yet intermingled cultures, bringing this colorful and uplifting piece of history to light.*

#### Synopsis:

Marion Kreith was fourteen when she and her family fled Nazi-occupied Europe and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to safety in Cuba. Refugees who made it to Havana, including young Marion, found work to support themselves and their families in a newly transported trade: diamond polishing. Firsthand survivor accounts take us back to 1940s Havana – an era at once tumultuous, heartbreaking, and intoxicating – to reveal an immigration success story.

**Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/223236604>

**About the Directors:**

**Robin Truesdale** Co-Director, Co-Producer, Cinematographer, Editor, Writer.

With her experience as an independent filmmaker, Ms. Truesdale guides the production and contributes her creative expertise. She is the founder of Two Hands Films. She has directed, produced, and edited films that have screened at festivals and conferences worldwide, including *A Beautiful Equation: Einstein, Bohr and Grandmothers*, a 2015 Platinum Remi Award winner. Robin began her career as a news editor for a Denver television station. After years of constructing news and educational stories through video, she was introduced to documentary film's powerful potential to communicate deeper stories about people, cultures, and issues of the times. Her work deals primarily with social justice, cultural, and humanitarian issues. Robin received her MS Degree in Journalism from the University of Colorado. <http://robintruesdale.com/>

Robin's Film awards: *A Beautiful Equation* - Best International Film, Sunrise FF, Nova Scotia 2015 Platinum Remi, Houston Worldfest 2015; *Conviction* - Must See Award, Telluride Mountainfilm 2006 People's Choice, Frozen River FF 2007

**Judy Kreith** Co-Director, Co- Producer, Researcher, Writer.

Ms. Kreith is a professional dance educator and choreographer. She received her MA Degree from Stanford University. Her mother, Marion Finkels Kreith, is the key inspiration for this film. Judy has extensively studied Cuban dance and while in Cuba, began research into the Jewish refugees' diamond polishing industry that flourished in Havana during the Second World War, working on-site with Cuban historians. Judy contributes her extensive research and knowledge, along with her personal connection and passion for this project and its potential impact. She has spoken on this topic to many groups, including a recent conference at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. <http://jakdance.com/>

**Music Team:**

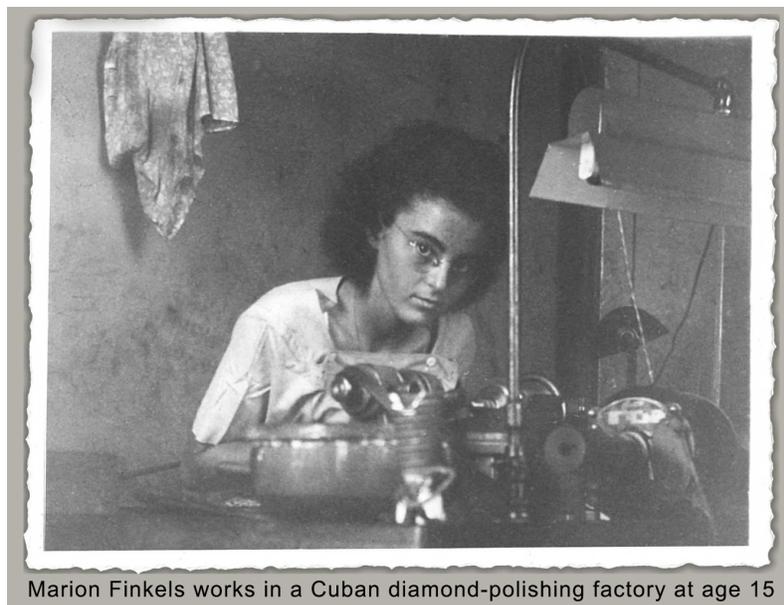
Vince Cherico is the Music Supervisor. As a four-time Grammy winner and accomplished drummer, he contributes an extensive understanding of both classical and Cuban compositions and has a professional understanding of music performance and licensing. <http://www.vincecherico.com/>

Kip Kuepper is the Composer for the original score. Kip is a Grammy-nominated musician and founding partner of Coupe Studios Music, Inc. He is a Composer and Sound Designer for film and television. <http://coupestudios.com/crew/kip-kuepper/>

**Cast:**

Marion Frolich  
Richard Grosbard  
Marion Finkels Kreith

Felicia Rosshandler  
Lilliane Shuman  
William Safran



Marion Finkels works in a Cuban diamond-polishing factory at age 15