

## Chico and Rita

Spanish 2010

**Directed by**  
Fernando Trueba  
Javier Mariscal  
Tono Errando

**Written by**  
Fernando Trueba  
Ignacio Martínez de Pisón

**Editor**  
Arnau Quiles

**Music**  
Bebo Valdés

**Cast**  
*Chico (singing)*  
Bebo Valdés  
*Chico (speaking)*  
Eman Xor Oña

*Rita (singing)*  
Idania Valdés

*Rita (speaking)*  
Limara Meneses

94 minutes Subtitles

There is so much superb, diverse animation being produced that we try to include at least one film from the genre each season. Tonight's choice offers a mesmerizingly detailed evocation of a particular time and place.

The drawing is magnificent, with ravishing, detailed cityscapes of Havana, New York & Las Vegas. Swaying, snake-hipped Latin music from Bebo Valdés, Tito Puente and others reinforces the languid, sensual mood. It's also refreshing to see sexuality portrayed so candidly and nonchalantly in animation: the handsome young couple's love-making scenes are delicious.

*Sukhdev Sandhu, Daily Telegraph*

CGI and 3D are now the default settings for animation, but Trueba has gone against the grain to create *Chico & Rita*, a charmingly old-fashioned hand-drawn animated movie.

*Jason Best, Movie Talk*

Jazz fans would be well-advised to check it out, cos this film gives you some serious horn. As it will if you're a fan of sexy cartoon ladies. Ahem.

*Robbie Collin, News of the World*

The animation is highly stylised, with more emphasis on shadow and light and the movement and rhythm of the characters than on intimate detailing. However, this impressionistic style suits the ever-present, free-wheeling jazz soundtrack composed by Cuban musical legend Bebo Valdés, and while the story is as old as the hills, its simplicity allows the atmosphere and events of the period to shine through. There's good use of colour to suggest place, from the hot tones of Cuba to the cold, grey streets of snowy New York and the neon bright glitz of Las Vegas, and there's plenty of colour in terms of background story, too, including comments regarding the segregation of blacks and whites in both America and Cuba and changes brought about by the revolution. As with Sylvain Chomet's *The Illusionist*, there is a real sense of place being evoked - although, here the devil isn't in the detail, but in the broad brush strokes suggesting vibrancy and life. Perhaps a slightly difficult sell, since this is most certainly for adults, not children - sex scenes abound and they are surprisingly sultry and sexy - *Chico & Rita* has visual and musical charms that make it well worth a look.

*Amber Wilkinson, Eye for Film*

Our next screening...

**Nanjing! Nanjing! (Chi)**

Tue 15 Nov 2011

Dir: Chuan Lu

Historical drama about the 'Rape of Nanking' from the director of *Kekexilli*.

