



**thirteen**  
WNET NEW YORK

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## press information

AS THE FATE OF FIDEL'S CUBA HANGS IN THE BALANCE, *WIDE ANGLE* STEPS INTO THE RING AT THE HAVANA BOXING ACADEMY, WHERE REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS DRIVE OLYMPIC DREAMS

A Foreign Film Crew Is Granted Access To Famed Cuban Institution For The First Time Ever

*Victory Is Your Duty* Premieres Tuesday, July 10 At 9 P.M. As *WIDE ANGLE* Continues Its Sixth Season On PBS

Boxing has held a special place of honor in Cuban society since the Revolution. In the past seven Olympic Games the tiny island nation with a population of 11 million people has dominated the sport of boxing: 32 medals, 26 gold. Now, as Castro's faltering health has thrown the future into question, a foreign film crew has been granted access for the first time ever to one of the state's legendary institutions—the Havana Boxing Academy.

Through richly-drawn character portraits of the academy's students and coaches, *WIDE ANGLE* reports from inside Cuba at a crucial time of transition. *Victory is Your Duty* premieres Tuesday, July 10 at 9 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings).

In *Victory Is Your Duty*, *WIDE ANGLE* gains intimate access to the Havana Boxing Academy on the outskirts of Cuba's capital. There, from the tender age of nine, boys hand-picked as future Olympians are molded into soldiers of the ring. They live and train at the Academy with a single purpose: to bring home Olympic Gold.

*Victory Is Your Duty* follows the boys' dramatic path over eight months of training, schooling and boarding as they build up to the biggest event of their lives—the annual National Boxing Championships. At this charged event, the teams will be judged not only on their athletic



proWess, but on their team chants and other displays of their revolutionary fervor. Although the boys are treated as prize-fighters, there are constant reminders that they are still very much children. Losing a bout sparks tantrums, homesickness takes hold after lights-out, and playground tears are common. Through vivid, beautifully filmic sequences, the film captures a rare glimpse of modern Cuba. And by sharing in the lives of the young men being groomed as standard bearers of the Revolution, the film reveals the Academy as a microcosm of Cuban society. The boys, it becomes clear, fight for Cuba, for Castro. Victory is not just their hope. It is their duty.

Director Andrew Lang has produced and directed several films in Cuba and Chile, including *Do(n) Mayor* – an intimate portrait of a Cuban lute maker and his son – and *The Gringo Diaries*, in which British students uncover the horrors of Chile’s past. Producer Mandy Chang has been making documentaries for nearly a decade. Her film on architect Antoni Gaudí won a Grierson award for Best Arts Documentary and was short-listed for an International Emmy for outstanding achievement in arts programming.

After the film, *WIDE ANGLE* anchor Daljit Dhaliwal will interview Dr. Andy Gomez, Senior Fellow at the University of Miami’s Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American studies, to discuss the post-Fidel era and the future of US-Cuban relations.

For additional information and photography, visit [thirteen.org/pressroom/wideangle](http://thirteen.org/pressroom/wideangle) or [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom).

Major funding for *WIDE ANGLE* is provided by PBS, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Bernard and Irene Schwartz, Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Foundation, The Jacob Burns Foundation, Josh and Judy Weston, Rosalind P. Walter, and The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation.

*WIDE ANGLE* is a production of Thirteen/WNET New York for PBS. Stephen Segaller

is executive producer. Pamela Hogan is series producer. Andy Halper is senior producer.

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Thirteen/WNET New York is one of the key program providers for public television, bringing such acclaimed series as *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *Charlie Rose*, *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly*, *Wide Angle*, *Secrets of the Dead*, *NOW With David Brancaccio*, and *Cyberchase* - as well as the work of Bill Moyers - to audiences nationwide. As the flagship public broadcaster in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metro area, Thirteen reaches millions of viewers each week, airing the best of American public television along with its own local productions such as The Ethnic Heritage Specials, The Thirteen Walking Tours, *New York Voices*, and *Reel New York*. Thirteen extends the impact of its television productions through educational and community outreach projects - including the Celebration of Teaching and Learning - as well as Web sites and other digital media platforms. More information can be found at: [www.thirteen.org](http://www.thirteen.org).

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