



Locarno Film Festival
Official Selection



**ONDE FICA ESTA RUA? OU
SEM ANTES NEM DEPOIS**

WHERE IS THIS STREET? OR WITH NO BEFORE AND AFTER

A FILM BY
**JOÃO PEDRO RODRIGUES
JOÃO RUI GUERRA DA MATA**

TERRATREME FILMES, HOUSE ON FIRE AND FILMES FANTASMA

present

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WHERE IS THIS STREET or WITH NO BEFORE AND AFTER

a film by

JOÃO PEDRO RODRIGUES
JOÃO RUI GUERRA DA MATA

with

ISABEL RUTH

cinematography

RUI POÇAS aip
LISA PERSSON

sound and mix

NUNO CARVALHO

editing

MARIANA GAIVÃO

music

SÉVERINE BALLON

songs

ISABEL RUTH

art history research

RITA GOMES FERRÃO

executive producers

JOÃO GUSMÃO
FRED BELLAÏCHE

production

TERRATREME FILMES (PT)
HOUSE ON FIRE (FR)
FILMES FANTASMA (PT)

producers

JOÃO MATOS
VINCENT WANG
JOÃO PEDRO RODRIGUES

directed by

JOÃO PEDRO RODRIGUES
JOÃO RUI GUERRA DA MATA

with the support of

ICA - INSTITUTO DO CINEMA E DO
AUDIOVISUAL
REPÚBLICA PORTUGUESA -
MINISTÉRIO DA CULTURA
GARANTIR CULTURA
CÂMARA MUNICIPAL DE LISBOA
LISBON FILM COMISSION
JUNTA DE FREGUESIA DE ALVALADE
IMAGE/MOUVEMENT DU CENTRE
NATIONAL DES ARTS PLASTIQUES
PROCIREP-ANGOA
RTP2
ARTE FRANCE - LA LUCARNE

DCP (16 MM COLOR / B&W)
88' | 1.66:1 | 2022

SYNOPSIS

From our window one can see a set of the film “The Green Years”, directed by Paulo Rocha in 1963. This was our starting point: guided by Rocha’s gaze, we look back at the places of that film. The successive geological, urbanistic and social strata of Lisbon, besieged by the pandemic that interrupted the shooting, are drawn out in front of our camera, like a contemporary jazz improvisation from a score written in 1963.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Our cinema has always alternated between fiction and documentary - from the more documentary 1997/1999 diptych, directed by João Pedro, to "Red Dawn" (2011), "The King's Body" (2013) and "Ilec Long" (2014), to films like "The Last Time I Saw Macau" (2012), "Morning of Saint Anthony's Day" (2012), or "Mahjong" (2013), in which fiction merges with documentary and vice versa. We believe that all our films, even the most "purely fictional", are also documentary in genre - "O Fantasma" (2000), directed by João Pedro, or "As the Flames Rose" (2012), directed by João Rui, are also cartographies of the city of Lisbon, physical and emotional documentaries of the places we have filmed, many of which have disappeared or changed over the years, as the city transformed.

This theme of transformation and metamorphosis, as a transformative driver of things, characters and desire, shaped most of the films that we have made, between feature films and short films (we have always been interested in alternating formats and genres). This physical metamorphosis in a literal sense, but also in a social and ultimately political sense, has reached a paroxysm in João Pedro's feature, "The Ornithologist" (2016), where he takes the place of the main actor during its climax.

"Look, could you please tell me WHERE IS THIS STREET?" is the first sentence said by the main character Júlio, played by Rui Gomes in the film "The Green Years" by Paulo Rocha (1963), when he arrives at the Rossio train station in Lisbon, from the country.

The title WHERE IS THIS STREET? or WITH NO BEFORE AND AFTER echoes Abbas Kiarostami's classic "Where Is the Friend's House?" (1987). The disarming simplicity of Kiarostami's film resounds in our film, which goes back to the city of Lisbon filmed by Paulo Rocha in the early 1960s in order to portray contemporary Lisbon. How is the city now, plagued by globalization and gentrification? These words have recently forced their way into our lexicon, as violent as their effects. How can we look now at the places of Rocha's modern city - a faithful and sensitive portrait of the changes to the social, urban and experiential fabric of Lisbon, which suddenly reinvented all Portuguese cinema - without nostalgia or false romanticism? The double title of our film also echoes a line of "The Green Years" title song, WITH NO BEFORE AND AFTER.

From the window of our apartment in Lisbon, one can see a location of Rocha's film, practically the same perspective from which Rocha filmed it almost 60 years ago. This was the starting point of our new film: from our window, we looked again at "The Green Years", guided by Paulo Rocha's gaze, to places that are now irremediably different. We return to the theme of metamorphosis that has clearly never left us: what flesh do the ghosts of the 1960s wear today?

Our relationship with Paulo Rocha's cinema began many years ago as spectators - the first time we saw "The Green Years". João Pedro remembers that he immediately recognized the buildings and vacant lots, near which he had always lived. Rocha was João Pedro's teacher at the Lisbon Theatre and Film School, a decisive encounter in his life and training, and they remained friends until Rocha's death. João Pedro paid tribute to his teacher in the short film "Allegoria della Prudenza" (commissioned for the 70th anniversary of the Venice Film Festival), filming the two tombs of Mizoguchi (one of Rocha's favourite filmmakers), in Tokyo and Kyoto, along with the urn containing Rocha's ashes, kept in the family vault at the Ovar cemetery. João Pedro worked with Jorge Silva Melo on a catalogue on Paulo Rocha, published by the Cinemateca Portuguesa in 1996, during the celebrations of the Centenary of Cinema. But it was João Pedro's first film, "O Fantasma",

set in the Alvalade neighborhood where we live (the same neighborhood where Paulo Rocha lived and where he filmed "The Green Years"), that made this filiation clear.

We started shooting in 16 mm in October 2019. Since we were drawing on Rocha's film, it made no sense for us to shoot in any other medium but analog. Another shooting phase was scheduled for May and June 2020, which ended up being postponed again and again due to the pandemic. In the end, we filmed new ways and rules of living in society brought on by the pandemic: masks were emerging, social distancing was pushing people away, the endless noise of ambulances, police cars, firefighters... After the last period of filming, in October 2021, one thing became evident: emptying the locations of "The Green Years" of fiction and actors, without knowing it, we had made a film that strangely foreshadowed what would become our reality. Strolling through the empty streets of Lisbon during the state of emergency we found images similar to those we had filmed before the SARS-CoV-2 virus was even heard of! Although it was not originally our intention, the deeper nature of our film changed - a new metamorphosis - following the vortex that upended all our lives. May this film also serve to reflect on this new reality and its unpredictable consequences.

João Pedro Rodrigues and João Rui Guerra da Mata

PRODUÇÃO ANTONIO DA CUNHA TELLES

"OS VERDES ANOS"

MATOS SILVA

REAL: PAULO ROCHA



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

João Pedro Rodrigues is an internationally renowned Portuguese filmmaker. He always travels with his binoculars, to foray into nature and watch birds.

João Rui Guerra da Mata was born in Mozambique and spent his formative years in Macao. He has been working in film since 1995.

Since 2007 they have co-directed several films.



FILMOGRAPHY

2022

Fogo-fátuo *Will-o'-the-Wisp*

Phillyrea latifolia Linnaeus, 1753 - pour Sylvie Pras

co-dir. João Rui Guerra da Mata

20' de vídeo - 20º Aniversário DocLisboa

20 Seconds of Video - 20º Anniversary DocLisboa

2021

Um Quarto na Cidade *A Room in Town*

co-dir. João Rui Guerra da Mata

2020

Turdus merula Linnaeus, 1758

Nude Descending a Staircase, 2020

2019

Potemkin Steps

2017

Où en êtes-vous, João Pedro Rodrigues ?

Where Do You Stand Now, João Pedro Rodrigues?

2016

O Ornítologo *The Ornithologist*

2014**Iec Long** - co-dir. João Rui Guerra da Mata**2013****O Corpo de Afonso** *The King's Body***2013****Mahjong** - co-dir. João Rui Guerra da Mata**2013****Allegoria della Prudenza****2012****A Última vez que vi Macau** *The Last Time I Saw Macao*

co-dir. João Rui Guerra da Mata

Manhã de Santo António *Morning of Saint Anthony's Day***O Que Arde Cura** *As the Flames Rose*

dir. João Rui Guerra da Mata

2011**Alvorada Vermelha** *Red Dawn*

co-dir. João Rui Guerra da Mata

2009**Morrer como um homem** *To Die Like a Man***Spot QueerLisboa 13****2008****Camouflage Self-Portrait****2007****China, China** - co-dir. João Rui Guerra da Mata**2005****Odete** *Two Drifters***2000 O Fantasma****1997-1999****Esta é a minha casa / Viagem à Expo***This Is My Home / Journey to the Expo***1997****Parabéns!** *Happy Birthday!***1988****O Pastor** *The Shepard*

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