

RUI CARLOS



Portugal, 2025, FIC, DCP, Colour, 14'45"

Stereo, 16:9

Director: Margarida Paias

Producer: Diogo Salgado, Gonçalo Pina, [BRAVADO FILMES](#)

Producer: Margarida Paias

Script: Margarida Paias

Editing: Diogo Vale

Photography: Bruno Reis Oliveira

Sound: Vicente Molder

Main Actors: David Peixeiro, Daniel Carvalho, João Lopes, Diogo Caeiro, Afonso Morgado, Henrique Yankov, Salvador Emiliano, Santiago Pimenta, Tomás Cardoso, Tomás Morgado

Original Language: Portuguese

Subtitles: English

Synopsis: In the mid-1980s, during a summer day, Rui Carlos and his friends Maranau and Tomané enjoy their free time in the neighborhood, between football matches and playful games. Rui Carlos repairs his worn-out shoes and heads out to borrow a valuable football from their neighbor, Dona Olinda, who daily entrusts it to him. As the teams are chosen and the game begins, typical neighborhood interruptions ensue: a visit from Mascote the dog, a break for lunch, and spontaneous games. But when the ball gets punctured, Rui Carlos is left to face responsibility and the realities of growing up.

[| film data |](#)



Margarida Paias

Margarida Paias (b. 2000, Almada). She graduated in Editing from the Lisbon Theatre and Film School (ESTC). During her studies, she worked mainly in the fields of directing, art direction and editing. Since then, she has worked in art and costume, most notably as art director and costume designer on the following films: "Under the Mountains' Shadow" (Diogo Salgado, 2025); "La Durmiente" (Maria Inês Gonçalves, 2025); "Afternoon Sun" (Gonçalo Pina, 2020); "Infinity River" (Gonçalo Pina) and "The Days of Small Things" (Catarina Campos), to be premiered. In the theater, she was responsible for the set and costume design for "The Journey of Kolka Pankin and Petra Erchov Who Couldn't Believe Anything", "Zaca, Zaca" and "Constantino, An Animal of Tales". As an actress, she has acted in films by directors such as Susana Nobre, Inês Lima and Pedro Ramalhete. She has published a book of poetry "For the Death of a Swallow". "Rui Carlos" is her first short film as a director.

Filmography:

2025 [RUI CARLOS](#)

Portugal, 2025, FIC, DCP, Colour, 14'45"

Festival Selections

2026 Leiria Film Fest, Portugal

2026 IndieLisboa - Festival Internacional de Cinema Independente, Portugal

2026 Porto Femme - Festival Internacional de Cinema, Portugal

2026 Filmfest Dresden - Open air, Germany

2026 Prémios Curtas, Portugal

- 2026 Batalha Centro de Cinema - Oficina de Realização: Cinema ao Virar da Esquina, Portugal
- 2026 Cinequest Film & VR Festival, USA
- 2026 Play - Lisbon's International Kids Film Festival, Portugal
- 2026 Internacional Film Festival Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2026 IndieJúnior Allianz Porto, Portugal
- 2025 Entre Olhares - Festival de Cinema Português, Portugal
- 2025 (Porto Femme) Telas na Rua – Bonfim , Portugal
- 2025 Curtas Vila do Conde International Film Festival, Portugal

© 2026 Curtas Metragens, CRL