ALTAS CIDADES DE OSSADAS (HIGH CITIES OF BONE)



Portugal, 2017, DOC, FIC, DCP, Colour, 19'
5.1, 1:1.85

Director: João Salaviza
Producer: Pedro Pinho, TERRATREME FILMES
Script: Renée Nader Messora, Carlos Furtado Gomes "Karlon", João Salaviza
Editing: Edgar Feldman, João Salaviza
Photography: Vasco Viana
Sound: Rafael Cardoso
Music: Karlon
Main Actors: Karlon
Subtitles: Spanish, French, English, Portuguese
Synopsis: Karlon, born in Pedreira dos Húngaros (a slum in the outskirts of Lisbon) and a pioneer of Cape Verdean creole rap, runs away from the housing project to which he had been relocated. Nights of vigil are spent under a sweltering tropical heat. Among the sugarcanes, a whisper is heard. Karlon hasn't stopped singing. "High Cities of Bone" is a probing and imaginative exploration of Karlon's memories, the institutional siege, and the submerged stories from a dark time.

| film data |



João Salaviza

Lisbon, 1984. João Salaviza studied at the Escola Superior de Teatro e Cinema in Lisbon and at Universidad del Cine in Buenos Aires. In 2008, he worked as an assistant editor to Manoel de Oliveira on ECCENTRICITIES OF A BLONDE-HAIRED GIRL. He made his directorial debut with ARENA in 2009. The film received the Palme d'Or for Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival, a unique achievement in Portuguese cinema. In 2012, he premiered RAFA at the Berlin Film Festival, where it won the Golden Bear for Best Short Film. That same year, the Rotterdam Film Festival premiered his short CERRO NEGRO. MOUNTAIN, João Salaviza's first feature film, had a celebrated world premiere at the Venice Film Festival – Critics' Week in 2015. The film also marked the beginning of his artistic collaboration with Renée Nader Messora, who worked as assistant director. In 2017 and 2018, João Salaviza and Renée Nader Messora premiered two short films together in the Official Competition of the Berlin Film Festival: HIGH CITIES OF BONES, written by Renée Nader Messora, who also wrote, produced and was director of photography on RUSSA. In 2018, the duo co-directed THE DEAD AND THE OTHERS, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival – Un Certain Regard, where it won the Special Jury Prize, presided over by Benicio del Toro. Following its success in Cannes, the film was selected for and received awards at dozens of international festivals, followed by theatrical releases in several countries. In France, the film was seen by 45,000 cinema-goers. Spanning three historical periods of the Krahô people's resistance, THE BURITI FLOWER is the duo's most recent film, marking a memorable return to the Cannes Film Festival in 2023, where they were once again awarded by the Jury of the Un Certain Regard section. The film was subsequently selected for more than one hundred international festivals and received twenty-five awards, with wide theatrical distribution in several countries. Its success attracted the interest of several television networks and streaming services, including Netflix and HBO, which screened the film. In 2024, Batalha Centro de Cinema published Passages, the first monographic book dedicated to the filmography of the directing duo.

Filmography:

2018 RUSSA

Portugal, Brazil, 2018, DOC, FIC, Blu-Ray Disc (BD), DCP, HD, Colour, 19'57"

2017 ALTAS CIDADES DE OSSADAS

Portugal, 2017, DOC, FIC, DCP, Colour, 19'

Portugal, 2011, DOC, EXP, HD, B&W, 7'16"

2004 **DUAS PESSOAS**

Portugal, 2004, FIC, 16mm, Colour, 9'

2023 **THE BURITI FLOWER**

FIC, 123'

2018 **THE DEAD AND THE OTHERS**

FIC, 114'

2015 **MONTANHA**

FIC, 90'

2012 **RAFA**

FIC, 20'

2012 **CERRO NEGRO**

FIC, 22'

2009 **ARENA**

FIC, 15'

2004 **DUAS PESSOAS**

FIC, 9'

Festival Selections

2026 Goethe Institut of Lisbon, Portugal

2026 Shanghai International Film Festival , China

2026 Regards Satellites Film Festival, France

2025 Interfilm, Internationales Kurzfilmfestival Berlin, Germany

2025 Festival de Cinema em Cerveira, Portugal

2024 Mostra Vida Justa, Portugal

2023 Festival Zones Portuaires // Saint Nazaire, France

2023 (A)mostra de cinema português - Estremoz, Portugal

2023 Projecto Royal Cine, Portugal

2022 Mostra de Cinema Negro de Sao Paulo, Brazil

2021 VAIVEM - Argentina - FOCO TERRATREME, Argentina

2020 A casa e mais além - Fundação José Saramago, Portugal

2020 Slow Short FF - Mini Online Festival, United Kingdom

2020 Stuttgarter Filmwinter - Festival for Expanded Media, Germany

2019 Ciclo de Cinema - Cidades e Culturas Urbanas, Portugal

2019 Agência 20 anos - DocLisboa, Portugal

2019 Festival Latino-americano de Curtas Metragens Cortópolis, Argentina

2019 Family Film Project, Portugal

2019 Bilbao Arte, Spain

2019 Hypnos Theatre, Sweden

2019 Festival Primavera do Cine, Spain

2019 Medeia Monumental - João Salaviza, Portugal

2019 Special Session Terratreme, Portugal

2018 Mostra de Cinema Português na Feira Internacional do Livro de Guadalajara, Mexico

2018 FIKE International Short Film Festival, Portugal

2018 Zagreb Film Festival, Croatia

2018 Extensão Doclisboa - Macau, Macau

2018 YMOTION - Concurso e Mostra de Cinema Jovem de Famalicão, Portugal

2018 Festival de Cine La Orquídea , Ecuador

2018 Spanish Cinematheque - Zinebi, Spain

2018 Slow Short Film Festival, United Kingdom

2018 Tabor Film Festival, Croatia

2018 Kino Otok Izola Cinema International Film Festival, Slovenia

2018 Festival de Cine y Televisión Reino de León, Spain
2018 Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente de Cosquín Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente de Cosquin, Argentina
2018 Mostra - Sesc Palladium, Brazil
2018 CES - Centro de Estudos Sociais, Portugal
2018 Córtex - Festival de Curtas Metragens de Sintra, Portugal
2018 Festival de Cinema Luso-Brasileiro de Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal
2018 Academia Portuguesa de Cinema - Gala de Prémios Sophia, Portugal
2018 Akbank Short Film Festival, Turkey
2018 Festival Les Inattendus, France
2017 FICA - Aguilar del Campo, Spain
2017 Berlinale Spotlight: India, India
2017 Festival Internacional de Curtas de Verin, Spain
2017 Caminhos do Cinema Português, Portugal
2017 Ekadeshma International Short Film Festival, Nepal
2017 International Festival of Documentary and Short Films of Bilbao, Spain
2017 International Film Festival Bratislava, Slovakia
2017 PANORAMA Internacional Coisa de Cinema, Brazil
2017 Uppsala International Short Film Festival, Sweden
2017 DocLisboa - Lisbon International Documentary Film Festival, Portugal
2017 Berlinale Spotlight: Hong Kong, Hong Kong
2017 Berlinale Spotlight: Shanghai, China
2017 Curt'Arruda - Festival de Cinema de Arruda dos Vinhos, Portugal
2017 Berlinale Spotlight: Macau, Macau
2017 CineEco - Festival Internacional de Cinema Ecológico da Serra da Estrela, Portugal
2017 International Independent Film Festival of La Plata, Argentina
2017 Chicago International Film Festival, USA
2017 KUGOMA - Forum de Cinema, Mozambique
2017 Há Filmes na Baixa! - Setembro, Portugal
2017 BALINALE - Bali International Film Festival, Indonesia
2017 Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, United Kingdom
2017 Berlinale Spotlight: Iraq, Iraq
2017 ARKIPEL Documentary and Experimental Film Festival, Indonesia
2017 Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival, Brazil
2017 Guanajuato International Film Festival Expresión en Corto, Mexico
2017 Curtas Vila do Conde International Film Festival, Portugal
2017 LIMA Independiente Festival Internacional de Cine, Peru
2017 NexT International Film Festival, Romania
2017 BUSAN International Film Festival, Korea
2017 Belgrade Documentary and Short Film Festival, Serbia
2017 Tampere Film Fest, Finland
2017 Berlinale - Berlin International Film Festival, Germany

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