RUSSA



Portugal, Brazil, 2018, DOC, FIC, Blu-Ray Disc (BD), DCP, HD, Colour, 19'57" Stereo, 16:9

Director: João Salaviza, Ricardo Alves Jr.
Producer: Renée Nader Messora, MATERIAL BRUTO
Producer: Ricardo Alves Jr., Thiago Macêdo Correia, ENTRE FILMES
Producer: João Salaviza, Renée Nader Messora, KARÕ FILMES
Script: João Salaviza, Ricardo Alves Jr., Renée Nader Messora, Germano Melo
Editing: João Salaviza, Ricardo Alves Jr.
Photography: Renée Nader Messora
Sound: Léo Bortolin
Main Actors: Helena Campos, Maria Antonieta, Alberto Moreira
Original Language: Portuguese
Subtitles: Spanish, French, English, Italian, Portuguese
Synopsis: Russa returns to Bairro do Aleixo in Porto, visiting her sister and friends with whom she celebrates her son's birthday. In this brief reunion, Russa returns to the collective memory of her neighbourhood where three of the five towers still remain standing.

| 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'

2011 STROKKUR

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

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

2024 **THE BIRTHFLOWER**

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'



Ricardo Alves Jr.

retrospective of his short films took place at the Cinémathèque Française, in 2013. In 2016, he released his first feature, Elon Doesn't Believe in Death, which was contemplated by the Hubert Bals Fund for Script and Project Development in 2012. The film was selected for some of the most important Brazilian film festivals, such as: Festival de Brasília do Cinema Brasileiro (Best Actor Award); Panorama Coisa de Cinema (Best Film Award – Award IndieLisboa); and Semana dos Realizadores in Rio de Janeiro (Jury award). Its international premiere was at the Macao Film Festival & Awards, in China, where it won the Best Artistic Contribution Award. The film had its European premiere at the 2017 International Film Festival Rotterdam, in the Bright Future session. The Ibero-American premiere was in the competition section of the Cartagena Festival, in Colombia. It was also exhibited at IndieLisboa, in Portugal; FICUNAM, in Mexico; and BAFICI, in Argentina.

Ricardo Alves Jr. was born in Belo Horizonte in 1982. He is a Brazilian screenwriter, filmmaker and theater director. His works were screened and awarded in several international festivals such as Cannes Critic's Week, Rotterdam, Locarno, Oberhausen, Brasília, Gramado, Lisboa, Rio de Janeiro (BD), Portugal, Brazil, 2018, DOC, FIC, Bla-Bla-Bla, DCP, HD, Color, 14'57"

Filmography

2018 **RUSSIA**

2016 **ELON DOESN'T BELIEVE IN DEATH**
Fic, 75'

2013 **TREMOR**
Fic, 14'

2010 **PERMANÊNCIAS**
Doc, 34'

2007 **INVITATION TO DINE WITH COMRADE STALIN**
Fic, 10'

2006 **RAW MATERIAL**
16'

Festival Selections

2026 Shanghai International Film Festival , China

2026 Royal_Cine - Salão Nobre d'A Voz do Operário, Portugal

2025 Arquitetura FF - Bairro do Aleixo, Portugal

2024 "Foutez nous la paix" Festival, France

2024 Résistances Festival de Films et Débats, France

2024 2°Forum dos Portugueses de Suíça - Comemoração do 50° aniversário do 25 Abril 1974, Switzerland

2023 Festival de Finos Filmes, Brazil

2022 Sessão de Curtas LAVRAR O MAR, Portugal

2022 Ciclo CInema Leiria, Portugal

2021 Sessão Moskino Museon, Russia

2021 Cineclube de Faro - Setembro, Portugal

2021 Programa de Cinema iniciativa CDU de São Vicente, Portugal

2020 Frames Portuguese Film Festival, Sweden

2020 CINE À RODA, Portugal

2020 Stuttgarter Filmwinter - Festival for Expanded Media, Germany

2019 Passaggi d'Autore - Mediterranean Short Film Festival, Italy

2019 Agência 20 anos - Porto/Post/Doc, Portugal

2019 Slow Short Film Festival, United Kingdom

2019 Festival Latino-americano de Curtas Metragens Cortópolis, Argentina

2019 Semana da Cultura Portuguesa - Arménia, Armenia

2019 Bilbao Arte, Spain

2019 Semana do Cinema Português em Zhukovski, Russia

2019 Shorts Mexico - International Short Film Festival, Mexico

2019 Concorto Film Festival, Italy

2019 MDOC - Melgaço International Documentary Film Festival, Portugal
2019 Manlleu Film Festival, Spain
2019 Cinema Jove International Film Festival, Spain
2019 Semana do Cinema Português na Rússia - Junho, Russia
2019 Arquiteturas Film Festival Lisboa, Portugal
2019 Festival de Cinema Ibero-Americano, Russia
2019 Festival de Cine y Televisión Reino de León, Spain
2019 Mostra de Cinema - DESOBEDOC, Portugal
2019 Festival de Cinema Luso-brasileiro de Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal
2019 Córtex - Festival de Curtas Metragens de Sintra, Portugal
2019 Festival de Cinema Português - Rússia, Russia
2019 Academia Portuguesa de Cinema - Gala de Prémios Sophia, Portugal
2019 Short Waves Festival, Poland
2019 Glasgow Short Film Festival, United Kingdom
2019 IBAFF - Festival Internacional de Cine, Spain
2019 Shortcutz Vila Real - February, Portugal
2019 Mostra de Cinema de Tiradentes, Brazil
2019 Stuttgarter Filmwinter - Festival for Expanded Media, Germany
2018 Centre Phi - Canada, Canada
2018 Festival de Cinema Português - Rússia, Russia
2018 Berlinale Spotlight: India, India
2018 Caminhos do Cinema Português, Portugal
2018 FIKE International Short Film Festival, Portugal
2018 PANORAMA Internacional Coisa de Cinema, Brazil
2018 International Festival of Documentary and Short Films of Bilbao, Spain
2018 Medfilm Festival, Italy
2018 VISTACURTA - Festival de Curtas de Viseu, Portugal
2018 Uppsala International Short Film Festival, Sweden
2018 Montpellier International Festival of Mediterranean Film, France
2018 Festival de Cine La Orquídea , Ecuador
2018 Urbanism Futurism Reality - Berlin, Germany
2018 Casa das Artes Famalicão - Outubro, Portugal
2018 Curt'Arruda - Festival de Cinema de Arruda dos Vinhos, Portugal
2018 CineMigrante - Festival Internacional de Cine y Formación en derechos humanos de las personas migrantes, Argentina
2018 Monstra - Festa do Avante, Portugal
2018 São Paulo International Short Film Festival, Brazil
2018 As Noites de Boris - Cineclube do Porto, Portugal
2018 Makedox - Creative Documentary Film Festival, Republic of Macedonia
2018 Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival, Brazil
2018 kinemastik International Short Film Festival, Malta
2018 Guanajuato International Film Festival Expresión en Corto, Mexico
2018 Macao International Documentary Film Festival, Macau
2018 Curtas Vila do Conde International Film Festival, Portugal
2018 EcoPorto, Portugal
2018 Hamburg International Short Film Festival, Germany
2018 IndieLisboa - Festival Internacional de Cinema Independente, Portugal
2018 Berlinale - Berlin International Film Festival, Germany

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