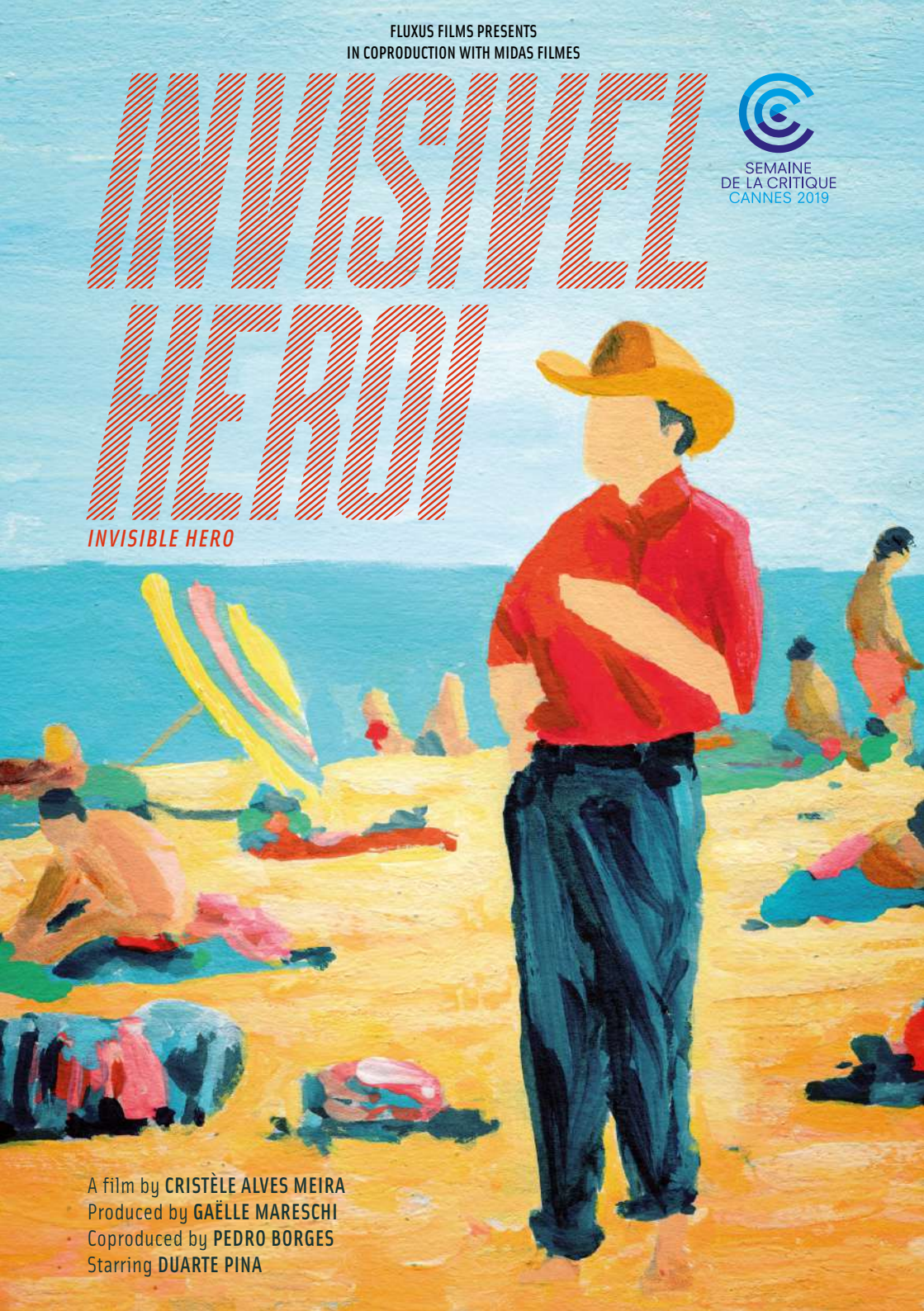
FLUXUS FILMS PRESENTS
IN COPRODUCTION WITH MIDAS FILMES

INVISIVEL HERÓI

INVISIBLE HERO

SEMAINE
DE LA CRITIQUE
CANNES 2019



A film by **CRISTÈLE ALVES MEIRA**
Produced by **GAËLLE MARESCHI**
Coproduced by **PEDRO BORGES**
Starring **DUARTE PINA**

SYNOPSIS

Duarte, a blind man in his 50's, starts to look for his Cape Verdean friend, Leandro, who mysteriously disappeared. Despite Lisboa Summer heat, Duarte walks miles in his neighborhood but noone seems to have seen him, nor remembers him. His quest will eventually lead him to the heart of the night, and reveal his secret.

INTERVIEW

WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA TO MAKE THIS FILM ?

I first met with Duarte last Spring when I was casting non professional blind actors in Portugal for my first feature film (currently in development). I literally had a crush on him. We both felt the strong desire to experience cinema together. I invited him to Paris to shoot two scenes of my feature film for a program called emergence. It was the perfect opportunity for Duarte to perform in front of a camera for the first time and for us to know each other better. I then spent more time writing my feature. But my urge to shoot a film started to grow. That's how the idea to write a film for Duarte came up. A documentary portrait built around his real taste for literature, his creativity, and starting from a situation he confessed to me. I indeed asked him why he spent so much time in the library. He answered that it was where his friends were. That he often spoke to them. I soon decided to use this witty confession as a starting point of my story. One of Duarte's conditions to make this film was that it became a fiction : « biographies are boring », he told me. That's how the film navigates between reality and fiction, with a strong documentary background with Duarte's real environment (the institute for blind people, its library that he is really managing, and his voice over). Fiction comes slowly as we go out on the beach and to Lisboa at night (still with a documentary background).

PRECISELY, HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO SHOOT FICTION LIKE A DOCUMENTARY ?

In the first place, the story begins in Duarte's real neighborhood and institute, near Lisboa. The fictional element is the search for Leandro Rodrigues, leading Duarte to become an author (he is writing a song for him). But Leandro is most importantly an excuse to meet people. Invisível herói is a film of encounters, between the workers of the day and the ones of the night, wherever they are coming from. This was also a way for me to show Lisboa differently from the postcard angle.

Outside of Duarte of and of the woman from the picture (Luz, performed by Lucília Raimundo, singing with Duarte in the end), most of the people filmed in the film did not know what was going to happen, like a documentary. I told them that we were shooting a film and asked for the permission to film them while asking questions. But this was the only contact we had with them. They knew nothing from the story, nor what we were going to ask them. Some scenes were therefore pretty unexpected. The film was scripted but I wanted to make it look like it was improvised. We therefore had to find the right people and shoot quickly. We had a light crew to make this possible. The biggest challenge was to find directing tricks with Duarte, put him at the right place at the right time.

CRISTÈLE ALVES MEIRA

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO UNDERSTAND DUARTE'S QUEST, WHAT'S YOURS ?

Invisível herói is an invitation to play, a journey into an imaginary world, influenced by Duarte's passion for Fernando Pessoa. Just like the famous Portuguese poet, Duarte invented an alter ego: Leandro Rodrigues. This other self is what Pessoa called "heteronyms", meaning an individuality completely created by him, with lines, like a stage character. A way to fight loneliness. He put together all the creatures part of his inner world. He has many friends inside him. It's the same thing for Duarte. Since his childhood, he has always wondered how to enter a book, how to be part of a picture? This film offers him an answer, a way to become the invisible hero he has always dreamt to be.

Behind the quest for Leandro Rodrigues, there is also Duarte's secret desire to spend a crazy night with Luz, the woman from the picture whom he secretly loves. It's only at the right end that we understand that Leandro Rodrigues only exists in Duarte's imagination. He is his hidden double, sending him back to his youth, his rebellion, his imagination, his crazy desire to sing to express himself, and why not to the desire to love a woman. Leandro symbolizes Duarte's secrets : what he doesn't dare doing, what he is not anymore, what he would have wanted to be. If in the first place, we could easily believe that this young Cape Verdean man (worker and ice-cream seller) has nothing to do with Duarte, we slowly understand that the interiority of these two are one.

MUSIC IS EVERYWHERE IN THE FILM AND IS VERY ECLECTIC, HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THIS MIX ?

Music has an important role in the film, like an invitation to travel. We had the ending song (performed by Duarte and Lucília) made for the film and composed by Teofilo Chantre, a great musician (who is, among other things, Cesaria Evora's composer). It's a Cape Verdean morna, performed live by a guitar and a cavaquinho (Cape Verdean guitar). Lyrics (supposedly created by Duarte in the beginning of the film) were also written for the film by the Portuguese artist Sabrina D. Marques.

The two kuduro tracks (electronic music with afrobeat influences, featured in the disco scene and in the ending credits), were composed by two influent Portuguese DJs of the Lisboa scene right now (DJ Lycox and DJ Marfox). I am indeed deeply tied to African lusophony beats.

BIOGRAPHY

First trained as an actress, Cristèle soon became a stage director at the age of 20. She directed Jean Genet's Les Nègres and Splendid's, then Suzan-Lori Parks' Vénus, at the prestigious Théâtre de l'Athénée in Paris.

She directed a first documentary in Cape Verde, entitled SOM & MORABEZA, in which she reflected on the issues of immigration in Portuguese speaking African countries, through the theme of music; and through Angolan youth and its social realities, in BORN IN LUANDA, her second documentary.

She then directed two short films, both fictions, a Summer film and a Winter film, in her mother's village in the area of Tras-os-Montes (Northern part of Portugal): SOL BRANCO, selected to Angers, Belfort, Aubagne, Pantin, and CAMPO DE VÍBORAS, selected at Cannes Critic's Week, IndieLisboa (where it won the Jury Award for Best New Talent), and Clermont-Ferrand, among others. Her latest short, Invisível herói, was prebought by France 2, got the support of the CNC/ICA French-Portuguese coproduction fund, the support of the City of Lisbon as well as the post production support from the Région Ile-de-France.

She is currently writing her first feature film, BRUXA.

FILMOGRAPHY

2019 BRUXA, feature film – fiction (in development)
2019 INVISIVEL HEROI, short film - fiction
2016 CAMPO DE VIBORAS, short film - fiction
2014 SOL BRANCO, short film - fiction
2010 BORN IN LUANDA, documentary, co-directed by Julien Michel
2007 SOM & MORABEZA, documentary, co-directed by Julien Michel

CAST

Duarte	Duarte Pina
Luz	Lucília Raimundo

Institute auxiliary	Ofélia Sá
Man statue	António Santos
Girls at the beach	Bárbara Lopes - Érica Faria - Joana Lopes - Maria Agostinho
Donut seller	Marilena Rubens
Ice-cream seller	Rute Pires
Workers	António Luvelela - Sanjeev Kuman
Photo store owner	Adriano Luz
Bouncer	Salvador Gonçalves
Musicians	José Carita - Vítor Paulo

EXTRAS

Institute residents	Vera Paulino - Rita Trindade - Nídia Fernandes Ana Lúcia Ramos - Olegário Ferreira - Aliu Baio Nuno Silveira - Daniel Fernandes - Maria Gorete Ferreira Artur Clemente - Vitor Moura
Auxiliaries	Ana Paula Silva - Filipe Garcia - Fernanda Dinis
Beach	Sara Maximiano - Camila Mignon - Léo Estevada - Eliana
Disco	Vaniny Alves - Beatriz Oliveira - Denísio Domingues Bráulio Pitra - Margará Cunjó - Lucira Job Vladimir Amado - Edson Caculo

CREW

Written and directed by	Cristèle Aves Meira
Script consultant	Julien Barazer
Producer	Gaëlle Mareschi
Coproducer	Pedro Borges
Image	Julien Michel
In collaboration with	Manuel Pinho Braga
Line producer	Joana Carneiro Reis
In collaboration with	Sofia Tonicher
Editor	Pierre Deschamps
Sound engineer	Pedro Melo
Sound editor	Vincent Pateau
Sound mix	Simon Apostolou
Color grade	Gadiel Bendelac

The ending song « INVISÍVEL HERÓI » was composed for the film

Lyrics	Sabrina D. Marques
Melody	Teofilo Chantre
Performance	Duarte Pina et Lucília Raimundo

Fernando Pessoa wrote the poem told by Duarte PINA entitled
«TENHO TANTO SENTIMENTO »
(I have so many feelings)

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With the participation of **France 2**

With the participation of the **Centre national du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée** (production program support)

With the support of the **CNC and of the ICA Instituto do Cinema e do Audiovisual** (French-Portuguese coproduction support)

With the support of the **City of Lisbon**

With the support of the **Région Ile-de-France**

France/Portugal / 2019 / Color
Length : 28' / Format : 1.85/5.1

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