I decided I should
conquer time.
Pedro Costa
SACAVÉM
a film by JÚLIO ALVES
with PEDRO COSTA
(IndieLisboa International Film Festival) (New Horizons Film Festival) (Busan International Film Festival) (La Roche-sur-Yon International Film Festival) (Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival)

It is not the usual documentary about an artist, in this case the filmmaker Pedro Costa, nor a synthesis of the whole of his work. Among other merits *Sacavém* finds an angle to speak of a major figure of contemporary cinema without resorting to the usual methods or to mimic Costa's cinema. Júlio Alves finds a fair distance to read the work without the weight of reverence, connecting characters and recurring objects, starting from *Casa de Lava* to the next film, showing the continuity between the vision of the director and the world that inspires him (a singular form of realism haunted by ghosts and memories). Pedro Costa's elusive presence in the film, is an example of a solitary and artisanal work ethic of which the films are the most eloquent demonstration.

Nuno Sena (Indielisboa 2019)

director's statement

Sacavém follows five films directed by Pedro Costa: *Casa de Lava*, *Ossos*, *In Vanda's Room*, *Colossal Youth* and *Horse Money*. It's not a documentary about Pedro Costa nor a presentation of his filmography. It's a journey through the cinema of Pedro Costa, to its structure, to the way it is conceived and sensed, how it is "constructed", as the director likes to address his way of working his films. This film is an outcome of long conversations between me and Pedro Costa. All the material used in *Sacavém* was re-interpreted, re-filmed, re-treated, in a way that it works like an extension of his films. It's a work of anatomy of the five mentioned films that bears the shifting between sound and image, without abandoning its matrix. This journey though Pedro Costa's cinema, a director that defines himself as "a director that doesn't imagine", is marked by the Cape Verdean sounds collected by Pedro Costa and Olivier Varenne, excerpts from the soundtrack of the five films and the voice of Pedro Costa that guides us in *Sacavém* through the transformations and the hidden aspects of his cinema.

Credits

Documentary, 2019, Portugal, 65'

SCRIPT Júlio Alves
CINEMATOGRAPHY Miguel Saraiva
SOUND João Alves, Hugo Leitão
EDITING Hugo Santiago
PRODUCTION Júlio Alves / Midnight Express
CAST Pedro Costa
WITH THE SUPPORT OF
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Júlio Alves

Born in Lisbon in 1971, Júlio Alves began working within the film industry at an early age. He began his well-established career working as an assistant director and assistant producer for several Portuguese, French and Spanish feature films and tv films. Júlio then began directing his own short films in genres such as fiction, animation and documentary. Apart from his short films, he has also directed four feature length documentaries. His works have been nominated at many national and international festivals and have also received numerous awards. Since 2000, Júlio has expanded his portfolio in directing advertising films for large Portuguese and Spanish brands. He has a Master's degree in Film Studies and he is currently working on a PhD in Communication Sciences.

filmography

[2020] A Arte de Morrer Longe
[2019] Sacavém
[2018] Casa Encantada
[2018] Objetos Entre Nós (short)
[2013] Casa Manuel Vieira (short)
[2012] O Regresso
[2012] A Casa
[2010] 42,195 km (short)
[2010] O Jogo (short)
[2007] Ossudo (short)
[2000] Alferes (short)
[1996] O Despertador (short)
[1995] A Fachada (short)