

BANDO À PARTE
PRESENTS

Locarno Film Festival
Official Selection

心及んば花は散る

A FILM BY
SAMUEL BARBOSA
FROM THE LIFE AND WORK OF PAULO ROCHA

WITH:
**ISABEL RUTH LUÍS MIGUEL CINTRA REGINA GUIMARÃES JORGE ROCHA
JUNKO OTA WASHINO YUJIN**

PRODUCER **RODRIGO AREIAS** MUSIC BY **VÍTOR RUA** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **JORGE QUINTELA** SOUND DIRECTOR **PEDRO MARINHO** EDITOR **TOMÁS BALTÁZAR**
SOUND EDITOR **BERNARDO BENTO** SOUND MIXER **VASCO CARVALHO** PRODUCTION SUPPORT **CARLOS ANDRÉ**
PRODUCTION SUPPORT JAPAN **YUTA NAKANO** POST-PRODUCTION COORDINATOR **RICARDO FREITAS**

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AROUND ROCHA'S TABLE

PORTUGAL, 2021, DOCUMENTARY, HD COLOUR, 93'

LANGUAGE: PORTUGUESE

DIRECTOR: SAMUEL G. BARBOSA

Synopsis

Paulo Rocha has an unique perspective on life as well as on its transposition to film.

"Around Rocha's Table" delves into the life and work of Paulo Rocha, a cutting-edge filmmaker and founder of a new film movement that would later be dubbed "the nouveau Portuguese cinema".

This documentary film sets forth a spatial temporal reunion of all the groundwork which underlies Paulo Rocha's cinema.

It also unabashedly relies on individual and personal research and reflects an intensive relationship between its author and Rocha, which spanned more than ten years. It is with declared authorial intention that this film creates poetics and metaphors from Rocha's filmed thematic universes, in an attempt to establish dialogues with and between them.

There is a plethora of reminiscences of places of affection, friends and family members who give their testimony regarding their personal and professional relationship with Rocha, which frequently and seamlessly converge into one.





Personal Background

When Paulo Rocha finished editing "If I Was a Thief... I'd Steal", he intended to keep on adding scenes to the film he had just completed. His goal was to shoot five minutes of additional material per year, which he would then seamlessly incorporate into the first - and each subsequent cut - thus (re)creating a film that would only be entirely complete after his author's demise. However, his health issues and other life circumstances prevented him from shooting any additional scenes and to continue expanding "If I Was a Thief... I'd Steal".

The idea of making a documentary film about Paulo's life and work was born from a conversation between me and him, was subjected to his approval and he was fully onboard and committed with this project.

After his passing, the original format and purpose of this documentary film changed. It took on a life of its own and ended up invading the places of our meetings, conversations and kinship. "Around Rocha's Table" arises from the need of the dialogue between master and apprentice to be prolonged, when it is impossible to carry out this exchange face to face. Film and cinematic tools provide an intangible mechanism that enables moving images to interact and confront one another.

Director's Statement

It is my intention to both shine a light and to launch a reflection on the construction of the cinematographic work of Paulo Rocha. It is a body of work which has been in the underground scene for far too long and that should be elevated to the category of cult classic.

This documentary takes on the perspective of the assistant. It is from this point of view that I observe and register the construction and gradual evolution of his last movie "If I Was a Thief... I'd Steal", even before the first time he yells out: "Action!"

The director Paulo Rocha is the founder of the Portuguese nouveau cinema movement. His earlier movies, like *Os Verdes Anos* and *Mudar de Vida*, represented a shift in the stagnant aesthetic status quo, imposing a fresh new look on a cinema directed at the filmgoer. The free and evolutionary character of his cinematographic art, in a constant dialogue with other art forms such as painting, sculpture, literature and music (both from the West and the East alike), are key to understanding his body of work. This is especially true from 1970 onwards, with *A Pousada das Chagas*. We witness the cinematic production of a free aesthetic spirit, a test tube cinema, which spawned from the junction of several modern reagents which granted him the merited status of an avant-garde author.

The Japanese critic Sato Tadao reflects upon a "non contrasting collage" when musing over *A Ilha dos Amores*.

In a coherent and encompassing relationship, I sought to establish singular combinations; like Rocha's collages, I strive to organize pictorial fragments of diverse natures.

This documentary film delves into the shared moments between Rocha and his collaborators, actors and technicians, both Portuguese and Japanese, collecting memories and finding, in his personal and professional relationships, keys to decipher some of the unknown signs and symbologies in his last film.

I've maintained a close friendship with Paulo Rocha and I cherish those fond memories of personal and professional intimacy.

I strongly believe that this unique relationship and the treatment of these never-before-seen pieces of footage will allow the project to surface unknown elements that can bring the author and his public even closer together and also arouse curiosity about Rocha's work in the general audience.

Director's Biography

Samuel Barbosa has a graduate degree in Audiovisual, Arts and Communication by the Escola Superior Artística do Porto, in Portugal, and a master's degree in Digital Arts, by the École Européenne de L'Image, in France.

Since 2001, he has been working as a film technician in the areas of direction and production. He has worked with producers like Paulo Rocha and Paulo Branco and with the directors Paulo Rocha, Werner Schroeter and Fernando Lopes.

As of late, he has been developing some film projects with the producer and filmmaker Rodrigo Areias.

Around Rocha's Table is Samuel Barbosa debut film.



Testimonials

Junko Ota

Paulo Rocha

Samuel Barbosa

Luís Miguel Cintra

Regina Guimarães

Isabel Ruth

Jorge Rocha

Etsuko Takano

Marina Perestrelo

Cacilda Perestrelo

Washino Yujin

Crew

Director

Samuel G. Barbosa

Producer

Rodrigo Areias

Cinematography

Jorge Quintela

Sound

Pedro Marinho

Original Sound Track

Vitor Rua

Editor

Tomás Baltazar

Post-Production

Ricardo Freitas

Sound Design and Mix

Vasco Carvalho

Pedro Marinho

Bernardo Bento

Production Secretary

Carlos André



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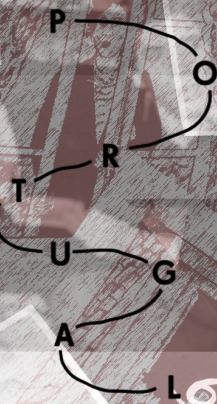
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