



PLEASE
MAKE IT
WORK

Cláudia is a Portuguese immigrant who needs to deal with a terrorizing boss, her rejecting daughter and the strong mountain wind, as she cleans sophisticated Airbnb's in the Swiss Alps.

A FILM BY
Daniel Soares

WITH
Cláudia Rodrigues, Nancy Rodrigues,
Kim Leeuwenburg, Jacopo Scacchi

World Premiere at
Locarno Film Festival



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Surrounded by breathtaking mountain ranges, Cláudia cleans where others go to enjoy the marvelous view. The perks of modern day comfort come with struggles in someone else's life, which we seldom get to witness. Instead of being taken to the mountains to appreciate a stunning view, in 'Please make it work' we get to stay with the cleaning lady.

There is the sky, the mountains, the tourists, the supervisor, and at the bottom of it all, there is Cláudia. Is she the real invisible hand, as prophesied by the 'father of economics' Adam Smith? Everyday she wakes up to make someone else's life easier.

While Cláudia came to Switzerland as a first generation immigrant, her daughter Nancy was already born there. The intergenerational consequences of immigration created an acculturation gap between mother and daughter. Nancy feels ashamed for her mother's job and is lost in the 21 century teenage world of a second generation immigrant where things come much easier but the problems and pressures are others.

Next to the potent magnitude of these mountains, doesn't all human drama become a rather comedic, insignificant event? Or can you feel empathy for a person without ever seeing her face? The distant long take without cuts further enhances these questions in the viewer's mind.

How close do we have to be to someone to feel for them?

This film was made within the Locarno Spring Academy, where 10 filmmakers from all over the world were invited to make a film in the Ticino region, under the mentorship of Michelangelo Frammartino.



BIO FILMOGRAPHY

Daniel Soares is a Portuguese writer, filmmaker & photographer, who was born in Germany. 'O Que Resta', his first narrative short film, screened at several international festivals, such as Telluride Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival and Hong Kong International Film Festival. It won the Grand Prix at the Festival Premiers Plans D'Angers and Best Portuguese Short Film at IndieLisboa International Film Festival. His previous work, 'Forgotten', a documentary short film, was screened at several festivals in North America including Big Sky, Santa Barbara and Brooklyn Film Festival. In 2022 he was selected into Locarno's Spring Academy where he wrote and directed his newest short film 'Please Make It Work', which premiered at the Locarno Film Festival in 2022. His photography work was exhibited at the International Center of Photography in New York.

[2022] Please make it work (short, fiction)

[2021] O Que Resta / What Remains (short, fiction)

[2018] Forgotten (short, non-fiction)



CREW / TECHNICAL INFORMATION

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
Daniel Soares

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Valerio Picchi, Daniel Soares

SOUND DESIGN
Inês Adriana

SOUND
Janush Lucchini, Shair Cruz Bahamonde,
Inês Adriana

EDITING
Daniel Soares

MUSIC
Moullinex

PRODUCTION:
Daniel Soares,
Romina Orsini – Kid with a Bike,
Daniela Persico – Locarno Film Festival,
Ticino Film Commission,
RSI – Radiotelevisione svizzera,
CISA

GRAPHIC DESIGN
ilhastudio.com

CONTACTS

DISTRIBUTION & SALES:
PORTUGAL FILM – PORTUGUESE FILM AGENCY
Ana Isabel Strindberg
dir@portugalfilm.org
Tel: +351 965195255
Tel: +351 213 466 172
www.portugalfilm.org
Casa de Cinema Rua da Rosa, 277, 2º andar, sala 1.4
1200-385 Lisboa
Portugal

PRODUCTION:
KID WITH A BIKE
kidwithabikefilms@gmail.com





