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INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM
2024

WE ARE ON AIR



a film by
DIOGO COSTA AMARANTE

SYNOPSIS

Vítor is over thirty and still lives with his mother, Fátima, in an apartment left to them by his grandmother, Júlia. Fátima is an introverted hairdresser, used to controlling her emotions with strict discipline, but when she goes to bed, she finds herself fantasizing about the charming policeman who has recently moved into the apartment next door. In the morning, Vítor claps his hands in the audience of a daytime TV show, at night he puts on this neighbor's uniform to satisfy the desires of a boy he met online. Júlia, meanwhile, no longer knows which drugs to take in order to sleep. Her husband is dead, but he incarnates into her best friend's body, demanding explanations for everything Júlia does. They all believe it's their time to be happy, but everything they desire seems to melt into air.





NOTE OF INTENTIONS

After a few years away, I returned to Porto to write a screenplay. The apartment I rented was shown to me by the tenant himself, a policeman named Leonel Portela, who was leaving because he had been transferred to a city closer to his wife and children. While showing me the house, he asked me what I did for a living. I told him I was making a movie. Surprised, he took me to the balcony to show me its view of the city. A woman on the neighboring balcony interrupted our conversation. Her name was Fátima, and she seemed melancholic about her soon to be departed neighbor. A few days later, she knocked on my door to offer me help in whatever I needed, adding that she had always taken care of Leonel's laundry. From here, I moved on to fiction: a fiction that speaks of the fantasies we project onto others and ourselves; a fiction that interweaves narratives through characters who are sometimes protagonists, sometimes secondary figures, sometimes mere extras. A film that translates my first impressions visiting and settling into the apartment that I rented, as an observer of impossible relationships.







ANTONIO DE MORALES
N. 18. 1888
M. 18. 1948

JOSE & BEATA
N. 18. 1888
M. 18. 1948



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Diogo Costa Amarante was born in Portugal in 1982. He studied Documentary Film and Cinematography at the Catalan Film School and finished a Master of Fine Arts in Film Production at the New York University – Tisch School of the Arts as a Fulbright Scholar. He directed several shorts namely, *Jumate / Jumate* (Best Spanish Documentary Award – Documentamadrid, 2008), *In January, Perhaps* (Best Spanish Documentary Award – Documentamadrid, 2009), *Down Here* (Best short at the Barcelona Queer International Film Festival, 2012), *The White Roses* (Berlinale Shorts, 2014), *Small Town* (Golden Bear – Berlinale Shorts, 2018) and *A Present Light* (Silver Wolf for best international short film – Festival du Nouveau Cinéma de Montréal, 2021).

FILMOGRAPHY

2024	<i>We are on air</i> , 91 min, FIC, Portugal
2021	<i>A Present Light</i> , 19 min, FIC, Portugal
2016	<i>Small Town</i> , 19 min, FIC, Portugal
2014	<i>The White Roses</i> , 19 min, FIC, USA
2011	<i>Down Here</i> , 11 min, FIC, USA
2009	<i>In January, perhaps</i> , 36 min, DOC, Spain
2007	<i>Jumate / Jumate</i> , 28 min, DOC, Spain





CREDITS

with CARLOTO COTTA
SANDRA FALEIRO
VALERIE BRADDELL

ANABELA MOREIRA
CUCHA CARVALHEIRO
JOÃO PACOLA
MARCO PAIVA
PEDRO ALMENDRA
ROMEU RUNA

script and direction DIOGO COSTA AMARANTE
cinematography SABINE LANCELIN
art direction BRUNO DUARTE
editing JOÃO BRAZ
color correction LAURENT NAVARRI (LA RUCHE STUDIO)
sound design ALEJANDRO CASTILLO
production manager RAQUEL DA SILVA
production O VERDE DO JARDIM
producer DIOGO COSTA AMARANTE
graphic design JOANA MACHADO

PORTUGAL, 2024, 91',
DCP, FLAT (1,77), COR, 5.1, DIGITAL







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