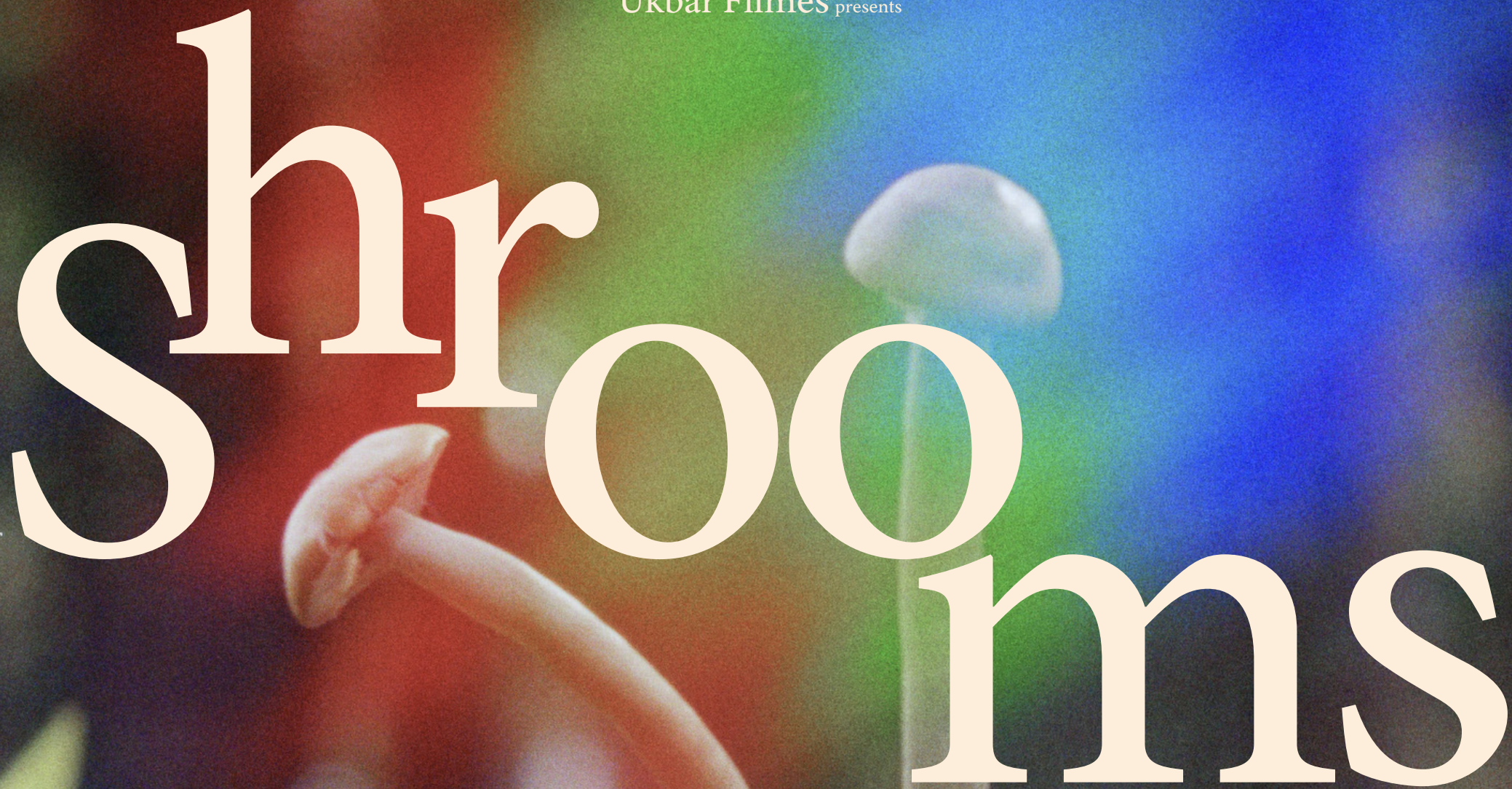


Ukbar Filmes presents

# Shrooms



A film by Jorge Jácome

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7/9 - 17/9 2023,  
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30/9 - 16/10 2023,  
New York, USA

With

Dan Padrino  
and Filipe Pereira  
Joana Costa Santos  
Tiza Gonçalves

Assistant director  
David Cabecinha

Sound Capture  
Marcelo Tavares

Sound Editing  
António Porém Pires

Music  
Shugo Tekina

Produced by  
Pandora da Cunha Telles  
and Pablo Iraola

Production  
Ukbar Filmes

Directing and editing  
Jorge Jácome

Cinematography  
Marta Simões

Color Correction  
Andreia Bertini

Sound Mixing  
Tiago Matos

Design  
Joana Lourencinho Carneiro

International Distribution  
Portugal Film

## Synopsis

*SHROOMS* comes from a scientific study that tested the therapeutic use of psilocybin in magic mushrooms to treat depression. Based on the premise of this study, *SHROOMS* follows Dan, a Venezuelan young man currently living in Lisbon, who picks magic mushrooms in the forest, distributing them across the city among those who need help — a kind of New Age Robin Hood — using carrier pigeons to do so.



“Usually, my ideas come from a very small thing: a feeling, a picture, an unlikely possibility, a piece of music, something I don’t really understand at the moment but that could make sense later on. I enjoy starting with a feeling that pervades the project, image and sound, like the forming of a constellation.

This project was no different. In 2017, I found the article: “Compound taken from ‘magic mushrooms’ — psilocybin — could be the answer to chronic depression.” I saved the article in a folder in my computer while I was working on my latest film: *Past Perfect* (Berlinale, 2019), a visual essay about the geographical and temporal origin of sadness and melancholy.

Later, I found another article: “World: Carrier pigeons smuggled drugs and cellphones into prisons.” When I read the news I imagined the possibility of combining both things in a conspiracy theory between magic mushrooms, humans, and carrier pigeons.

These two cases prompted the idea of creating a speculative fiction where the consumption of hallucinogenic drugs is used as an alternative to conventional treatments for depression, shedding light onto a possible cure for profound sadness, depression, and melancholy.

Melancholy is a recurrent theme in my previous films, whether in narrative form or suggested by the images I seek to create. In *Flores* (2017) I imagined the Azores archipelago completely taken over by hydrangeas — exaggerating the abundance of hydrangeas on the islands.

Destruction and beauty created a narrative of nine islands lost amid the ocean. In *Pluto* (2013) I compared the loss of a summer love to the downgrading of Pluto as a planet in our solar system — which happened in 2006.

*SHROOMS* was shot in super 16mm. Since the development of film is a chemical process (strangely similar to the effects of psilocybin in the human brain), I was interested in producing manipulated images in the development process: making the colors stronger, creating ghostly effects or image juxtaposition. As if the film itself was under some sort of hallucinogenic effect.

*SHROOMS* intends to explore the connection between mind and body, the healing power of mushrooms, and the relationship between subjective experience and reality as ways of imagining a world of new possibilities.”

— the director, Jorge Jácome

## JORGE JÁCOME

## Biography

Jorge Jácome (1988, Viana do Castelo — Portugal) is a filmmaker and artist who lives and works in Lisbon. He has a degree in Directing and Editing from the Lisbon Theatre and Film School, and has attended Le Fresnoy – Studio National des Arts Contemporains, in France, between 2014 and 2016.

[2022] *Super Natural* | 85'  
[2019] *Past Perfect* | 23'  
[2017] *Flores* | 26'  
[2016] *Fiesta Forever* | 20'  
[2015] *A GUEST + A HOST = A GHOST* | 16'  
[2013] *Plutão* | 30'

His films (*Flores*, *Past Perfect*) are often screened at film festivals and museums, such as the Berlinale, Toronto International Film Festival, San Sebastian, New York Film Festival, Viennale, Palais de Tokyo, MoMa, TATE Modern, Tabakalera, among many others.

Among the awards his works have received, we highlight the Short Film Grand Prize at the IndieLisboa International Competition and Best Film at the Filmfest Hamburg with *Past Perfect* (2019), Grand Prize at the 25 FPS, Punto de Vista, BIEFF, and the award “New Talent” at IndieLisboa with *Flores*.

In 2022, his first feature *SUPER NATURAL* had its world premiere at the Forum section of the Berlin International Film Festival, where he received the FIPRESCI Prize.

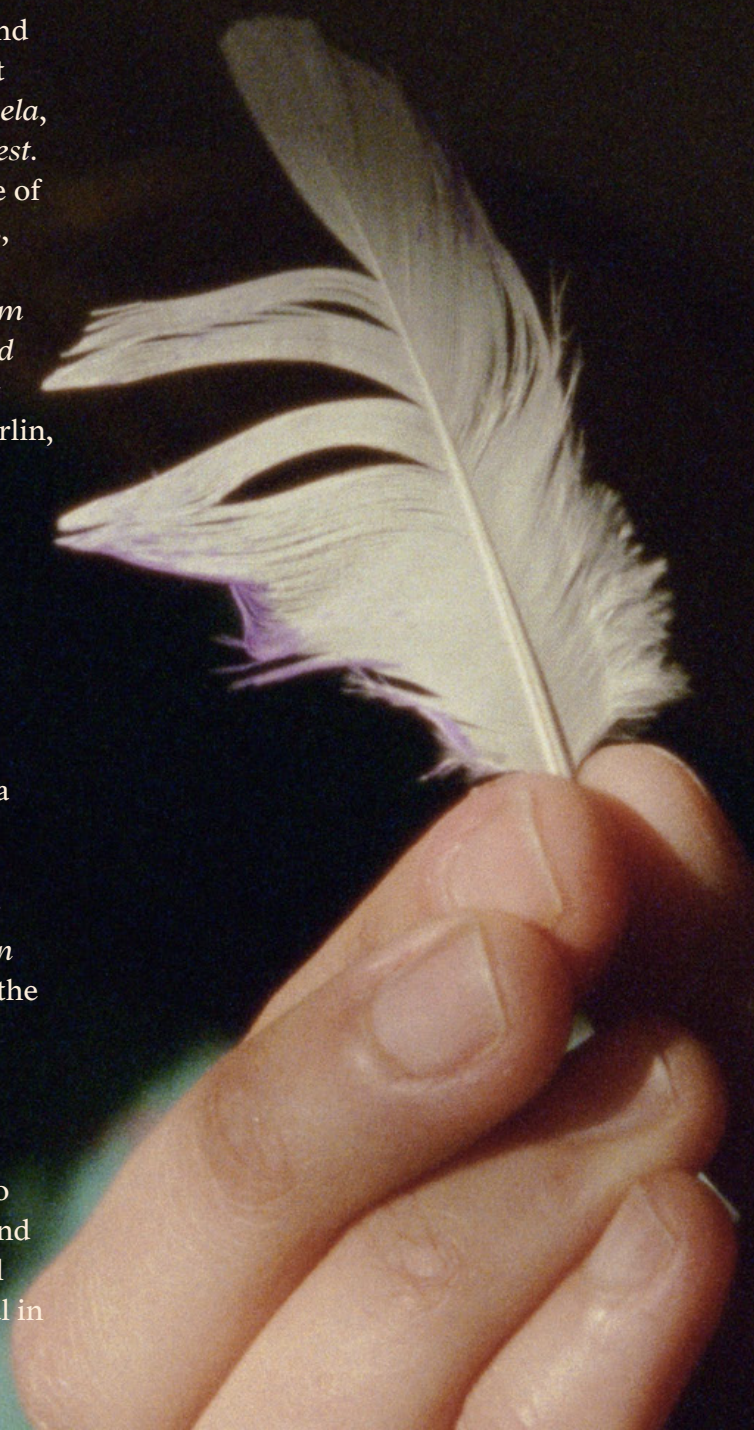
His latest short film, *SHROOMS* (2023), has been selected for the Wavelengths section at the Toronto International Film Festival and also for the New York Film Festival.

## UKBAR FILMES

Created in 2009 by Pandora da Cunha Telles and Pablo Iraola, Ukbar Filmes has produced about 80 film/audiovisual productions, such as *Florbela*, *The Art of Dying Far Away* or *Mother Knows Best*. Ukbar's co-productions have screened at some of the most renowned international film festivals, such as *Bridges of Sarajevo* (Cannes, 2014), *The Train of Salt and Sugar* (Locarno, 2016), *Joaquim and Vazante* (Berlin, 2017), *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote* (Cannes, 2018), *Gaza Mon Amour* (Venice and TIFF, 2020) and *Super Natural* (Berlin, 2022), which won the FIPRESCI Prize in the Forum section.

In the last five years they have also invested strongly in TV series, with *Twenty-Four Land*, *Crónica dos Bons Malandros*, and *Hero on the Front* achieving unparalleled ratings in RTP1's Portuguese fiction, which also broadcast the new series of TV films *Contado por Mulheres*, a project by ten different women directors. Also worth noting are the series *Operación Marea Negra*, together with Ficción Producciones for Amazon Prime Video, and, more recently, *Turn of the Tide*, for Netflix, which quickly reached the top 10 worldwide, an unprecedented feat for a Portuguese production.

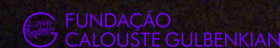
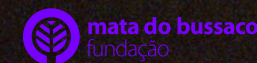
In 2023, Ukbar Filmes premiered *Amadeo* by Vicente Alves do Ó, *Vadio* (São Paulo) by Simão Cayatte, *Shrooms* (Toronto) by Jorge Jácome, and *Sobretudo de Noite* by Víctor Iriarte, which will screen at the Venice International Film Festival in the section Giornate Degli Autori.



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Casa do Cinema  
Rua da Rosa, 277, 2º, room 1.4  
1200-385 Lisbon  
[www.portugalfilm.org](http://www.portugalfilm.org)  
(+351) 213 466 172  
[dir@portugalfilm.org](mailto:dir@portugalfilm.org)

