

'Fire of Wind' Review: May Day

In this elegant, elliptical folk tale set in rural Portugal, a group of grape pickers are trapped in treetops after a bull is let loose and gores a few of their companions.

▶ Listen to this article · 2:02 min [Learn more](#)



Maria Catarina Sapata in "Fire of Wind." Marta Mateus/Cinema Guild

By **Beatrice Loayza**

Oct. 30, 2025, 5:01 a.m. ET

Fire of Wind Directed by Marta Mateus · Drama · Not Rated · 1h 14m

[Find Tickets](#) When you purchase a ticket for an independently reviewed film through our site, we earn an affiliate commission.

Unfolding like an eerie folk tale, but grounded in the blood, sweat and tears of a real-life community, "Fire of Wind" tells the story of a group of grape pickers forced to seek refuge in the curling branches of oak trees after a bull is let loose and fatally gores a few of their companions.

A luminous opening scene, in which the workers tend to the harvest, their faces framed elegantly by vine leaves, turns ominous when a young girl, Soraia (Soraia Prudêncio) cuts her hand with pruning shears. The blood from her wound seems to summon the beast, though the director Marta Mateus skips over the violence

and pictures the aftermath, when Soraia and a dozen or so of her comrades have settled into their perches.

Mateus (who shares cinematography credit with Vítor Carvalho) captures this waiting game as a mostly silent series of static tableaux, each frame encompassing a worker, or group of workers, as they stare out in steely introspection. The plot is minimal by design, directing our attention toward more painterly details: the arrangement of bodies within the landscape; the way the sun pokes through the green foliage and seeps into the fleshy ochres of the environment. The tension comes courtesy of the bull, who lurks restlessly in the background of several shots.

“Fire of Wind” was filmed in Alentejo, in Portugal, and features mostly nonprofessional actors who live and work in the rural region. An elder matriarch (Maria Catarina Sapata) recalls the dictatorship of António de Oliveira Salazar; others pass around vintage photos of their ancestors as night turns to day, and an offscreen radio commentator celebrates International Workers’ Day. The film’s intriguing symbolism diminishes over time, but remaining is an elegant portrait of solidarity; a vision of workers enmeshed in the land that sustains them.

Fire of Wind

Not rated. In Portuguese, with subtitles. Running time: 1 hour 14 minutes. In theaters.

Fire of Wind

Find Tickets

When you purchase a ticket for an independently reviewed film through our site, we earn an affiliate commission.

Director Marta Mateus

Writer Marta Mateus

Stars Safir Eizner, Maria Clara Madeira, José Moura, Soraia Prudêncio, Maria Catarina Sapata

Rating Not Rated

Running Time 1h 14m

Genre Drama

Movie data powered by IMDb.com

Explore More in TV and Movies

Not sure what to watch next? We can help.

- **‘Bugonia’:** Jesse Plemons’s performance as a conspiracy theorist who kidnaps an executive has put him in the awards season mix. [But letting go of the character wasn’t easy.](#)
- **‘Pluribus’:** Created by Vince Gilligan (“Breaking Bad”), this new Apple TV drama is about the [mysterious arrival of peace on Earth](#) and the one woman who can’t stand it.
- **‘Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere’:** The new biopic gets a lot right about the Boss and the making of “Nebraska.” But there are [elements that were made up for the film.](#)
- **‘It: Welcome to Derry’:** The new HBO series is a prequel to the two movies starring Bill Skarsgard as Pennywise, based on the 1986 Stephen King novel. [Here’s a primer.](#)

- **The 100 Best:** More than 500 influential directors, actors and other notable names in Hollywood and around the world voted on the best films released since Jan. 1, 2000. [See how their ballots stacked up](#) and explore 25 years of our movie coverage to [find your next film](#) from this collection of our critics' favorites.
- **Streaming Guides:** If you are overwhelmed by the endless options, don't despair — we put together the [best offerings on Netflix](#), [Max](#), [Disney+](#), [Amazon Prime](#) and [Hulu](#) to make choosing your next binge a little easier.

More in Movies



Bjorn Andresen, Reluctant 'Most Beautiful Boy,' Dies at 70



'Practical Magic,' Eternally Enchanting and Confounding

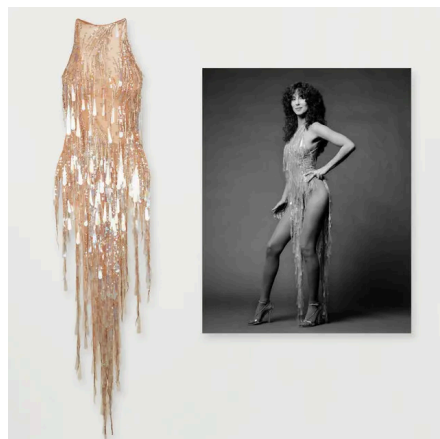


William Fichtner Really Is That Guy



Barbara Gips, Creator of Memorable Movie Catchphrases, Dies at 89

Editors' Picks



Trending in The Times

Father Admits to Killing 4 Children Found in Car Trunk, Sheriff Says

Your Guide to the 2025 New York City Marathon

'Nobody Wants This' Is Back. So Is Jewish Debate Over Its Depictions.

Where Mamdani Found the Blueprints to Run for Mayor

After an Injury, I Had to Wear Adult Diapers. Now, I Kind of Miss Them.

I Co-Parent My Kids. Would It Be Wrong to Move Abroad?

Five Houses Collapse in North Carolina's Outer Banks

Annabel Goldsmith, a Queen of British High Society, Dies at 91

Street Battles Rage in Ukrainian City After Russian Troops Enter Stronghold

My Good Friend Doesn't Let Me Get a Word in Edgewise. Help!

Looking at Sexuality With a Medieval Sensibility

Shopping for Something That Truly Stands Out? Try an Auction.

The New York Times

[Go to Home Page »](#)

NEWS

ARTS

LIFESTYLE

OPINION

MORE

© 2025 The New York Times Company

[NYTCo](#) [Contact Us](#) [Accessibility](#) [Work with us](#) [Advertise](#) [T Brand Studio](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Cookie Policy](#) [Terms of Service](#) [Terms of Sale](#) [Site Map](#) [Help](#)
[Subscriptions](#)