

film
ville:

UTOPIA

6th UK Portuguese Film Festival
17–22 Nov 2015

Utopia – UK Portuguese Film Festival returns for a 6th edition

Focus on Portuguese women filmmakers
A homage to Manoel de Oliveira

The countdown to Utopia – the 6th UK Portuguese Film Festival has officially begun. The festival returns November 17 to 22, 2015 featuring a surprising selection of great cinema playing in three exceptional venues across London.

2015 marks the departure of renowned and acclaimed director Manoel de Oliveira, who died at the age of 106. Believed to be the oldest active filmmaker de Oliveira had a career that spanned nine decades from the silent era to the present. Two gems from Oliveira's extensive filmography were specially selected as a humble tribute to celebrate the author's immense oeuvre. His final 2012 feature ***Gebo and the shadow (Gebo et l'ombre)***, a French-Portuguese co-production adapted from Raul Brandão's 1923 *The Hunchback and His Shadow*, which was shown at the 69th Venice International Film Festival and deals with grief and anxiety. According to Oliveira himself, despite the play remaining largely unknown outside Portugal, it was a key influence on Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, the difference here the 'Godot' figure as a prodigal son's absence discussed by his father, mother (Claudia Cardinale) and wife. *Je rentre a la maison (I'm going home)*, starring Michel Piccoli, Catherine Deneuve and John Malkovich is the other pick from Oliveira's filmography to be shown at the festival. Voted one of the 10 best pictures of 2001 by Les Cahiers du Cinéma, the film gave Oliveira a Palme d'Or nomination at the

Cannes Film Festival 2001. These two very special screenings at Ciné Lumière are a rare opportunity to watch the late Manoel de Oliveira on the big screen. Oliveira's outstanding work will undoubtedly remain an inspiration to generations to come.

In addition to celebrating such an emblematic figure of Portuguese and worldwide auteur cinema, the 2015 festival program focuses on the theme of ***Women and Film***, aiming to bring to international attention strong contemporary works by female filmmakers. Charismatic **Marta Pessoa** will be attending the festival to present her poignant documentary on a topic that, 50 years since the beginning of the Portuguese colonial war in Africa (1961-1974), is still as delicate as it has always been. ***Warriors*** portrays the women who lived through and took part in the war in many different and relevant ways. The director will also be taking part in a debate on 'the invisibility of women in film and in history', together with major specialists in film, gender and history at Birkbeck University of London.

The festival returns once again to the ICA to première **Catarina Ruivo's *Second Hand*** and **Margarida Cardoso's *Yvone Kane***. The latter a co-production between Brazil, Mozambique and Portugal. These two thought-provoking films are part of the celebration of Portuguese female directors; both rare artistic objects and exceptionally strong cinematic narratives. Countering an industry that is dominated by male directors, the festival takes the challenge of contributing to finding an answer to the crucial question of how the work of these talented women filmmakers has remained largely unseen and unacknowledged, both internationally and at home.

Once again in partnership with TAP airlines, the festival is offering two return flights to Portugal. The winners will be announced by Christmas. The Portuguese Embassy in the United Kingdom and Instituto Camões in Portugal support the event.

The full festival listings can be found at: <http://www.utopiafestival.org.uk/>

Line-up

Time/Date	TUE 17	THU 19	FRI 20	SAT 21	SUN 22
2 pm					Yvone Kane ICA
2.15 pm				Warriors BIRKBECK	
4.30 pm				Roundtable BIRKBECK	
6.30 pm			Gebo and the Shadow CINÉ LUMIÈRE		
8.40 pm	I'm Going Home CINÉ LUMIÈRE				
8.50 pm		Second Hand ICA			

CINÉ LUMIÈRE: A tribute to Manoel de Oliveira

TUE 17, 8.40 pm

I'M GOING HOME

(Je rentre à la maison)



France/Portugal 2001. Dir. Manoel de Oliveira 90'

With Michel Piccoli, Catherine Deneuve, John Malkovich

This tender and touching story centres on Gilbert Valence, a stage actor, whose life is stricken with tragedy when he is informed that his family has been killed in a road accident. He takes great pleasure in comforting and taking care of his surviving grandson who has lost his parents in the accident. (in French & English with English subtitles)

FRI 20 | 6.30PM

GEBO AND THE SHADOW

(Gebo et l'ombre)



France/Portugal 2012 Dir. Manoel de Oliveira 95'

With Michael Lonsdale, Claudia Cardinale, Jeanne Moreau

Despite his age and general weariness, Gebo keeps on working as an accountant to provide for his family. He lives with his wife, Doroteia, and his daughter-in-law, Sofia, but it is the absence of João, son and husband, that worries them. Gebo seems to be hiding something, especially to Doroteia, who is anxiously waiting to see her son again. All of a sudden, João arrives and everything changes. (in French with English subtitles)

ICA

THU 19 | 8.50PM

SECOND HAND

(Em Segunda Mão)



Portugal 2012 Dir. Catarina Ruivo 110'

This is the last we will see of the late Pedro Hestnes in a film, one of the most charismatic Portuguese actors of his generation. Pedro Hestnes was first brought to the spotlight as Vicente in *Blood* (1989), the first feature of internationally renowned Portuguese director Pedro Costa. In *Second Hand*, Pedro Hestnes plays an emblematic, if discontented, writer of erotic pulp fiction, who finds himself trapped in a film noir story. The film depicts landscapes and architecture with a truly artistic sensibility in strikingly beautiful shots. The story, a complex thriller, is also enriched by the characters portrayed by João Grosso and Luis Miguel Cintra. This is a unique opportunity to see in London the work of upcoming filmmaker Catarina Ruivo.

SUN 22 | 2PM

YVONE KANE



Portugal/Mozambique/Portugal 2014 Dir. Margarida Cardoso 117'

Margarida Cardoso and Beatriz Batarda collaborate again after the award-winning *The Murmuring Coast* (2004) in a fascinating feature shot on location in Mozambique. Following the death of her child, Rita (Beatriz Batarda) returns to the African country where her mother (played by the Brazilian actress Irene Ravache) still lives, now as a doctor and former political activist trying to fight her colonial

ghosts and sickness. As they both search for redemption and try to salvage their relationship, Rita decides to investigate the life of Yvone Kane, an ex-guerrilla fighter and political activist whose death has always remained a mystery. A truly cinematic film and a rare portrayal of the role of women in african politics. Unforgettable.

Birkbeck College (University of London / School of Arts)

SAT 21 | 2.15PM * FREE SCREENING

WARRIORS

(Quem Vai À Guerra)



Portugal 2011 Dir. Marta Pessoa 130'

Forty years after its abrupt conclusion, Portugal's colonial war is still a sensitive and opaque topic, with narratives built mostly around male protagonism, as if only the men had been veterans of war and only they became its victims. A country at war: could anyone not be affected by it? The unexpected stories this documentary has pieced together, along with the charismatic personalities of its storytellers, trigger in us the desire to know more about the history of the colonial war and about the role of women in it. *Warriors* is told by those who were left behind to wait, those who surprisingly chose to stay on the war front with their husbands and those who ran onward to rescue the soldiers from the front lines. This film is an unveiling of women's role in colonial history while, at the same time, a rare insight by a woman filmmaker on the topic of war.

SAT 21 | 4.30PM * FREE EVENT

**ROUNDTABLE: On The Invisibility of Women in Film and History
followed by a Q&A**

A must-see debate where Al Jazeera filmmaker Ana Noemi de Sousa and film historian Maria do Carmo Piçarra will be joined by *Warriors'* director Marta Pessoa to discuss 'the invisibility of women in film and in the histories of colonialism and war'. The debate will open up to questions from the audience after the round table.

Predicted duration of the event: 60 min

PANELISTS' BIOGRAPHIES



MARTA PESSOA

Born in Lisbon in 1974. Has a degree in Cinema Studies (areas of Cinematography and Directing) by the ESTC – Polytechnic of Lisbon and a Masters in Communication Sciences by the FCSH – New University of Lisbon. Has worked as Director of Photography on numerous documentaries and fiction films since 1996. Among other films, directed the shorts *Fair Day* (2004), *Someone Will Watch Over You* (2005), *Manual Of The Domestic Feeling* (2007), *Black Mold* (2015) and the documentaries *Lisbon's Under Arrest* (2009), *Warriors* (2011) and *The Lurking Fear* (2015). In 2013, along with Rita Palma and João Pinto Nogueira she founded the production company Três Vinténs.



MARIA DO CARMO PIÇARRA

Maria do Carmo Piçarra is a film historian and post-doctoral researcher on the topic of "Portugal, France and England: Empire Representations in Film" at University of Minho, Portugal, and University of Reading, England. Amongst other publications, she is the author of *Salazar vai ao cinema (Salazar goes to the movies)* and of a trilogy on Angolan cinema. She is a journalist, film critic and film programmer, and the co-editor of Aniki, the journal of the Portuguese Association of film Researchers (AIM).



ANA NAOMI DE SOUSA

Ana Naomi de Sousa is an independent documentary filmmaker born and raised in London. She studied modern languages at Bristol University, and went on to work as a translator, living in Portugal, Cape Verde, Brazil and Angola. In 2010 she joined the international TV network, Al Jazeera English, where she worked across a variety of current affairs and documentary programmes. She is the director of the documentaries *Angola: Birth of a Movement* (2012); *Guerrilla Architect* (2013); *The Architecture of Violence* (2014) and *Hacking Madrid* (2015).

Tickets

ICA standard £11, members £7, concessions £8
Ciné Lumière standard £11, members £7, concessions £8
Birkbeck College free entrance

For press enquiries, please contact
Fernanda Franco
+44 (0) 7939 941 831 / press@filmville.org

Further information on all films: www.utopiafestival.org.uk
Facebook: [FilmvilleUKPortugueseFilmFestival](https://www.facebook.com/FilmvilleUKPortugueseFilmFestival)
Twitter: [@PortugueseFilm](https://twitter.com/PortugueseFilm)

The festival is funded by Instituto Camões, sponsored by TAP Portugal and kindly supported by the Portuguese Embassy in London.

Curated by

**film
ville:**

Supported by



Sponsored by



In collaboration with



With special thanks



Notes to Editor

Filmville was founded in 2007 with the aim of curating and promoting film events from Portuguese speaking countries in the UK. Since 2010, Filmville has programmed the annual UK Portuguese Film Festival, working with institutions such as the Barbican Arts Centre, the Whitechapel Gallery, the Institut Français, the Tricycle Theatre and Picture House. Filmville is run by Érica Faleiro Rodrigues with external help from freelancers and key institutions.