

7 Wishes / 7 Films

For its 7th edition, the Utopia – UK Portuguese Film Festival asked British film critics Kieron Corless and Jonathan Romney, the writer Helder Macedo and the painter Paula Rego to select the films they perceived as the most relevant in contemporary Portuguese Cinema. Seven wishes granted us, seven truly outstanding films. The result is one of the most original and striking programmes in the history of the festival, a collection of films that entails an eclectic take on Portuguese culture and its recent history. The screenings will be accompanied by an introduction, a masterclass or a screentalk. Key filmmakers and intelligent and beautiful films that give us an intuition of Portugal's contemporary cinema, culture and utopias.

Érica Faleiro Rodrigues, Festival Director

Fri 25 Nov, 8.40 pm → Ciné Lumière, from £10

Others will Love the Things That I have Loved

Dir. Manuel Mozos. Portugal 2014, 75'



+ Introduction by Kieron Corless

A tribute to the cinema under the cloak of celebrating the extraordinary life of João Bénard da Costa. da Costa was director of the Portuguese Cinematheque for 18 years. He also featured, as an actor, in the filmographies of such key Portuguese directors as Manoel de Oliveira and João César Monteiro, in addition to being a film buff, a writer and a man of culture. This unusual biography is constructed such that it tells da Costa's fascinating life through what he loved, feared and obsessed about; in painting, in film or in literature, from the baroque to Borges. This film was selected by the film critic Kieron Corless as representative of the best in contemporary Portuguese Cinema.

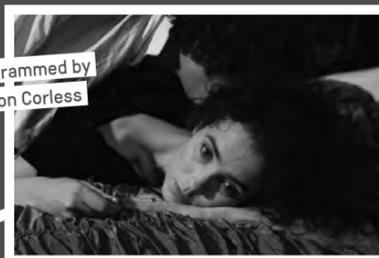
With special thanks to: Embaixador João de Valleria, Regina Duarte, João Silvestre, Catarina Ferreira, Mercês Gibson, Rui Lemos, Joana R Picoto, Ricardo Alexandre Dinis, Maria dos Santos, Charlotte Saluard, Mari Paz Bailbrea, Maria da Conceição Matos Delcroux, Neuza Poilido, Sara Moreira, Teresa Borges, Paulo Sá Caetano, Sandra Figueiredo, Susanne Malorny, Fabienne Martinot, Sergi Steegman, Bobbie e Lidia Faleiro Rodrigues.

* Locally Classified

Sat 26 Nov, 6.30 pm → Ciné Lumière, from £10

A Woman's Revenge

Dir. Rita Azevedo Gomes. Portugal 2011, 100'



+ Introduction by Kieron Corless

Roberto is one of those men who hold deception as the greatest art. A dandy, perhaps. Or maybe a libertine. But the truth is that, at heart, Roberto is burdened by a deep tedium. The boredom bearing upon those who have already exhausted all the pleasures of life. The only thing still surprising him is the fact that nothing surprises him anymore. Until one evening he has an overwhelming encounter with a woman. A free adaptation of the homonymous short story in *Les Diaboliques* by Barbey D'Aureville, 1874, this film was selected by the film critic Kieron Corless as representative of the best in contemporary Portuguese Cinema. With Rita Durão and a special participation by Isabel Ruth.

With generous support from the Portuguese Embassy in London

Curated by **film ville:** Supported by **COMIQUES INSTITUTO DA COOPERAÇÃO E DA LINGUAGEM PORTUGUESA** Sponsored by **TAP TAPPORUGAL** Powered by **quero.pt**

Sun 27 Nov, 8.00 pm → Arthouse Cinema, from £11

Tabu

Dir. Miguel Gomes. Portugal/France/Germany 2012, 118'



+ Introduction by Helder Macedo

Miguel Gomes's FIPRESCI (Berlennale) Prize win was selected by the Portuguese writer Helder Macedo and the film critic Jonathan Romney as representative of the best in contemporary Portuguese cinema. *Tabu* has been released in over 50 countries and has won dozens of awards. In this film, a temperamental old woman, her Cape Verdean maid and a neighbour devoted to social causes all share the same floor of an apartment building in Lisbon. When the old lady dies, the other two learn of an episode from her past: a tale of love and crime set in an Africa straight from the world of adventure films. Thanks to its originality and quality, retrospectives of Gomes' work have been programmed at the Viennale, the BAFICI, the Torino Film Festival, and in Germany and the USA.

In collaboration with



Programmers

Helder Macedo was born in South Africa and spent his childhood in Mozambique. He began writing poetry and novels at a young age, but following censorship of his work by the Salazar regime, he interrupted his career until later in life. A committed anti-fascist, Macedo was arrested and imprisoned by the state, leading to his exile in London in 1960. It was at this point that Helder Macedo joined King's College London, both as a PhD student and as an assistant lecturer. He has published several novels, reevaluating recent Portuguese history, to great critical acclaim, and has distinguishing himself with his innovative perspectives on the connection between the literary text and the intellectual and cultural horizons in which it is produced. Macedo has also become known as a brilliant writer of poetry.

Paula Rego, born in Portugal and long domiciled in the UK, has always instilled a sense of magical realism into her work: quirky contemporary mythologies pointing to an underlying psychology and sexuality, through a feminine view point. Rego studied at the Slade School of Fine Art and was an exhibiting member of the London Group, along with David Hockney and Frank Auerbach. Her characters often take the form of animals for satirical effect. She was the first artist-in-residence at the National Gallery in London. In 2009, a museum dedicated to Rego's work opened in Cascais, Portugal, and in 2010 Rego was made a Dame of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours. In 2010 Rego also won the MAPFRE Foundation Drawing Prize in Madrid.

Jonathan Romney is a journalist, screenwriter, director and lecturer. He was chief film critic at the *Independent on Sunday* for 12 years, and prior to that was deputy editor at *Sight & Sound*, film critic at the *New Statesman* and film editor at *City Limits*. He currently writes a weekly online review column for *Film Comment*, and also contributes regularly to *The Observer*, *The Guardian*, *Sight & Sound*, and *Screen Daily*. He has also written for *London Review of Books*, *Artforum* and *Modern Painters*. Since 1997, Jonathan has been programme advisor on French cinema for Utopia – UK Portuguese Film Festival 2015 / Press 10/9 the London Film Festival. He is currently a member of the selection panel for the European Parliament's LUX film prize, and has been a member of the jury on the Un Certain Regard and Critics' Week sections at the Cannes Film Festival.

Kieron Corless is Deputy Editor of *Sight & Sound*. Prior to that he was European Editor at Large for *Vertigo* magazine. He has also written about cinema and television for numerous other periodicals, including *Time Out London*, *Frieze* and *The Independent*. He is the co-author, with Chris Darke, of *Cannes: Inside the World's Premier Film Festival* (Faber & Faber), and has contributed articles and chapters to various other edited collections on cinema. He has served on numerous international film festival juries, and programmed various film events and programmes in London, including a retrospective of Eugène Green and a season of recent Portuguese cinema.

Invited Speakers

Luís Urbano founded the cultural production co-operative Curtas Metragens, CRL, the organisation behind Portugal's prestigious Vila do Conde International Short Film Festival. He is one of the festival's directors and spearheaded the Portuguese short film agency. Urbano has produced several short films as well as feature films, including *Our Beloved Month of August* by Miguel Gomes, which was selected for Director's Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival in 2008, *A Zona* by Sandro Aguilar, *The Portuguese Nun* by Eugène Green, *The Sword And The Rose* by João Nicolau and *Tabu* by Miguel Gomes, which premiered in the competition section at the 2012 Berlin Film Festival, winning the Alfred Bauer Award – Critics Award FIPRESCI. Recently, he has produced *Letters from War* (66th Berlinale – Official Competition).

Rui Branquinho is a widely experienced television editor with a long experience in post production and a deep understanding of narrative and its rhythm, pace and tension; having worked in numerous series and one-off documentaries. His career spans more than a quarter of a century, with directors such as Joana Pontes, Patrícia Faria, Susana Leite and Fernando Ávila. Branquinho has edited both political factual programmes and art series, and has also worked as a lecturer in directing for television and television post-production. Amongst his many titles, we can highlight *Portugal, a Social Portrait* directed by António Barreto e Joana Pontes, *The Portuguese XX Century*, *The Prodigious Writer* (on Jorge de Sena) and *Painting Stories* (on the collection of Portuguese art by gallery owner Manuel de Brito), all directed by Joana Pontes.

Fri	25 Nov	8.40 pm	Ciné Lumière	Others will Love the Things That I have Loved
Sat	26 Nov	6.30 pm	Ciné Lumière	A Woman's Revenge
Sun	27 Nov	8.00 pm	Arthouse Cinema	Tabu
Tue	6 Dec	6.30 pm	Genesis Cinema	Ruins Within
Tue	6 Dec	8.30 pm	Genesis Cinema	Letters from War
Wed	7 Dec	2.00 pm	Birkbeck College	The Portuguese XX Century: The End of the Empire
Thu	8 Dec	6.30 pm	Genesis Cinema	Recollections of the Yellow House

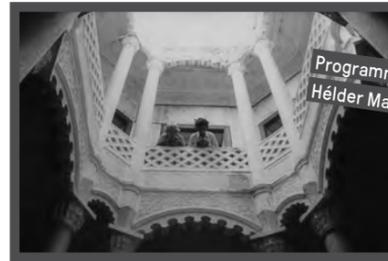
* All films in Portuguese with English subtitles

Ciné Lumière
17 Queensberry Place
020 7871 3515
☎ South Kensington
institut-francais.org.uk

Arthouse Cinema
159A Tottenham
Lane, N8 9BT
☎ Hornsey, Finsbury
Park, Archway
arthousecrouchend.co.uk

Genesis Cinema
99-95 Mile End
Road, E1 4UJ
☎ Stepney Green
and Whitechapel
genesiscinema.co.uk

Birkbeck College
43 Gordon Square,
☎ Russell Square,
King's Cross, Euston
bbk.ac.uk



Programmed by
Hélder Macedo

Tue 6 Dec, 6.30 pm → Genesis Cinema, from £4.5 Ruins Within^{PG*}

Dir. José de Sá Caetano. Portugal 1976, 110'

+ Introduction by Hélder Macedo

An unmissable screening of a truly original film that has remained hidden in the vaults of the Portuguese cinema archives for decades. A one-off London screening of the sole remaining 35mm subtitled copy of this remarkable film. Easter 1943, Algarve's coast. A military aircraft crashes into the sea, near a beach. The two survivors, RAF pilots, are rescued by a Belgian woman and her children, who are taking refuge in Portugal. *Ruins Within* is a fictional testimony of life in Portugal during World War II, and of the shaking of day-to-day naivety by the tales of war told by the two pilots. Winner of the Best First Feature at the Hyeres Festival (1977), *Ruins Within* was selected by the Portuguese writer Hélder Macedo as representative of the best in Portuguese Cinema.

In partnership with King's College and Cinemateca Portuguesa – Museu do Cinema.

Tue 6 Dec, 8.30 pm → Genesis Cinema, from £4.5

Letters from War^{15*}

Dir. Ivo M. Ferreira. Portugal 2016, 105'



Programmed by
Hélder Macedo &
Jonathan Romney

+ Screentalk with Hélder Macedo and Luís Urbano

This is Portugal's entry for the 2017 Oscars in the category of Best Foreign Film. 1971, António Lobo Antunes' life is brutally interrupted when he is drafted into the Portuguese Army to serve as a doctor in one of the worst war-zones of the Colonial War, the East of Angola. Away from everything he holds dear, Antunes writes to his wife surrounded by an increasingly violent setting. Moving between military posts, he falls for Africa and matures politically. Around him, an entire generation aches to return home. Amidst the uncertainty of war, only the letters help him survive. *Letters from War* was selected by the film critic Jonathan Romney and the Portuguese writer Hélder Macedo as representative of the best in Portuguese cinema.

In partnership with King's College.

Wed 7 Dec, 2.00 pm → Birkbeck College, free event

The Portuguese XX Century: The End of the Empire^{PG*}

Dir. Joana Pontes. Portugal 2002, 60'



Programmed by
Paula Rego

+ Editing Masterclass with TV editor Rui Branquinho

This documentary series was selected by the British-Portuguese artist Paula Rego as the most relevant narrative in Portuguese moving image production. This is part of a series that encompassed 300 interviews, hundreds of documents, photos and films from both national and international archives, all composing an extraordinary docu-series about the evolution of Portuguese society throughout the 20th Century. In this particular episode, number thirteen, we are given privileged insight into the stories and the rare family footage of individuals that escaped the eminent civil war in Angola in fragile boats or through extremely dangerous roads in 1975. It also includes interviews with key protagonists of the Portuguese revolution and the decolonisation process.

Masterclass: In a unique London event, the television editor Rui Branquinho will grant us an insight into the creative process behind *The Portuguese XX Century* series and will also demonstrate the post production process with various examples of his work as editor for historic and art documentary series. This session will give a broad overview of Branquinho's technical aptitude and wide experience of the post-production process.

In partnership with King's College.

Thu 8 Dec, 6.30 pm → Genesis Cinema, from £4.5

Recollections of the Yellow House^{15*}

Dir. João Cesar Monteiro. Portugal 1989, 122'



Programmed by
Hélder Macedo

+ Introduction by Hélder Macedo

Winner of the Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival, *Recollections of The Yellow House* was selected by the Portuguese writer Hélder Macedo as representative of the best in Portuguese cinema. João de Deus (John of God) is a poor and miserable man, languishing in a tiny room of a cheap boarding-house in a typical narrow street of Lisbon's old town. Monteiro's alter-ego, John of God, is an ill-fated and sexually frustrated man that spends his days obsessing about the women around him. *Recollections of The Yellow House* takes us through John's increasingly tense journey from the Lisbon port to the Yellow House, the tired mental hospital Miguel Bombarda, along the way paying tribute to the city and to many of the great authors in cinema, music and literature it has given refuge to.

In partnership with King's College.

7th UK Portuguese Film Festival
25 Nov – 8 Dec 2016

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