

VIDEOFILMES PRESENTS

PASSERBY

A FILM BY ERYK ROCHA

“an intense audiovisual experience” – André Miranda (O Globo).

“an engaging, welcoming film” - Heitor Augusto (Cineclick).

“gorgeous cinematographic work, stunning shots and beautiful photography” – Celso Sabadin.

“*Passerby* is a moving commentary on old age” – Luiz Zanin (Estado de São Paulo).

“*Passerby* isn’t a film about death, it’s a film about life” (Neusa Barbosa - UOL) .

“The film has playful elements – especially the soundtrack, which punctuates the protagonist’s day-to-day” (Neusa Barbosa – UOL).

“The film cares less about its script and more about the moment. The scenes fall in between experimentation (what is scripted) and experience (what is lived)” – Carlos Alberto Mattos

Eryk Rocha presents his first feature-length fiction film

THE FILM

After three forays into documentary, Eryk Rocha presents *Passerby*, his first feature-length fiction film. In 2010 the film went to the 43rd Brasília Film Festival and won the following honors: best actor for Fernando Bezerra as the retiree Expedito; best sound for Edson Secco; and the critics' prize for best film. *Passerby*, a VideoFilmes production, is coming to theatres on August 12th.

Passerby introduces us to Expedito, a 65-year-old retiree who wanders the streets of Rio de Janeiro. His is the story of many Brazilians who live unnoticed, sidelined by the frantic pace of the metropolis. Expedito is just one more person passing on by through Rio's urban desert.

"The intense research we did in downtown Rio revealed the film's soul to us, and the protagonist's as well. It was about the idea of anonymity, the possibility of concocting lives for the people we see passing by. Unfamiliar faces, which hold a universe of possibilities, dreams, stories, and sorrows in them. We incorporate our drama into the fabric of the city, creating a certain tension between fiction and reality - the actors mingle with passersby and extras. There's a strong documentary influence in the film's narrative. The cast draws on various theatre groups, and they're mainly actors unknown to the public at large," says Eryk.

SYNOPSIS

Expedito is a retiree who's lost all ties with life. Every day, amongst so many anonymous others, he walks through downtown Rio de Janeiro. He stopped being the protagonist of his own story years ago; now he's become an extra, a witness to the dramas of others he overhears in the street. Even so, Expedito slowly starts to take small, ordinary steps to start living again.

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

Why make the film in black and white?

Black and white allows me to play with the past and the present, mixing what *was* with what *is*.

Why does radio play such a crucial role in *Passerby*?

Radio permeates all my work, even my short film *Quimera*. Since I was a kid I've had a very special relationship with radio. When I lived in Colombia I could only get to sleep if I listened to it on low, it was almost like a mantra for me. Someone should make a film about that, radio in Brazil – but really radicalizing the idea.

Was the idea, from the beginning, to construct the protagonist's relationship with the world through sound?

Our sound designer, Edson Secco, was in on the project from the script onward. The radio that Expedito (the protagonist) listens to was always the driving narrative element of the film. From then on, we started working on two fronts with Edson. Lots of the news stories in the film were pieces that we heard and incorporated into the script. We recorded the stories even before we started filming, creating a sort of database of our radio research.

And why choose downtown Rio de Janeiro as the film's backdrop?

Downtown is where things mingle, where different temporalities can coexist. The construction site in front of Expedito's house is a metaphor for that, since the places he goes in the city are places that don't properly exist anymore. That's what interested us – the transformation of the place, and the man. Where's he headed?

Is the issue of isolation at the heart of the film?

There are Expeditos in every metropolis in Latin America. Men, old men, with absolutely nobody in the world. Who's going to remember them? He doesn't have relatives, a wife, or kids... how can you prove that he existed? That's what fascinates me. Film is a way of saying that he did exist – it's a way of making that memory real.

BIOGRAPHY - ERYK ROCHA

Eryk Rocha was born in Brasília in 1978 and has lived in several countries across Latin America. He studied cinema at the San Antonio de los Baños School in Cuba. It was there that he made *Stones in the Sky* (2002), his first feature-length film, which was selected by international festivals including Venice, Locarno, Montreal, Rotterdam, and Havana. *Stones in the Sky* won critical acclaim, taking top honors at the It's All True International Documentary Film Festival, the 2002 CineSul Festival, and the 2003 Rosario Film Festival, as well as winning the Saul Yelín Prize at the 2002 Havana International Festival of New Latin American Cinema. In 2004, Eryk Rocha directed the short film "Quimera," which was entered into competition at Cannes (in 2004) and Sundance (in 2006). "Quimera" was screened in festivals in Brazil as well as around the world, including Montreal, New York, Bilbao, South Korea, and Havana, and was honored as the best short film at the 2005 Montevideo International Film Festival. In 2006, Eryk's second feature-length film, *Intervalo Clandestino*, was entered in competition at festivals in Montreal, Montevideo, and Popoli, among others, and won a special mention at Guadalajara. This year he released his third film, the documentary *Pachamama*, which chronicles a thirty-day odyssey through Amazonia and the Andes. The film is a portrait of a continent at a boiling point, shot through with the ancient Andean culture.

A PRODUTORA - VideoFilmes

Videofilmes is a Brazilian film and video production company known for the high technical and artistic quality of its work. Founded in 1987 by brothers **Walter Salles Jr.** and **João Moreira Salles**, **Videofilmes** produces television series, feature films, and documentaries.

FEATURE FILMS

Linha de Passe (Linha de Passe) - directed by Walter Salles Jr, 2008.

Jogo de Cena (Playing) - feature length documentary directed by Eduardo Coutinho, 2007.

Santiago(Santiago) - feature length documentary about the failure of a film. Directed by João Moreira Salles , 2007

Suely in the Sky(O Céu de Suely) - "*Suely in the Sky*" is the second full-length feature of filmmaker Karim Aïnouz, Released 2006.

Lower City(Cidade Baixa) - "Lower City" marks the feature debut of Bahian filmmaker Sérgio Machado - Released in 2005.

Metalworkers (Peões) - Directed by Eduardo Coutinho. Brazil, 2004.

Intermissions (Entreatos) . Directed by João Moreira Salles. Brazil, 2004.

My Time is Now (Meu Tempo é Hoje) - Paulinho da Viola. Feature-length documentary. Directed by Izabel Jaguaribe. Brazil, 2003.

Nelson Freire - Feature-length musical. Directed by João Moreira Salles. Commercial release in May 2003. Brazil, 2003.

Master - A Copacabana Building (Edifício Master) - Feature-length documentary directed by Eduardo Coutinho, 2001.

Behind the Sun (Abril Despedaçado) -. Directed by Walter Salles Jr.. Released in Brazil in April 2002.

Madam Sata (Madame Satã) -first feature film by Karim Aïnouz in 2002. Co-production VideoFilmes, Canal +, and Lumière.

City of God (Cidade de Deus) -Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund co-directed this feature film, shot in July and August 2001 and released in 2002. Produced in partnership with O2 Filmes and Lumière.

At the Edge of the Earth (Onde a Terra Acaba) - Feature-length documentary directed by Sérgio Machado, . Released in 2000.

Babylon 2000 (Babilônia 2000) - Directed by Eduardo Coutinho. Released in Brazilian movie theaters in January 2001.

To the Left of the Father (Lavoura Arcaica) - Produced by VideoFilmes, Luiz Fernando Carvalho, Riofilme, and Donald K. Ranvaud.

Midnight (O Primeiro Dia) - Co-directed by Walter Salles Jr. and Daniela Thomas, 2000.

Central Station (Central do Brasil) - Directed by Walter Salles Jr.,

Foreign Land (Terra Estrangeira) - Directed by Walter Salles Jr. and Daniela Thomas.

High Art - Directed by Walter Salles Jr., with Peter Coyote and Tcheky Karyo.

DOCUMENTARIES AND DOCUMENTARY SERIES FOR TV

Series: Passages (Travessias) - The three episodes, 'Passage of Life', 'Passage of Time' and 'Passage through Darkness' were broadcast by TV Cultura. Brazil, 2002.

Masters and Slaves (Casa Grande & Senzala) - Documentary series in four episodes. Directed by Nelson Pereira dos Santos. Brazil, 2001.

Six Brazilian Stories - A series of six news stories. Each episode was made in partnership with a journalist and a documentarian, in a project involving journalists Dorrit Harazim, Flávio Pinheiro, Marcos Sá Corrêa, and Zuenir Ventura and documentarians Arthur Fontes, Izabel Jaguaribe, and João Moreira Salles. The format is a portrait album of Brazil: "**The Braz Family**"; "**The Valley**"; "**Passengers**"; "**A Day in the Life**"; "**Santa Cruz: the Holy Cross**" "**Dress Rehearsal**".

News from a Personal War (Notícias de uma guerra particular) - Documentary. Directed by Kátia Lund and João Moreira Salles.

Football (Futebol) - A series of three programs directed by João Moreira Salles and Arthur Fontes on the lives of three soccer players in different stages of their careers.

China, the Empire of the Center - A series of four documentaries filmed in the People's Republic of China. Directed by João Moreira Salles.

Krajcberg, the Poet of Remains - Documentary on the work of sculptor, painter, and photographer Frans Krajcberg and his struggle to defend Brazilian nature. Screenplay by João Moreira Salles, directed by Walter Salles Jr.

America - A series of five documentaries filmed in the United States and broadcast by the Manchete Network in 1989. Considered by critics as one of the best productions in the history of Brazilian TV. Directed by João Moreira Salles.

Poetry is just one or two lines and behind it a huge landscape (Poesia é uma ou duas linhas e atrás uma imensa paisagem) - Ten-minute experimental video paying tribute to Brazilian poet Ana Cristina César. Directed by João Moreira Salles.

Jorge Amado - One-hour documentary on Brazilian ethnic themes, religious syncretism, and miscegenation from the point of view of writer Jorge Amado. Directed by João Moreira Salles.

SHORT FILMS

Zé Ketti (Meu Comprade Zé Ketti) - Short musical film, a tribute to samba composer and musician Zé Ketti, one of Brazil's all-time greatest popular artists. Directed by Nelson Pereira dos Santos.

A Short Message from Brazil (Uma pequena mensagem do Brasil) -

Directed by Walter Salles Jr. and Daniela Thomas. Rio de Janeiro, 2002.

Socorro Nobre - Socorro Nobre is a 23-minute documentary on the surprising correspondence between artist Frans Krajcberg and female convict Nobre.. Directed by Walter Salles Jr.

MUSICAL SPECIALS

Bossa Nova Inside Out (O Averso da Bossa) - Musical documentary on the artistic, cultural, and ideological legacy of the Brazilian *tropicalistas*. Directed by Rogério Gallo. Brazil, 2001.

Marisa Monte Special - One-hour musical broadcast by the Manchete Network in December 1988. Golden Award for Best Musical Program. Directed by Walter Salles Jr.

Blues - Documentary on the Black musicians who have refused to give up either their roots or their home towns. Special Jury Prize, Festival International du Film D'Art - Georges Pompidou Center (Beaubourg), Paris, France. Directed by João Moreira Salles.

Chico Buarque, or the country of lost finesse (Chico ou o país da delicadeza perdida) - Musical documentary on Rio de Janeiro and composer Chico Buarque de Holanda, Screenplay and text by João Moreira Salles, directed by Walter Salles Jr.

Caetano, 50 years - A series of five programs celebrating Caetano Veloso's 50th birthday. Screenplay by João Moreira Salles and Arthur Fontes, directed by Walter Salles Jr. and José Henrique Fonseca.

João and Antônio - Documentary shown on the Globo Network in December 1992 featuring Bossa Nova, with a special focus on Antonio Carlos ("Tom") Jobim and João Gilberto. Directed by Walter Salles Jr.

A Tribute to Tom Jobim - Musical special paying tribute to Brazil's great Antonio Carlos ("Tom") Jobim. Directed by Walter Salles Jr.

FICHA TÉCNICA

A VideoFilmes Production

Director: Eryk Rocha

Executive Producers: Walter Salles, Mauricio Andrade Ramos

Screenplay: Manuela Dias e Eryk Rocha

Director of Photography: Miguel Vassy

Art Director: Marcos Pedroso

Production Management: Pimenta Jr.

Production Coordinator: Carolina Benevides

Production Assistant: Laura Liuzzi

Costume Design: Máira Senise e Alex Brollo

Editing: Ava Gaitán Rocha

Sound Designer: Edson Secco

Original Soundtrack: Fernando Catatau.

Cast:

Fernando Bezerra: **Expedito**

Beatriz Morelli: **Andreia**

Luciana Domschke: **Dra. Luciana**

José Paes de Lira: **Profeta**

Teuda Bara: **Metilene**

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