

Persmap



Ex Nihilo & Kissfilms, Muriel Meynard & Jamel Debbouze Presenteren

PUISQUE NOUS SOMMES NÉS

een film van
Jean-Pierre Duret & Andrea Santana

Frankrijk-Brazilië - 2008 - 90 min - 35 mm - 1.85 - Kleur- Dolby SRD/SR

*Brazilië. Noorwest. De staat Pernambouc. Een immens benzinstation
te midden van de verschroeiende aarde, doorkliefd door een eindeloze weg.*

Cocada en Nego zijn 14 en 13 jaar oud.

Cocada droomt ervan vrachtwagenchauffeur te worden. 's Nachts slaapt hij in de cabine van een vrachtwagen. Overdag helpt hij de anderen en doet klusjes. Zijn vader werd vermoord en hij heeft in de figuur van Mineiro een surrogaat-vader gevonden, een trucker die de tijd neemt om met hem te praten en hem te steunen wanneer de lokroep naar gemakkelijk verdiend geld groot wordt. Nego woont samen met zijn broers in een favela. Zijn moeder zou willen dat hij, na het werk op het veld, naar school gaat om een opleiding te volgen, maar Nego wil weg om geld te verdienen. 's Avonds draait hij rond het benzinstation, gefascineerd door de verlichte vitrines vol koopwaar en eten. Met zijn vriend Cocada kijken ze naar het af- en aanrijden van vrachtwagens en reizigers en laten ze zich opsorpen door de indrukken die ze krijgen van dit grote land waarover ze zo weinig weten. Met een maturiteit die typisch is voor hen die tegenspoed kennen, stellen ze zich vragen over hun identiteit en hun toekomst. Hun enige perspectief : een weg naar São Paulo of elders.

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THE FILM

This is a film on the prowl, a watcher's film. The two of us are there, we never do any interviews. The proof of their trust lies in this intimacy to which they occasionally abandon themselves. Cries of rage, the modulated calls of the goatherds, the horses' hooves, the sound of water, the horns of trucks, animals, the noisy and irregular breathing of a sick cow, the soundtrack also has a key role to play.

The sensations are too many for the limited frame of the camera to contain them all. But if we had no doubts, it would be best to refrain.

Jean-PierreDuret & Andrea Santana



A COLLECTIVE STORY

Around the two kids are some adults that they have chosen.

- The truckers are the people's aristocrats and Mineiro is admired as such. As a kid, he experienced hunger.

He broke free from it, but he does not forget where he comes from and tries to help drifter kids.

Cocada is like his adoptive son.

- Inacia is the mother of Nego. She has 10 children by 9 husbands. Violent husbands, often alcoholics, or who disappear from one day to another. "Being a father is not just about making babies", she said one day to her children. In this house, there is the mother's strength, uncompromising, to harden her children against the brutal life waiting for them.

- As far as he remembers, Zé has always wanted to be a farmer and raise animals, his passion, but he never managed to own a plot of ground to feed his family. So he makes bricks with his hands.

According to Zé, it's better to borrow money to buy a cow, even a half-starved one, to trade it for thousands of bricks, than wait for any sign from heaven.

AT THE BEGINNING

In this region with semi-arid climate, one could believe oneself to be at the time of the conquest of the west. But it is only a vision; in fact there's nothing else left to conquer.

On this scorched earth with its dried-up vegetation and ochre hues, people eke out a troubled and precarious existence: most of them own nothing. To survive in these conditions, they have to stand firm in the present, with all their integrity and hope.

One day, in the service station where everything for sale is spread out beneath the gaze of those who have nothing, we started talking to a ragged and hungry adolescent.

He told us: «I have nothing, all I have is my life.»

These words started to reverberate heavily. What's the story? What are the projects of those who only have their own lives? Where is their strength? What helps them to continue? We wanted to go with these children, follow their efforts and their discouragements, the desires and the fears.

We spent six months in this service station and its surroundings, a whole world concentrated into 5 km²

THE APPROACH

This film is not the bleeding heart or angelic portrait of poverty and violence in Brazil. It tells us the universal story of two kids trying to find their place in the adults' world. They know there is no possible future where they were born. This quest for identity takes place in the deprived Brazil of Nordeste, but it could actually take place in any country.

What is surprising and touching with Nego and Cocada is the energy they put into escaping this pre-destiny. They want to do something with their lives.

Their language carries in itself what unites them. In the film, this language challenges the one of the politicians, the words of Lula, also native to this region, who campaigns at that time for his second run for President.

In the situation of economic segregation that exists in Brazil, they have become the invisible people for whom the value of their own lives is denied.

DIRECTORS

JEAN PIERRE DURET

Born in Savoie, France, in 1953, to a family of farmers. After years of experience in the theatre with Armand Gatti, he became a boom operator, then a sound engineer.

Sound engineer :

Maurice Pialat, Luc et Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Jean-Marie Straub et Danièle Huillet, Jacques Doillon, Agnès Varda, Nicole Garcia, Agnès Jaoui, Claude Mouriéras, Christophe Ruggia, Jacques Audiard, Arnaud Desplantes, François Ozon, Cédric Kahn, Andrzej Wajda, Claude Chabrol, Andrzej Zulawski, Yolande Zaubermann...

Director :

1986 : « Un beau jardin, par exemple » (Documentaire - 52')

1990 : « Les jours de la lune » (Fiction - 52').

2001 : « Romances de Terre et d'Eau » (Documentaire - 78')

2004 : « Le Rêve de São Paulo » (Documentaire - 100')

ANDREA SANTANA

Born in the Nordeste of Brazil in 1964. She started working as an architect and urban planner. She began working in documentary film in 2000 with Jean-Pierre Duret.

Director :

2001 - « Romances de Terre et d'Eau » (Documentaire - 78')

2004 - « Le Rêve de São Paulo » (Documentaire - 100')

CREW

A film by Jean-Pierre Duret & Andrea Santana

Executive Producer Muriel Meynard

Photography and Sound Jean-Pierre Duret & Andréa Santana

Edited by Catherine Rascon

Sound Design and Mix Roman Dymny

Colour Timing Christine Szymkowiak

Original Score Martin Wheeler

Piano : Edda Erlendsdóttir

Sound : Daniel Deshays

Post-production Pierre Huot

In co-production with
MIKROS IMAGE
Maurice Prost
KISSFILMS
Jamel Debbouze

A Production
EX NIHILO
Muriel Meynard

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