



66^a Internationale
 Filmfestspiele
 Berlin
 Berlinale Shorts
 Competition

BALADA DE UM BATRÁQUIO

BATRACHIAN'S
 BALLAD



uma pedra
 no sapato





uma pedra
no sapato

Presents

BATRACHIAN'S BALLAD

Directed by Leonor Teles

WORLD PREMIERE

Accreditation: 12.02., 4:00 pm, CINEMAXX 5

Premier: 16.02., 10:00 pm, CINEMAXX 3

Repetition: 18.02., 5:00 pm, COLOSSEUM 1

Repetition: 19.02., 4:00 pm, CINEMAXX 5

Additional screenings

21.02., 7:30pm Zoo Palast 2 - Berlinale Shorts Go West

20.02., 4pm Cinemaxx 5 - "Forum Expanded Mix"

PROMOTION & SALES

Portugal Film – Portuguese Film Agency

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**“The following took place before people existed and ruled the world.
In those days, apart from trees, all living things could move freely.”**



BATRACHIAN'S BALLAD

Documentary, 2016, Portugal
11' | Colour | DCP

Directed by **Leonor Teles**
Script, Editing, Cinematography **Leonor Teles**
Sound **Bernardo Theriaga**
Sound Editing **Joana Niza Braga**
Sound Mixing **Branko Neskov**
Colour Grading **Andreia Bertini**
Producers **Filipa Reis, João Miller Guerra**
Production **Uma Pedra no Sapato**

“

The following took place before people existed and ruled the world.

In those days, apart from trees, all living things could move freely. Even flowers would visit their rabbit, squirrel and hedgehog friends, everything that walks, crawls or flies. The fish sometimes joined them, as they could leave the water.

One night, in a glade, a big party was under way. People told stories, and the birds gave a concert followed by dancing. Squirrels danced with periwinkles, rabbits danced with carnations, every flower had a partner. Even the spider jumped with the dragonfly. Joy all around.

The frog, too ugly to have been invited, also made an appearance. He turned to the tulip, but she rejected him. Everyone started making fun of him, gathering in circles around the poor frog, who was trembling with rage.

- You're horrendous, cried the owl.

Animals and flowers all pointed at the frog, chanting

- You're horrendous! You're horrendous!

Then, the frog lost it.

- You're all horrible, he shouted. - I'll get back at you!

He started to swell and grew so large that he exploded, splattering everyone around him with the venom from his skin.

The fish took refuge in the water, the birds took to the trees, and the flowers, attempting to hide, dug themselves into the soil...but withered.

From that night on, nothing was ever the same. Animals and flowers could no longer speak or understand each other. The flowers could no longer move. As for the fish, they died when taken out of the water.”

This is the story of the gypsy who one day avenged the gadjó's¹ derision.

Traditional gypsy tale

¹Gadjó – “Non-gypsy” in Romani



**“The following took place in a time when people ruled the world.
In those days, frog figurines were placed at the door to keep gypsies away.”**



SYNOPSIS

“Simultaneously strange and familiar, distant and near, disquieting and seductive, outsider and cosmopolitan, gypsies are shrouded in an aura of ambiguity. They cannot be said to be invisible, as they hardly go unnoticed.”

Daniel Seabra Lopes in *Deriva Cigana*, 2008

Like the gypsies, ceramic frogs don't go unnoticed to a careful observer. *Batrachian's Ballad* comes about in a context of ambiguity. A film that intervenes in the reality of Portuguese everyday life, as a form of fabling about a xenophobic behaviour.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The genesis of *BATRACHIAN'S BALLAD* occurred when I learnt a surprising fact – the Portuguese tradition of placing ceramic frogs in the doorways of restaurants and other commercial premises to ward off gypsies. Through this personal tale of mine, I wanted to call attention to a growing tendency to use belief and superstition to deride other human beings and to keep them at bay.

The film is based on the assumption, a naive one perhaps, that action might possibly trigger a change in attitude. I wanted to produce a film that is energetic, ironic and irreverent. A film in which Punk is an oppositional and political element, yet at the same time an aesthetic one. A short film as incisive, appealing and impetuous as Punk music.

As a filmmaker, I felt it was important to treat the topic with the sincerity and honesty it deserved. Anything that breaks rules and defies convention almost always becomes controversial; and that is precisely what happens in *BATRACHIAN'S BALLAD*. It was necessary to break the frogs. If I hadn't broken them, if I had done nothing to stop that, I wouldn't be truly addressing the issue, I would be merely concealing it.

The project took on a strong experimental component, because I had never approached a film from an interventional perspective. So I suggest that the viewers

are confronted with my image as a director and person of gypsy origin. Confrontations of that nature are not the only way to surprise the viewer with what they know or think they know. There are other ways to surprise, like for example, by recounting the real story the Brothers Grimm tell in their storybooks - showing that what really makes the princess turn the frog into a prince is not a kiss, but hurling him against the wall in an act of revulsion. The frogs, in all of these cases, will always be very hard to swallow.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Leonor Teles (1992) was born in Vila Franca de Xira (Portugal) in a family with roots in the local gypsy community. She graduated from the Lisbon National Film School (2013) – spec. in Cinematography and Directing, and she has a Master's Degree in Audiovisual and Multimedia (2015). *Rhoma Acons* (2013), her final school film, was shown and awarded at several film festivals such as Clermont-Ferrand IFF, Munich IFFS, FICUNAM, IndieLisboa IFF, Curtas de Vila do Conde IFF, among others.

Currently, Leonor works mainly in her documentary projects and as a cinematographer.

FILMOGRAPHY

Rhoma Acons - documentary, 14', Portugal, 2013 – School Film

FESTIVALS

Festival Internacional de Jóvenes Realizadores de Granada (2014)

Short Shorts Film Festival Mexico (2014)

IN THE PALACE International Short Film Festival (2014)

CINE MIGRATÓRIO - 3º Festival Internacional de Cine Sobre Migración (2014)

4º Festival Internacional de Cine UNAM (2014)

36^e Festival International du Court Métrage à Clermont-Ferrand (2014)

17º Festival Luso-Brasileiro (2013)

Up and coming – International Film Festival Hannover (2013)

33rd Munich International Festival of Film Schools (2013)

IndieCork Film Festival (2013)

Córtex– Festival de Curtas Metragens de Sintra (2013)

CINEMIGRANTE – 4º Festival Internacional de Cine y Formación en Derechos Humanos de Las Personas Migrantes (2013)

6th Singapore Indie Doc Fest (2013)

Avanca Film Festival (2013)

21º CURTAS VILA DO CONDE – International Film Festival (2013)

FESTRÓIA – Festival Internacional de Cinema de Setúbal (2013)

NY Portuguese Short Film Festival (2013)

ZLÍN FILM FESTIVAL (2013)

PANORAMA – 7ª Mostra de Documentário Português (2013)

INDIELISBOA'13 – 10º Festival Internacional de Cinema Independente (2013)

MECAL – 15º Festival Internacional de Cortometrajes de Barcelona (2013)

Fantasporto– 33º Festival Internacional de Cinema do Porto (2013)

OTHER INTERNATIONAL SCREENINGS

GIRA FINCUNAM2014

Extension NY Portuguese Short Film Festival in Angola (2013)

Extension NY Portuguese Short Film Festival in Brazil (2013)

Extension NY Portuguese Short Film Festival in London (2013)

AWARDS

Honorable Mention at IndieLisboa (2013)

Take One competition at Curtas Vila do Conde (2013)

Jury's Special Mention at FICUNAM (2014)



Original title **Balada de um Batráquio**
International title **Batrachian's Ballad**
Director **Leonor Teles**
Genre **Documentary**
Year **2016**
Country of production **Portugal**
Language **Portuguese**
Subtitles **English**
Duration **11'**
Original format **Super 8**
Screening format **DCP**
Colour

Script **Leonor Teles**
Cinematography **Leonor Teles**
Camera Operators **Leonor Teles,**
Ico Costa, André Costa
Colour Grading **Andreia Bertini**
Sound **Bernardo Theriaga**
Sound Editing **Joana Niza Braga**

Sound Mixing **Branko Neskov**
Music **Emir Kusturica & No Smoking**
Orchestra, Melech Mechaya
Music Supervising **Joana Niza Braga**
Voice-Over **Pedro Marujo, Leonor Teles**
Voice-Over Recording **Bernardo**
Theriaga, Rafael Gonçalves Cardoso
Editing **Leonor Teles**
Editing Consultants **Rúben Gonçalves,**
Filipe Jorge
Assistant Director **Ico Costa**
Assistant Producers **Carmo Medeiros,**
Inês Abreu
Production Manager **Daniela Soares**
Producers **Filipa Reis and João Miller**
Guerra
Production **Uma Pedra no Sapato**
Promotion & Sales **Portugal Film**
Portuguese Film Agency

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

UMA PEDRA NO SAPATO is a film production company based in Lisbon and founded by Filipa Reis and João Miller Guerra in 2008. With an independent way of thinking about the society we live in and an attentive look towards contemporary mentalities, culture and artistic expression, their work is characterized by long-lasting relationships with partners, institutions and people. UMA PEDRA NO SAPATO's films are regularly selected and awarded in international film festivals (Berlinale, FID Marseille, Cinema du Réel, IDFA, Festival dei Popoli, Rio IFF, BORDOCS, FIDOCS, Traces de Vies, DOK Leipzig, Ethnocineca, FIDBA, Miradas Doc, Art Of The Real NY, IndieLisboa, DocLisboa, amongo thers). With theatrical release as a starting point, the films are distributed through national television channels, cable TV and via VOD all over the world.

www.umapedranosapato.com
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uma pedra
no sapato

A stone in the shoe will make you come to.

PROMOTION AND SALES

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