

2023

PAS NANTES WORKSHOP

WHERE YOU'RE HEADED

AONDE VOCÊ QUER CHEGAR

BRAZIL

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	100 mins
Language	Portuguese
Shooting format	Digital 4K
Shooting location	Brazil, Portugal
Shooting dates	Second quarter of 2025
Expected date of completion	End of 2025
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	952,380.95 €
Financing in place	N/A
Production company	Moçambique Audiovisual
Workshop & platforms attended	PAS Nantes 2023

SYNOPSIS

Camilo's carefree life in Canoa Quebrada takes a drastic turn when his surrogate father, João, dies on his 18th birthday. Shaken and with no means to support himself, Camilo looks up to Isaura, his twin sister. During a tumultuous encounter Isaura winds up causing the accidental death of a police officer who had threatened Camilo. The two are forced to flee from the law. Isaura is arrested and consequently prevented from realizing her big dream – to meet Alcina (45), their mother who had abandoned them when they were born. Camilo assumes his sister's plan as his own and finally finds their mother in Portugal. The family reunion transforms and redefines the fate of all of them.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

During the production of my second movie, I realized that both of my films only featured static shots with the camera always on a tripod. Reflecting on it, I began to long for a film with a free camera, constantly moving, breathing with the viewer. I needed a story and a character to justify it. Young characters seemed appropriate, embodying irreverence, recklessness, and a hunger for life. Then I met Camilo, a marginalized young man who challenged a system of invisible prisons that society imposes on us. His story begins at sea, he represents a fish boy who needs to find his "shoal" – his twin sister Isaura and his mother Alcina. Camilo's escape with Isaura and his search for Alcina reveal a free but lost human, adrift but in search of a purpose, needing to understand his past to shape his future. Camilo makes my camera dive and soar, taking me on an artistic journey rooted in the desire for movement, a precursor to transformation. This story exists to transform us all.

CONTACT

Producer - Maurício Macêdo - mauriciocruzmacedo@gmail.com

Director - Armando Praça - armandopraca78@gmail.com



PRODUCER MAURÍCIO MACÊDO



Maurício Macêdo is a Brazilian audiovisual producer. He's worked with renowned directors like Karim Ainouz, Marcelo Gomes, and more. Credits include «Greta» (Berlin Panorama, 2019), «Fortaleza Hotel» (2022), and «Meninas do Benfica» (2022, Canal Brasil). He's exec produced

films like «Motel Destino» (2024, Karim Ainouz) and «Os Peixes Dormem de Olhos Abertos» (2024, Nele Wholats). As a line producer, he contributed to series like «Cangaço do Futuro» (Netflix) and «Lana & Carol» (TV Brasil/EBC), along with films including «Bem-Vinda a Quixeramobim» (2022, Halder Gomes) and «Cabeça de Nêgo» (2021, Deo Cardoso).

Currently, Maurício Macêdo is actively producing six projects in various stages, including animated feature films like «The Crab's Eyes» and «Glory & Freedom», as well as the fiction feature «Fiz um Foguete Imaginando que Você Vinha», directed by Janaina Marques.

DIRECTOR ARMANDO PRAÇA



Armando Praça is a Brazilian screenwriter, and filmmaker born in 1978. He's worked as an assistant director, screenwriter, and actor coach for renowned Brazilian filmmakers. Praça's short and medium-length films, including «The Bionic Woman», «The Clown's Love», «Origin: Destiny»,

and «Amusement Park», have been featured in 30+ international festivals.

His debut feature film, «Greta», premiered at the Berlinale in 2019 and was showcased at over 40 international festivals. In 2022, he released «Fortaleza Hotel», his second feature film. Praça has also contributed as a screenwriter for series like «Me Chama de Bruna» (T1), «Betinho» (in production), and the feature film «Paloma» by Marcelo Gomes.

Currently, he's working on the series «Maria Bonita» for STAR+ and «City of God» for HBO, while preparing for his third feature film, «Madrugada», set to start filming in 2024.

THE FRAGRANCE OF BLUISH FLOWER

MYANMAR

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	105 mins
Language	Burmese
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	Myanmar
Shooting dates	Winter 2024
Expected date of completion	2025
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	315,000 €
Financing in place	N/A
Production company	Skyward Film Production
Workshop & platforms attended	Locarno Open Doors Consultancy 2020

SYNOPSIS

Zar Phyu, a disenchanted 35-year-old karaoke bar hostess burdened by debt and loneliness, seeks solace with her Buddhist nun sister, Daw Pyin Nyar. Desperate for money, she bonds with the orphanage children and deals with a scam, securing temporary aid. Ultimately, to protect the monastery's reputation, she leaves, showcasing the struggles of family, sacrifice, and finding purpose.

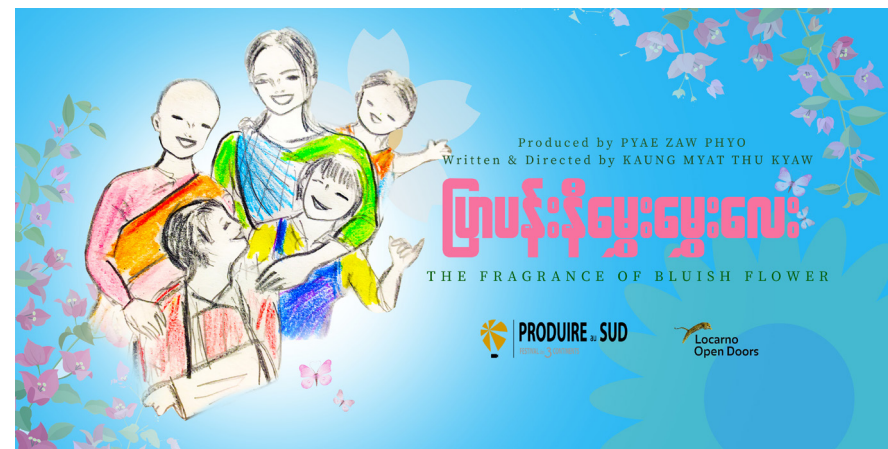
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In this story, a sibling dynamic mirrors societal expectations. The elder sibling is seen as a support, but the reality is different. The main character Zar and her sister grapple with these feelings. The elder sister, a nun, embodies struggles, while Zar faces societal judgment. The story highlights gender discrimination among religious workers in Myanmar. Set in a tropical region, it portrays local culture, children's innocence, and social themes. The film's style will be emphasizing natural tones, simple camera work, and folk sounds. Targeting international film festivals and local markets, it challenges gender norms in casting and aims to elevate local cinema artistry amidst a changing landscape.

CONTACT

Producer - Pyae Zaw Phyo - pzphyofilm@gmail.com

Director - Kaung Myat Thu Kyaw - kaungmyatthu kyaw.film@gmail.com



PRODUCER PYAE ZAW PHYO



Pyae Zaw Phyo is a distinguished filmmaker and producer from Myanmar. His cinematic journey began in 2013 at the Human Dignity Film Institute in Yangon. In 2015, his first feature film script «Love for Life» was selected by the prestigious Producers au Sud Workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand. Pyae Zaw Phyo unveiled his debut feature film «The Dark Cinema» in 2019. Its selection by the Panama Horror Film Festival was a testament to his prowess, making history as the first Myanmar mainstream film to grace the screens of Central America. He started as a producer in 2020 for «Beauty in the Trash» (The Fragrance of Bluish Flower) and was selected for Locarno Open Doors Consultancy Service. In 2019, Pyae Zaw Phyo founded Skyward Film Production. His filmography boasts an array of award-winning projects including two impactful documentary films, numerous engaging short films and feature films.

DIRECTOR KAUNG MYAT THU KYAW



Kaung Myat Thu Kyaw, a 37-year-old Burmese literature graduate from Yangon West University, embarked on an unconventional journey. He joined his brother's restaurant in a distant city. Here, he began exploring filmmaking utilizing a tape camera and editing software. Encouragement from his father led him to apply for a filmmaking program where he honed his skills and produced his first documentary. He set a goal to create a feature film by 30 and achieved it with «Summer Rain Story» despite budget constraints. This experience taught him to uphold his artistic integrity and strive for alignment with his vision. Currently, as a Production Designer, he navigates the local film industry while continuing to refine his craft and work towards reshooting and realizing his artistic goals. He remains a testament to resilience, creativity, and determination in pursuit of his passion for filmmaking.

2023

PAS NANTES WORKSHOP

GIRL ON THE TURTLE'S BACK

PHILIPPINES

MAIN DATA

Category	Coming of age
Length	90 mins
Language	Filipino
Shooting format	Digital 8K
Shooting location	Philippines
Shooting dates	Dec 2024 - Feb 2025
Expected date of completion	January 2026
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	817,862 €
Financing in place	168,562 €
Production company	Daluyong Studios
Workshop & platforms attended	Locarno Open Doors Consultancy 2021, Full Circle Lab 2023, QCinema Project Market 2023

SYNOPSIS

Nestled in the serene beauty of Palawan, Philippines, *Girl on the Turtle's Back* unveils the journey of Isay, a 14-year-old grappling with life's mysteries, much like the sea turtle's fate shaped by nature's whims. Bullied by her peers due to her affection for a childhood friend of the same gender, Isay yearns to find her place.

Guided by her mother, Betchay, she learns to cherish the island's fragile harmony and its diverse creatures. Yet Betchay's enigmatic disappearances leave Isay tending to her own grandmother, Merced, who bears the weight of age and arthritis.

Isay embarks on a perilous journey across the West Philippine Sea to find answers surrounding the mystery that is her mother. Along the way, her journey deviates from that search when the boat she secretly hides in to reach an island makes a detour to another island.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Girl on the Turtle's Back is a heartfelt homage to the land that nurtured me and the resilient women who raised me—strong Filipino women who defied societal norms. Thus, this film pays special tribute to my mother. It delves into the complexities of human relationships and explores themes of acceptance, forgiveness, self-discovery, and the liberating power of resilience amid transient landscapes.

As a gay filmmaker, I view this story through an ecofeminist lens, recognizing the profound connection between gender dynamics, environmental degradation, and the urgent need to address power imbalances. With this film, I aim to embark on the discovery of nature's mysteries and treasures, which guide human behavior. I hope to ignite meaningful conversations, unite people, and celebrate resilience in the face of daunting challenges, encompassing climate change and the imperative to find a fairer, more inclusive future for all creation.

CONTACT

Producer - Iana Bernardez - ianabernardez@gmail.com

Director - Paul Sta. Ana - fossilring@yahoo.com



PRODUCER IANA BERNARDEZ



Iana Bernardez is a Filipino producer who started her career in 2016 with independent films like Thop Nazareno's *Kiko Boksingero* (2016, Cinemalaya), and Kenneth Dagatan's first film *Ma* (2018, New York AFF). Since then, she has worked closely with recognized companies, Epicmedia and Da-

luoyong Studios.

Her next notable work is Dwein Baltazar's third film *Ode to Nothing* (2018), winning six awards at the QCinema IFF (including Best Film), and competed at Karlovy Vary and Fantasia. In 2019, she produced Rae Red's *The Girl and the Gun* winning Best Director and the Gender Sensitivity Award at the QCinema IFF, competed at the Osaka AFF, and was the opening film for New York AFF. Most recently, she line-produced Petersen Vargas' *Some Nights I Feel Like Walking*, a three-country co-production between the Philippines, Singapore, and Taiwan.

DIRECTOR PAUL STA. ANA



Paul Sta. Ana is a published Filipino poet and accomplished filmmaker who is an alumnus of the 2013 Berlinale Talents. His work encompasses themes like gender politics, the commodification of death, and ecology.

As a screenwriter and/or director, his notable work includes *Mayo-*

han (2010 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival best screenplay), *Trespassers* (winner of the Best Asian-Middle Eastern Film at the 2011 Tokyo International Film Festival), and *Walang Forever* (2015 Metro Manila Film Festival Best Screenplay). Oros opened the 2012 Asiatica Film Mediale in Rome, Italy. His most recent film, *Balut Country*, was showcased at the 2015 Tokyo International Film Festival. He wrote and directed various television series, specials, and mini-series for GMA Television Network, earning local television awards and an International Emmy nomination.

EVERY STITCH A LONELY THREAD

SOUTH AFRICA

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	90 mins
Language	isiXhosa, English
Shooting format	4K Digital
Shooting location	South Africa
Shooting dates	June 2026
Expected date of completion	January 2027
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	501,637.88 €
Financing in place	5,000 USD
Production company	Ctrl Alt Shift
Workshop & platforms attended	Durban FilmMart 2023

SYNOPSIS

After a tragic roadside accident that sends him into a coma, a young municipal worker, Lemohang Mpanza, is possessed by ancestral visions who prophesize that he will begin a new religious faith. Awoken by these visions, he abandons his previous life and draws toward him a congregation of those marginalised by his city.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The concept of this film emerges out of my personal experiences as a student activist in Cape Town, South Africa. It was a time marked equally by a desperate love and righteous resistance, alongside endemic police brutality and a sense of despair. I wondered how I would make a film about that moment, how I would be able to tell a story about the movement I helped build and why it fell apart. The story that began to take shape became an allegory of this recent history, exploring at length the feeling of that epoch, it's visceral images and it's unanswered questions. The visual language of the story, it's cinematographic style, is drawn from a range of cinematic works, photographic archives and lived experiences. From the cinema, this film is channeling the works of Carlos Reygadas, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Lemohang Jeremiah Moses and Béla Tarr among others. This is a slow cinema, where every image is a personal vision loaded with history.

CONTACT

Producer - Tiny Mungwe - tmungwe@gmail.com

Director - Jannous Aukema - jaukema17@gmail.com



PRODUCER TINY MUNGWE



Tiny Mungwe is a filmmaker and arts manager. She works at STEPS where she produced Generation Africa, 25 documentary films from 16 African countries about migration. Her films include Akekho uGogo (2008), wrote Evelyn (2014) and Daddy's Boy (2016). She wrote on the TV series Muvhango and Matatiele and directed Uzalo. Mungwe was programmes manager at the Centre for Creative Arts (UKZN) organizing their festivals Time of the Writer, the Durban International Film Festival, Jomba!, Poetry Africa, Durban FilmMart and Talents Durban.

DIRECTOR JANNOUS AUKEMA



Jannous Nkululeko Aukema is a filmmaker and composer based in South Africa. He has worked in a wide range of genres and forms, from narrative fiction to documentary, theatre and multi-media installation. His past projects as writer-director include the short narrative film, 'Until The Silence Comes' (2018 - 24min), and the short documentary film 'Deliver Me' (2021 - 30min, Winner 'Best South African Documentary Short' AHRFF). His films have screened at a variety of prestigious film festivals, including Aesthetica Short Film Festival, Encounters South African International Documentary Festival, Shnit International Short Film Festival and Cairo International Film Festival, amongst others.

His work pivots around the themes of ancestral memory, social-justice, migration and post- coloniality.

2023

PAS NANTES WORKSHOP

SCENT OF A DEAD BODY

PINA VAASAM

SRI LANKA

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama, War
Length	90 mins
Language	Tamil, Sinhalese
Shooting format	RAW
Shooting location	Sri Lanka
Shooting dates	September 2024
Expected date of completion	February 2025
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	323,850 €
Financing in place	111,850 €
Production company	Silent Frames Productions
Workshop & platforms attended	Film Bazaar Co-Production Market 2017, Clinic Kathmandu Docskool Scriptwriting Workshop

SYNOPSIS

Post war Sri Lanka, an old Tamil man discovers a mass grave while digging his reclaimed land. An old Tamil mother searches for her son who went missing during the war, and claims a body in the grave as her son's. The old mother fights for the custody of her son's body from the army who take control of the site following the old man's discovery. After many failed attempts, she escapes with the body, and the old man decides to help her. She finally buries the body. Subsequently, it's revealed that the body isn't her son's, and she knew it all along. She needed to give closure to at least one body, in the name of her son.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Scent of a Dead Body" is my take to the horrors of the Sri Lankan civil war, experienced firsthand as a 5-year-old. Fueled by government-backed Sinhalese mobs, Tamils faced unimaginable violence, forcing my family into hiding. The trauma endured over the 33-year conflict inspired this film. It centers on a mother's unyielding courage, symbolizing the resilience of all mothers who lost loved ones. The narrative explores my own redemption from childhood trauma, depicting the untold strength of women amidst societal stereotypes. Set in authentic North Sri Lankan locations, the film captures the war's terror through dust-filled air and broken landscapes. Using the Jaffna dialect and local faces, the film aims to amplify the voices of the oppressed. This story is my attempt to bring closure to the agonizing memories, shedding light on the plight of countless mothers, and showcasing the indomitable spirit of survival amidst adversity.

CONTACT

Producer - Hiranya Perera - hirzay@gmail.com

Director - Ilango Ram - andy.ilango@gmail.com



PRODUCER HIRANYA PERERA



Sri Lankan. Hiranya is an alumna at Busan Asian Film School, Korea and Producer's lab in association with IFFI, India. She won the award 'Leadership in the field of Film Industry' at the Top50 Professional & Career women global awards. She co founded Silent Frames Productions where she produced her short SILENT TEARS that traveled 27 film festivals including Locarno Open Doors with 19 awards. Her feature projects were selected to participate at Film Bazaar Co production market, Clinic Kathmandu – Doc Skool, Asia Content and Film Market, Korea and Asian Producers Network, Singapore. Her feature TENTIGO will be having the world premiere at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. TENTIGO will be remade in India early next year. Hiranya graduated from CIM – UK, CIMA – UK and Masters in Entrepreneurship & Innovation. She was a TV program producer and a freelance TV Commercial director.

DIRECTOR ILANGO RAM



Sri Lankan. Ilango graduated from the Rockport College USA. Alumnus at Rotterdam Lab, Berlinale Talents and Asian Film Academy, Korea. Graduated from NIT- India. He co-founded Silent Frames Productions through which he wrote and directed his short film SILENT TEARS that received 19 awards traveled to 27 international film festivals including Locarno Open Doors. His film projects were selected at the Film Bazaar Co production market, Clinic Kathmandu – Doc Skool and Asian Content and Film Market, Korea. He taught filmmaking at University of Kelaniya, SL and at SLT-TI, SL. He was a jury panelist at the Colombo International Film Festival, Cinema world – Cinema Short competition and Agenda14 short film festival. His feature TENTIGO will have the world premiere at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. As an ad filmmaker, he has directed more than 450 TV commercials within and outside of SL.

BEKES

TURKEY



MAIN DATA

Category	Drama, Road story
Length	120 mins
Language	Turkish, Kurdish
Shooting format	HD Digital
Shooting location	Turkey
Shooting dates	NA
Expected date of completion	August 2025
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	818,000 €
Financing in place	85,000 €
Production company	Gataki Films
Workshop & platforms attended	Berlinale Talents Project Market 2023, Meetings on the Bridge 2023

SYNOPSIS

Refugees run from the civil war in Syria to the Turkish border but also animals they left behind find a way to cross it on their own. Hasan finds a calf near the border and he names her Bekes. Mehmet is a trader who buys runaway animals from the villagers illegally. Hasan sells Bekes to Mehmet and he loads the animals into a truck and goes to a farm in Edirne, near the Europe border. As the truck approaches the delivery point, it hits the barrier. The police arrive at the accident site and they realize a missing cow. A villager Bayram finds Bekes by the river near the Greek border. He settles with a butcher to slaughter her but he notices that Bekes is pregnant. They start to wait for the birth.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The civil war in Syria forced millions of people towards the neighbouring countries. We all witnessed the fate of humans but what happened to the animals they left behind? This question was the springboard of my project. The runaway animals sometimes run across the border to take refuge in Turkey. I find it symbolic that these animals were running from war, forced to comply with their destiny written by others, a situation very similar to the tragic experiences of the refugees. I planned to carry out this project that aims to show the experiences of running from the war through the eyes of a calf, BEKES.

This is a road story of a journey from one border where the war takes place to another. However, it is a calf that embarks on this journey. The film develops as the weird and dangerous journey of a calf that virtually becomes a refugee unfolds, together with the stories of characters that interact with her journey.

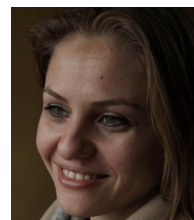
CONTACT

Producer - Vildan Ersen - vildan.ersen@gmail.com

Director - Mahsum Taskin - mahsumtaskin73@gmail.com



PRODUCER VILDAN ERSEN



Born in Istanbul, in 1976. She graduated from Mimar Sinan Art University, Fashion Design. In 2012, she started her career in the film industry as a line producer for the feature-length film 'I'M NOT HIM' directed by Tayfun Pirselimoglu. Ersen established a film production company in

2017 and produced her first feature as the main producer 'SIDEWAY' directed by Tayfun Pirselimoglu. Her second feature as the main producer is 'KERR' directed by Tayfun Pirselimoglu in 2021 was selected as Turkey's Official Submission for Best International Film at the 95th Academy Awards. Ersen has been selected for the Berlinale Nipkow Programme 2020, Cannes L'Atelier 2021, Tallinn Black Nights Co-production Market 2021, Berlinale Talents 2023, and Singapore Asian Producer Network 2022 with her projects. She is a member of the European Film Academy.

DIRECTOR MAHSUM TASKIN



He was born in Şırnak/ Turkey in 1994. In 2018, he graduated from Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine. He took cinema classes from directors like Özcan Alper, Kazım Öz, Emin Alper, and Nuri Bilge Ceylan. He worked as a scriptwriter, assistant director, and co-director in numerous short films. His first short film as a director, Binbir Gece (2020) competed in many national and international film festivals, with the screenplay being a finalist in the competition organized by TRT (Turkish Radio Television Corporation) at the Malatya Film Festival. It won the Jury Special Award at the International Antalya Film Festival, the Best Film Award at the Seattle Film Festival, and IFSAK (Istanbul Amateur Photography and Cinema Society) Jury Special Award. His second short film "GARAN" has just been finished and it will be sent to festivals in 2024.