

barbican film

CINEMA OF BRAZIL: Urban Tales

Tuesday 8 September – Thursday 8 October 2009

www.barbican.org.uk/film Cinema Hotline: 0845 120 7527

Barbican Film, in partnership with the Embassy of Brazil and with the support of TAM Airlines, presents the **3rd annual Cinema of Brazil festival, from Tuesday 8 September to Thursday 8 October 2009**. An urban theme permeates this **award-winning** selection of ten contemporary features and four documentaries studded with **UK premieres**.

Brazil's megalopolis São Paulo becomes more than a setting in the strikingly shot ***Not by Chance***, in which city traffic regulator Enio's calculated life is changed by an event beyond his control. The hopes and anxieties of four disparate characters are linked together across city boundaries by their tuning in to an astrological radio show in an ode to São Paulo, ***The Sign of the City***. In contrast the city plays an alienating role in characters' lives in films such as ***If Nothing Else Works Out*** (Rio Festival winner 2008) and ***December***. The critically acclaimed ***Lower City***, produced by Walter Salles, is a sultry tale of tangled relationships set in Salvador's red light district, whilst Brazil's 2008 blockbuster ***My Name Ain't Johnny*** depicts the real life story of a Rio drug-dealer.

The documentary offering includes a preview of Edinburgh Film Festival hit, ***Only When I Dance***, the story of two ballet dancers from the favelas of Rio, and their struggles as they audition for the chance to win a life-changing place with an international dance company. The inspirational work of international artist Vik Muniz with the landfill scavengers of Jardim Gramacho is documented in ***You, Me, Garbage and Picasso*** (tbc). The festival also includes work from acclaimed Brazilian filmmakers Jorge Furtado and Eduardo Coutinho whose film ***Master - A Copacabana Building*** looks at the lives existing side-by-side in one apartment block in Copacabana.

The Symposium ***Transnational Brazilian Cinema***, which will be held at 3 October 2009 (10 am – 2 pm), intends to discuss the conquest of international market as imperative for the Brazilian cinema and also the increasing

importance of the roles of some Brazilian and international public bodies on this development.

Realized by Analyses Centre for Cinema and Audiovisual and the Embassy of Brazil, in partnership with Discovering Latin America Film Festival and University of Leeds (Centre for Brazilian Film Studies), issues include what role do international public bodies play in supporting Brazilian cinema? In the current financial climate, why should public bodies continue to develop a relationship with the cinematic world within Brazil? These questions and others will be debated in the Transnational Brazilian Cinema Symposium.

SPEAKERS

Alessandra Meleiro (Cebrap/CENA), Elisa Alvarez (Executive, Future Films), Isabel Davis (Senior Executive, International Strategy & Co-production, UK Film Council), Richard Collings (Manager, Business Programmes at BBC), Representative from Agência Nacional de Cinema (ANCINE/Brazil), Libia Villazana (Director Discovering Latin America Festival in London).

Moderator Stephanie Dennison - Reader in Brazilian Studies - Dept Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies/ University of Leeds

The *Transnational Brazilian Cinema* introduces for the first time in London the Latin American Film Network. This is a space that will function as a meeting point to propel agreements between, mainly but not exclusively, Latin American filmmakers and scriptwriters and European producers.

FILM PROGRAMME:

Tuesday 8 September

7.00pm - *If Nothing Else Works Out (Se Nada Mais der Certo)* (15*) (Brazil 2009 Dir. José Eduardo Belmonte 120 min) UK PREMIERE followed by a Q&A with director José Eduardo Belmonte and actress Caroline Abras (tbc)
Scooping the Best Film, Best Screenplay and Best Actress prizes at the Rio International Film Festival, *If Nothing Else Works Out* is a look at a group of friends living life on the edge in frenetic São Paulo. Leo (Cauã Reymond) is a journalist with financial problems living with his depressed flatmate Ângela (Luíza Mariani), the mother of a small boy. After meeting ambiguous character Marcin and cab driver Wilson, the four decide that with nothing else working out, their only option is to plan a heist. Strikingly shot, Belmonte's film is imbued with the frantic nature of those struggling to get a hold on life in the city. **Also on Saturday 3 October**

Thursday 10 September

6.15pm - *The Conception (A Concepção)* (18*) (Brazil 2005 Dir. José Eduardo Belmonte 96 min) UK PREMIERE followed by a Q&A with director José Eduardo Belmonte

A comment on the nature of life in Brasilia, ***The Conception*** follows the hedonistic experiment embarked on by the bored children of bureaucrats in Brazil's capital. Lino, Alex and Liz's lives are transformed when they meet X, a nameless man, who incites drug-fuelled debauchery, excess and rebellion. Opening with footage of Brasilia's construction in the 1950s, the film explores the nature of the children the city has produced; privileged yet dangerously in want of attention.

Saturday 12th September

4.15pm - *Lower City (Cidade Baixa)* (18) (Brazil 2007 Dir. Sérgio Machado 97 min)

The multi award-winning ***Lower City*** takes its name from the red-light district of Salvador, where it is set. Full of verve, this searing addition to the 'Brazilian new wave' is imbued with the vibrant street spirit of the Brazilian metropolis. Deco (Lázaro Ramos) and Naldinho (Wagner Moura) are childhood friends making a living doing con jobs. After befriending Karinna (Alice Braga), a stripper hoping to find a rich man in Salvador, they both become infatuated leading to a love triangle that threatens their friendship. Produced by Walter Salles and directed by his former assistant director, this absorbing, high pedigree drama pulses with energy. **Also on Friday 2 October**

Sunday 13th September

4.00pm - *Master - A Copacabana Building (Edifício Master)* (12A*) (Brazil 2002 Dir. Eduardo Coutinho 110 min)

In ***Master - A Copacabana Building***, Eduardo Coutinho, Brazil's master of documentary, intimately records the daily lives of the residents of a gargantuan Copacabana apartment block over the course of seven days. The building, known as "Master" has a grand total of 276 apartments, housing circa 500 people. Coutinho and his team interview 37 residents of the cramped studio flats, who reveal an array of rich and varied life stories.

Saturday 26 September

4.00pm - *My Name Ain't Johnny (Meu Nome Não é Johnny)* (15*) (Brazil 2008 Dir. Mauro Lima 124 min)

My Name Ain't Johnny is a superb dramatisation of the life of the charismatic João Guilherme Estrella (Selton Mello), who from wealthy middle-class roots, fell into a life of Bohemian abandon and became the drug baron of Rio de Janeiro, by the early 1990s. Charting his rise and fall, this film evocatively illustrates both

the excess of his decadent years and, following his arrest in 1995, his rehabilitation and self-reflection. Winner of 6 Oscarito Trophies at the Brazilian National Film Awards.

Thursday 1 October

6.00pm - *Not By Chance (Não Por Acaso)* (15*) (Brazil 2007 Dir. Phillippe Barcinski 90 min) UK PREMIERE

Not By Chance is an ode to São Paulo, in which fate takes a hand in the lives of the city's inhabitants. Ênio's (Leonardo Medeiros) passion for control is reflected in his job as a traffic engineer, regulating the flow of vehicles through the city. However when a tragic accident occurs it propels his long estranged 16-year-old daughter back into his life. Breathtaking shots of Brazil's megalopolis are teemed with touching human narratives of people split apart, but also brought together seemingly by chance.

8.30pm - *December* (15*) (Brazil 2008 Dir. Selton Mello 100 min) UK PREMIERE followed by a Q&A with actress Darlene Glória (tbc)

Popular actor Selton Mello makes an assured directorial debut with ***December***, a brilliantly cast family drama. After living a quiet and solitary existence in the country for many years, a man decides to visit his family in the city during the time of reconciliation and understanding, Christmas. His reappearance alters everyone's situation, as he is immersed in the complex web of their relationships. Before too long he realises he has to make a decision about his future, and the values that will shape it.

Friday 2 October

6.30pm - *Still Orangutans (Ainda Orangotangos)* (15*) (Brazil 2007 Dir. Gustavo Spohidoro 81 min) UK PREMIERE

Shot in one single take, ***Still Orangutans*** follows the inhabitants of the southern city of Porto Alegre, over the course of one hot summer's day. We are transported to all corners of the urban landscape, from markets to apartment blocks, through the streets and public transport, as one character bumps into another and we follow a new story. We meet a Japanese immigrant whose girlfriend dies on the tube, two women who confront a man dressed as Santa Claus, and an academic for whom a chance encounter has unexpected results.

8.30pm - *Lower City (Cidade Baixa)* (18) (Brazil 2007 Dir. Sérgio Machado 97 min)

Saturday 3 October

3.30pm - *If Nothing Else Works Out (Se Nada Mais der Certo)* (15*) (Brazil 2009 Dir. José Eduardo Belmonte 120 min)

Sunday 4 October

6.00pm - *The Sign of the City (O Síntese da Cidade)* (15*) (Brazil 2007 Dir.

**Carlos Alberto Riccelli 95 min) UK PREMIERE followed by a Q&A with
director Carlos Alberto Riccelli and actress Bruna Lombardi**

Played out against the vast metropolis of São Paulo, *The Sign of the City* is the engaging story of four people brought together across the city's airwaves by an astrology radio show. Gil is married but lonely. Lydia likes to take risks. Josaldo is a man born to be a woman. Mônica is only interested in guaranteeing her success and well-being. Teca (Bruna Lombardi) the radio astrologer is torn between her listeners' problems and her own.

Monday 5 October

6.30pm - *Jardim Ângela* (12A*) (Brazil 2008 Dir. Evaldo Mocarzel 71 min) UK

**PREMIERE followed by a Q&A with Kinoforum NGO co-ordinator Zita
Calvalhosa (tbc)**

Jardim Ângela is set in the eponymous São Paulo area. Enrolled onto an NGO community film-making course, a group of local youngsters from this troubled neighbourhood are tasked with making a film for the city's short film Festival. Exploring themes of violence, drugs, and alcoholism – issues that plague their daily lives – the young filmmakers ponder their dilemma over whether to portray a negative or positive image of the community and its inhabitants and reveal the justifications for the choices they make.

8.30pm - *Last Stop 174 (Última Parada 174)* (18*) (Brazil 2008 Dir. Bruno

Barreto 110 min)

Bruno Barreto's (*Four Days in September*) latest film *Last Stop 174* tells the story of Sandro do Nascimento, a 21-year-old homeless man who in 2000 hijacked the 174 bus in Rio de Janeiro and held its passengers hostage for 4½ hours. In a bold twist, Nascimento parked the bus outside a TV station, causing the incident to be broadcast live on Brazilian television. This dramatisation (the event was previously dissected in Jose Padilla's documentary *Bus 174*), explores Nascimento's formative years in the favelas of Rio, the murder of his mother, his survival of the Candelária Massacre in 1993 and the sad inevitability of his short and troubled life. *Last Stop 174* was Brazil's Foreign language Oscar entry in 2008.

Tuesday 6 October

8.30pm - *Basic Sanitation (Saneamento Básico, O Filme)* (12A*) (Brazil 2007

**Dir. Jorge Furtado 112 min) UK PREMIERE followed by a Q&A with director
Jorge Furtado**

In *Basic Sanitation*, celebrated Brazilian director Jorge Furtado turns his innovative filmmaking approach to the story of a town that needs a new sewer. Whilst there is no state money for a new drain, there is funding available to make

an educational film. Via some creative budgeting a young couple find a way to make a low-cost film and a new sewer. Superbly acted, an upbeat and comic look at social activism and how government funding, or lack of it, can shape communities.

Wednesday 7 October

6.15pm - (TBC) *You, Me, Garbage and Picasso* (PG*) (Brazil/UK 2009 Dir. João Jardim, Karen Harley, Lucy Walker 90 min) UK PREMIERE followed by *Island of Flowers* and a Q&A with artist Vik Muniz (tbc)

A heartening documentary, *You, Me, Garbage and Picasso* undertakes an emotional journey with the renowned international artist Vik Muniz and a group of scavengers from Latin-America's largest landfill site, in their project to turn rubbish into contemporary art that is at home in the world's most prestigious auction houses and museums. Casting the garbage workers as protagonists of famous portraits, and then recreating large-scale versions of the pictures out of waste, Muniz's photographs of the garbage collages are then sold at auction with the profits returned to the community at the site in Jardim Gramacho.

plus Short film - *Island of Flowers (Ilha das Flores)* (Brazil 1989 Dir. Jorge Furtado 13 min)

Tracking the journey of a tomato that ends up as waste on a landfill site scoured by impoverished foragers, Jorge Furado's acclaimed short *Island of Flowers* is an ironic evaluation of the absurdity and inhumanity of social hierarchy in capitalist societies.

Thursday 8 October

7.30pm - *Only When I Dance* (PG*) (Brazil/UK 2009 Dir. Beadie Finzi 60 min) followed by a Q&A with director Beadie Finzi

Only When I Dance follows Irlan and Isabela, two working class Brazilian teenagers from the favelas of Rio, as they pursue their ambitions to be world-class ballet dancers. Attendees of Centro de Dança Rio on scholarships, they struggle with artistic choices, financing, physical appearance and nerves as they compete at international ballet competitions critical for their careers. This inspiring story foregrounds the dedication of the dancers and their families to achieving success, a moving portrayal of creativity, aspiration and hope, to contrast stories of violence from the favelas.

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Ticket prices:

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Under 15: £4.50

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For further information contact:

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