

Midas Filmes and Les Films de L'Après-Midi present



FRANCISCO MELO in

The Luminous Life

a film by JOÃO ROSAS



CÉCILE MATIGNON | MARGARIDA DIAS | FEDERICA BALBI | GEMMA TRIA | ÂNGELA RAMOS | FRANCISCA ALARCÃO

written and directed by JOÃO ROSAS director of photography PAULO MENEZES editor LUÍS MIGUEL CORREIA sound director OLIVIER BLANC sound editor ELSA FERREIRA mix LAURE ARTO art director CLÁUDIA LOPES COSTA production manager MÓNICA NORONHA with the financial support of ICA - INSTITUTO DO CINEMA E DO AUDIOVISUAL, FUNDO DE APOIO AO TURISMO E CINEMA, RTP - RÁDIO E TELEVISÃO DE PORTUGAL, CÂMARA MUNICIPAL LISBOA, CNC - AIDE AUX CINÉMAS DU MONDE

co-production FRANÇOIS D'ARTEMARE / LES FILMS DE L'APRÈS-MIDI producer PEDRO BORGES production MIDAS FILMES

Springtime in Lisbon and Nicolau turns 24, but doesn't celebrate. Living at his parents' house, hostage to a dream of becoming a musician that never comes true and trapped in the ideal image of an ex-girlfriend who left him a year ago and never came back, Nicolau feels unable of moving forward and inventing a life of his own. He takes odd jobs that don't allow him to leave his parents' house, until the day he discovers that his mother is just as unsatisfied with her life as he is. Nicolau is shaken, but doesn't fall. On the contrary, he moves forward. He gets a job in a stationery store, moves in to a shared house, and life starts rolling again. And with life, his dreams and his heart. Up ahead, a girl and an island.

I came to cinema through the city and the stories that are born from the city, and it's due to my deep desire to continue telling this story and bringing these characters to life that I come to this film. I wrote it in one breath, as if the film already existed somewhere out there, on the streets of Lisbon, just waiting for my saying Action! to gain body and movement.

The Luminous Life continues the fictional universe that began in 2012 with **Entrecampos** and inhabited by the characters of Nicolau, Mariana and Simão, whose lives, adventures and transformations I have been inventing and following since then in my two subsequent short films. After having portrayed Nicolau as a child, at 11, as Mariana's friend in **Entrecampos**; at 14, as the teenage protagonist who awakens to sexuality in **Maria do Mar**; and at 18 when he enters college in **Catavento**, I now propose to portray with lightness, sensitivity and humour, Nicolau's sentimental education in his reluctant farewell to youth. After all, what adult life will he be able to build from what he has lived until then? This is in fact his fundamental doubt; the one that is at the beginning of the film and that his journeys and encounters around the city will only help to complicate.

JOÃO ROSAS



JOÃO ROSAS

João Rosas (1981) is the author of three collections of short stories and various documentaries and short films, such as *My mother is a pianist* (2005), *Birth of a City* (2009), *Entrecampos* (2012), *Maria do Mar* (2015), premiered in Locarno and prize-winner in Portugal, Spain and Brazil, and *Catavento* (2020), which won the prize for Best Short Film at BAFICI 2021 and a Special Mention from the Jury at the Festival du Cinéma de Brive. His latest documentary, *Death of a City* (2022) won the DocAlliance Award 2023 for Best Feature.

A Vida Luminosa is his first feature-length fiction film.

2022 *A Morte de uma Cidade*, 115', doc.

2020 *Catavento*, 40'

2015 *Maria do Mar*, 35'

2012 *Entrecampos*, 32'

2009 *Birth of a City*, 50', doc.

2005 *A minha mãe é pianista*, 3'

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