



Selection Officielle



GOLD SONGS

a film by Ico Costa

2024 | fiction | Mini-DV | 103' | Portugal, France

CO-PRODUCERS

Oublaum Filmes

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*INTERNATIONAL
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SYNOPSIS



Domingos and Neusia are a young couple from a small city in Mozambique. She goes to school, he has an underpaid job at a car wash.

Yearning for a better life, Domingos sets on a journey through Mozambique, heading to the gold mines in the north of the country. In the meantime, Neusia waits at home.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

O OURO E O MUNDO is my second feature film, shot in Mozambique between 2021 and 2022.

I live between Portugal and Mozambique since 2010, having shot there the short films *LIBHAKETI* (2012), *NYO VWETA NAFTA* (2015) and *DOMY+AILUCHA: KET STUFF!* (2022), and the documentary *BALANE 3*, which is in post-production. All of them were shot in the small city of Inhambane, where we find the characters of Domingos and Neusia in the beginning of the present film.

GOLD SONGS tells a story somewhat common in the panorama of Mozambique for almost one century, when tar roads were built and started to link the country together. Due to the lack of opportunities in several parts of the country, it became a very normal thing that men in their early twenties left their homes from a few months to several years to work whether abroad or in big undertakings across the country, while women stayed at home with the children, raising their families alone.

Nowadays this still happens and every time I come back to Inhambane, there are always a few friends that are away, working in factories in Johannesburg, in big plantations in the south, in the gold mines in the north or in all kinds of jobs in the capital Maputo. I wrote a story based on that and then, inevitably, reality emerged from the fiction.

The shooting was supposed to happen in 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to postpone it for one year. Then, when we were about to start our considerably conventional shooting I got infected myself by the time of the first wave of the disease in the country, resulting in an immense curfew that made us postpone it again. By that time, I realised the only way to shoot this film in 2021 was if we had a small crew and minimal equipment. So everybody went home except for my most intimate collaborators. With only 5 people and a mini-DV camera (the one we happen to had) we started to shoot our characters furtively and, in the end, we found out that was the right way to do this film.

CREDITS

with
DOMINGOS MARENGULA
and NEUSIA GUIAMBA

written and directed by
ICO COSTA

photography
RAUL DOMINGUES and ICO COSTA

sound
LUÍS DUZENTA and PAULO LIMA

assistant director
LUÍS DUZENTA

editing
CLÉMENT PINTEAUX

color grading
JULIA MINGO
and GONÇALO FERREIRA

sound editing
THOMAS VAN POTTERBERGE

sound mixing
SIMON APOSTOLOU

line producer and executive producer
JULIA ALVES

producers
ICO COSTA and JÉRÔME BLESSON

produced by
OUBLAUM FILMES
and LA BELLE AFFAIRE PRODUCTIONS

associate producers
TERRATREME FILMES, LD FILMES
and SANCHO&PUNTA

international sales
THE PARTY FILM SALES



DIRECTOR'S BIO

Ico Costa was born in Lisbon in 1983. He studied at Escola Superior de Teatro e Cinema in Lisbon, at the Universidad del Cine in Buenos Aires and at Le Fresnoy - Studio National des Arts Contemporains in Tourcoing, France.

He directed the short films LIBHAKETI (Curtas Vila do Conde, 2012), FOUR HOURS AWAY (Rome, 2012), CORRENTE (Curtas Vila do Conde, 2013), ANTERO (IndieLisboa, 2014), NYO VWETA NAFTA (Rotterdam, 2017), TIMKAT (Visions du Réel, 2021) and DOMY+AILUCHA: KET STUFF! (Cinéma du Réel, 2022), as well as the documentary BARULHO, ECLIPSE (DocLisboa, 2017) and the fiction feature ALVA (Rotterdam, 2019).

His latest feature film, O OURO E O MUNDO, will premiere in 2024 at IndieLisboa and FIDMarseille.

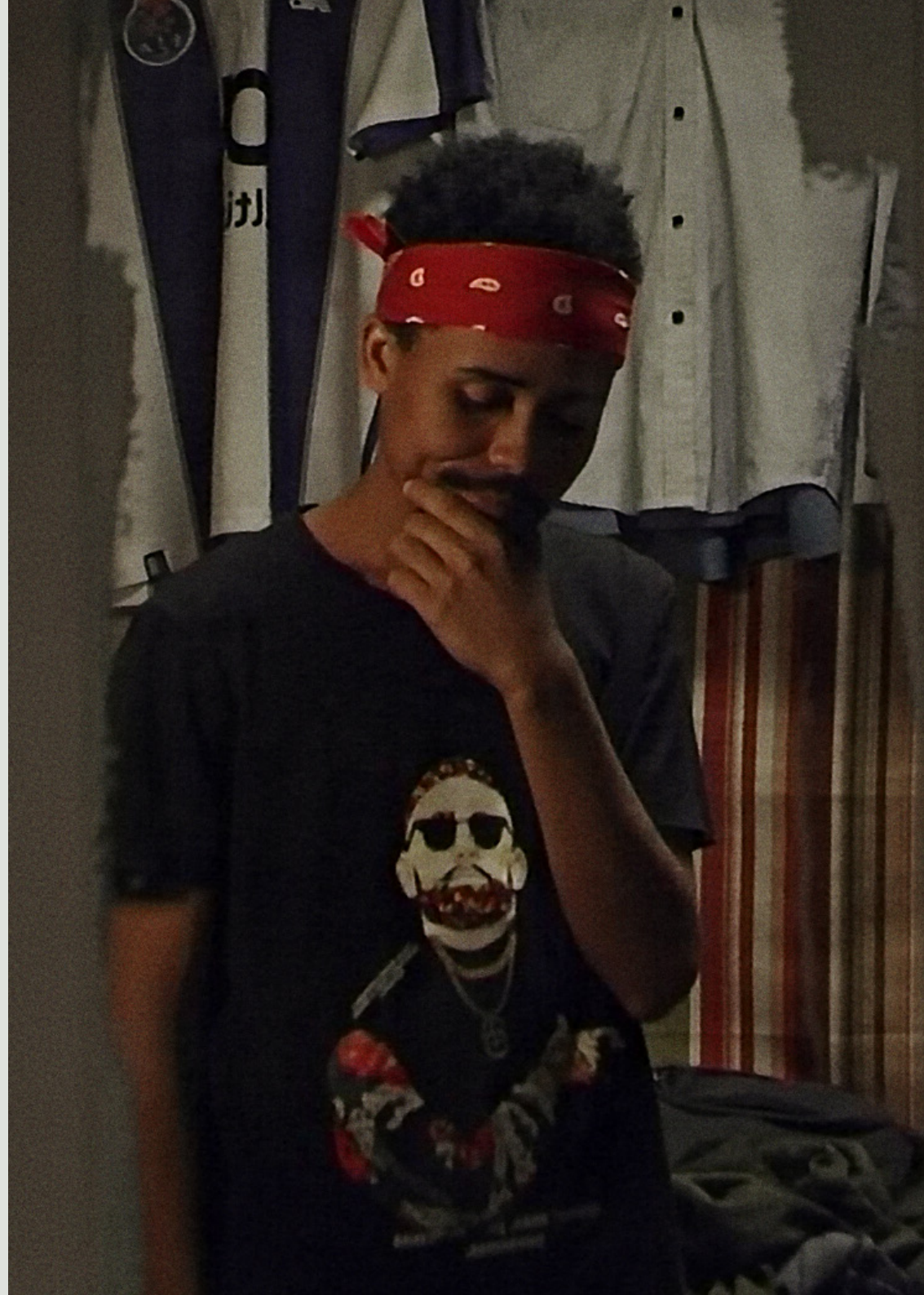
In 2018 he founded the production company Oublaum Filmes.





OUBLAUM FILMES

OUBLAUM FILMES is a Portuguese film production company created in 2018. Since then it has produced films by Ico Costa, Raul Domingues, Inês Alves, Jow Zhi Wei, Eduardo Williams and Hernán Rosselli, presented in festivals like Berlinale, Cannes, Locarno, Rotterdam, Viennale, IDFA, FidMarseille, Cinéma du Réel or Visions du Réel. It is specialized in co-productions, working until now with France, Germany, Netherlands, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Singapore, Taiwan, China and Mozambique, namely on the next feature films by Marcelo Martinessi, Ico Costa, Tatiana Fuentes Sadowski, Hernán Rosselli and Jerónimo Quevedo.



LA BELLE AFFAIRE PRODUCTIONS

After several experiences in production and distribution, Jérôme Blesson founded in 2015 the production company La Belle Affaire, based in Montpellier and Paris. Sensitive to committed works and to the accompaniment of first cinematographic gestures, in France as elsewhere, La Belle Affaire has produced to date more than a dozen short films, and three feature films in international co-production, all selected to prestigious festivals such as Cannes, Rotterdam, Visions du Réel, Clermont-Ferrand, Cinemed, or Cinéma du Réel.



THE PARTY FILM SALES



THE PARTY FILM SALES is the union of Doc & Film International and Jour2Fête's sales department, who teamed up under a new umbrella in 2020 in order to distribute their respective catalogue and common acquisitions. With a large catalogue of both fictions and documentaries, it has a strong experience of working with prestigious authors who have entrusted the company with their films for decades. Committed to promote new voices of art-house cinema THE PARTY FILM SALES also has at heart to accompany first time filmmakers with a bold vision and fresh ideas.

