

## BIO SUMMARY

Matheus Mello is a Development Angel and creative film producer and distributor. Identifying as a non-binary person of diverse ethnic background, their work centers on the intersection of identity and migration. Matheus has collaborated with renowned filmmakers such as Lucrecia Martel, Pedro Costa, Werner Herzog, and Paolo Sorrentino on hands-on projects for developing new talents.



Their portfolio includes short films, documentaries, and video installations that have been showcased and awarded at numerous film festivals, including Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Raindance Film Festival, Sitges Film Festival, Tirana International Film Festival, Morelia International Film Festival, Zinebi, Guanajuato International Film Festival, Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival, and Rotterdam International Film Festival.

With a track record of participation in prestigious labs and markets, they are an alumnus of acclaimed institutions such as the Sundance Institute, LIM-Less is More Development Angels, Realness Institute Creative Producer Indaba–EAVE, Emerging Producer Ji.hlava, EGEDA NEXT GEN Film FinLab, and Viral Interventions at York University.

Matheus holds a BA degree in International Relations from the Universidade do Vale do Itajaí (2015), specialized in Creative Production at the International Film and Television School of San Antonio de los Baños, EICTV (2018), and completed a postgraduate program in Audiovisual Financing and Budget Management with Movie Magic at the Escola Superior de Cinema i Audiovisuals de Catalunya - ESCAC (2024). Over the years, Matheus has produced and distributed films and industry-related activities in Brazil, the United States, Canada, Cuba, Mozambique, Angola, and Spain.

## EDUCATION

2024. Escola Superior de Cinema i Audiovisuals de Catalunya (ESCAC), Terrassa, Spain.  
FastForward Course: Film Finance & Movie Magic Scheduling and Movie Magic Budgeting.

2018. International Film and Television School (EICTV), San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba.  
Three-year Regular Program - Specialization in Film and Production – Telecinematographer.

2015. Universidade do Vale do Itajaí, Balneário Camboriú, Brazil.  
Bachelor's Degree in International Relations.

2013. University of Coimbra, Faculty of Economics (FEUC), Coimbra, Portugal.  
Academic Exchange / Master's program "Roads to Democracy" with Boaventura de Souza Santos.

## LANGUAGES

Native Portuguese; Proficiency English (C2); Proficiency Spanish (C2); Proficiency Catalan (C2)

**CONTACT / SOCIAL NETWORKS** [matheusphillip@gmail.com](mailto:matheusphillip@gmail.com) / [IMDb](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

## **PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION**

2023. Emerging Producer Ji.hlava Alumni. Jihlava, Czech Republic. Selected for the career development workshop for emerging European producers.

2024. Viral Interventions Alumni – York University, Toronto, Canada. Selected for a three-year program with groups of six artists/teams to create new films on living with HIV today and to collectively document creative research processes. A project by researchers John Greyson and Sarah Flicker, pioneers of queer cinema in North America during the 90s, with mentorship from Alison Duke, Richard Fung, and Darien Taylor.

2022. Realness Institute Creative Producer Indaba EAVE Alumni. Cape Town, South Africa / Atlas Ateliers of International Film Festival Marrakesh, Morocco / International Film Festival of Rotterdam, Netherlands. Selected for the workshop on development for international producers working on the African continent.

2021. Sundance Institute DFI Alumni, Park City, United States. Selected by the Sundance Institute Documentary Fund.

2021. LIM-Less is More Development Angels Alumni, workshop offered by Catalan Films, Barcelona, Spain / Plounéour-Brignogan-Plages, France. Selected for the pocket workshop on narrative development.

2021. EGEDA Platino Next Gen Alumni. EGEDA Madrid / Santander Film Festival / San Sebastián Film Festival / Iberseries & Platino Industry Co-Production Forum, Madrid, Spain. Selected for the Production and Financing workshop in the Spanish Industry.

2018. IDFAcademy Alumni, Amsterdam, Netherlands. Selected for the workshop on international documentary production skills development.

## **PROFESSIONAL / BUSINESS EXPERIENCE**

2014-present. Migranta Films, Balneário Camboriú, Brazil. Founder / Producer.

2023-present. Migranta Films, Barcelona, Spain. Founder / Producer

Specializes in independent film production and distribution, reflecting a personal artistic vision and deep understanding of social and cultural realities, focused on telling authentic and relevant stories that reflect the world's diversity.

2025. Isolda Films. Badalona, Spain. Production Coordinator  
Project-based contract for the film “No todas las Niñas” by Carolina Astudillo.

2024. Uma Filmes, São Paulo, Brazil. Audience Design Strategist.

To identify and engage target audiences through research, tailored strategies, and community-building. To optimize distribution, develop marketing campaigns, and integrate audience feedback to enhance reach and impact. To align creative vision with audience insights, ensuring the project resonates with viewers and achieves its engagement goals.

2024. Diagonal TV, Barcelona, Spain. Production Assistant.  
Project-based contract for the film “the Silence of the Earth” by Eulogio Romero.

2018-2023. La Selva. Ecosistema Creatiu, Barcelona, Spain. Co-Founder / Producer.

A film cooperative in Barcelona dedicated to creating auteur films with authentic and daring narratives that represent a plural and fairer world. Processes are based on experimentation and collaborative, horizontal creation.

2023. Shaktimetta Produccions, Barcelona, Spain. Production Coordinator and Assistant Director.

Project-based contract for the film “Los Cantos de Ekai” by Afra Rigamontti.

2019. La Bendita Produce, Huesca, Spain. Production Coordinator and Assistant Director.

Project-based contract for the film “Armugan” by Jo Sol.

2019. Mayo Produccions, Barcelona, Spain. Production Coordinator.

Project-based contract for the “Pullmantur” campaign shot in the Canary Islands, Spain, and Madeira Island, Portugal.

2013-2015. Filmes Que Voam, Florianópolis, Brazil. Executive Production Assistant.

Responsible for managing, implementing, and supervising audiovisual productions, accessibility projects, and creating a streaming platform with Sign Language and Audiodescription content.

2014. Mostra de Cinema Infantil, Florianópolis, Brazil. PA.

Responsible for daily operations at the festival.

2013. CineramaBC – International Film Festival of Balneário Camboriú, Brazil. PA

Responsible for daily operations at the festival.

## **EVENTS, FESTIVALS, WORKSHOPS, AND LABS PRODUCTION**

2025. Filming in Patagonia – Paolo Sorrentino LAB. Production Assistant. Audiovisual workshop for 50 emerging directors from diverse nationalities, each filming a short film in the Patagonia, Argentina, supervised by Paolo Sorrentino.

2024. DiaLAB Film Festival. Workshop for documentaries. Production Consultant. Production and distribution tutor of 4 projects in development. Brazil.

2024. Filming in Mexico – Pedro Costa LAB. Production Assistant. Audiovisual workshop for 50 emerging directors from diverse nationalities, each filming a short film in the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico, supervised by Pedro Costa.

2023. Porn Film Festival Barcelona. Guest Office Coordinator at the Barcelona Post-Porn Festival – Gender Dissidences. Spain.

2021. Film Accelerator with Werner Herzog: Filming a Strange Planet. Audiovisual workshop for 50 emerging directors from 26 countries to each film a short film in the Canary Islands, supervised by Werner Herzog. Spain.

2019. Film Accelerator with Lucrecia Martel: Sounds of Summer. Audiovisual workshop for 50 emerging directors from 26 countries to film a collective feature in Barcelona under the supervision of Lucrecia Martel. Spain.

2017. 1st Novos Olhares. Film Project Development Workshop, Balneário Camboriú, Brazil.

2016. 4th Super OFF - Workshops, Films, and International Super 8 Film Festival, Coordinator for Santa Catarina stage in Balneário Camboriú, Brazil.

2016. 10th Nuevas Miradas. Guest Office Coordinator for EICTV's Network and Development Platform, San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba.

2015. 3rd Super OFF - Workshops, Films, and International Super 8 Film Festival, San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba.

2015. 9th Nuevas Miradas. Guest Office Coordinator for EICTV's Network and Development Platform, San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba.

2014. 15th Children's Film Festival of Florianópolis. Production Team Member, Florianópolis, Brazil.

2013. 2nd CineramaBC - International Film Festival of Balneário Camboriú. Production Team Member, Balneário Camboriú, Brazil.

2012. 1st CineramaBC - International Film Festival of Balneário Camboriú, Production Team Member, Balneário Camboriú, Brazil.

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

2006-2017. Various academic exchanges and summer work programs. Venice, USA (2006); Fort Lauderdale, USA (2008); Vancouver, Canada (2010); Coimbra, Portugal (2012); New York, USA (2017).

2012. International Trader. ZThomas Import LTDA, Balneário Camboriú, Brazil.  
Trade Representative at the Canton Fair, Guangzhou, China.

2011. Gap Year. Year-long overland journey in a VW Bus from Canada to Brazil, traveling through the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Paraguay.

2010. Skipper / Manager. Pelican Bay Marina at Granville Island, Vancouver, Canada.  
In the first half of 2010, served as Skipper responsible for the 72-foot trawler yacht "North" on a journey from Vancouver (Canada) to Ketchikan, Alaska (USA).  
In the second half of 2010, was the Manager responsible for marina operations, managing 40 boats and overseeing structural, electrical, and hydraulic renovations at the marina.

2007-2008. Socio-Educational Director. Casa de Semiliberdade, Itajaí, Brazil.  
Director of the Socio-Educational Center for Adolescents in Conflict with the Law, under the guidance of the Brazilian Child and Adolescent Statute and supervised by the Public Prosecutor Office in Itajaí.

## **ASSOCIATIONS**

2025-present. Member of DAE – Documentary Association of Europe

2024-present. Member of APAN – Association of Black Audiovisual Professionals. Brazil.

2018-2023. Member of the Catalan Federation of Audiovisual Producers–PROA. Spain.

2015-2017. Student Representative for the Regular Course at the International Film and Television School of San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba.

2013-2014. Advisory Member of the Audiovisual Sector Chamber, Balneário Camboriú, Brazil.

2009-2010. Student Member of the Academic Center Sérgio Vieira de Mello, International Relations. Universidade do Vale do Itajaí, Brazil.

## PROJECT PORTFOLIO

*The Ship and the Sea (Mar Adentro)*, dir. Everlane Moraes and Lara Souza. 80 min. Documentary, Color HD. Brazil/Mozambique/Spain. Supported by Docubox East African Fund Kenya, William Greaves Fund USA, Sundance Documentary Fund USA, Jorge Portugal Prize Brazil, and has participated in labs and markets such as Miradasdoc, EGEDA Next Gen Film FinLab, Filma Afro, Berlinale Talents DOC Station, IDFAcademy, Durban Film Mart, Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival, DocLab/DOCSP, Nordeste Lab. In pre-production.

*Hold Time for Me*, dir. Fradique Bastos. 100 min. Sci-Fi Roadmovie, Color HD. Angola/Portugal/Spain/Germany/Czech Republic. Supported by One-Fifty (independent division award of Warner Studios, USA), Atlas workshop (Marrakech Festival Development Award), LA Residency of Global Media Filmmakers by Film Independent USA, Sloan Science & Film development prize, Nuevas Miradas Lab at EICTV Cuba, with international market presence at Cinemart (Rotterdam) and European Film Market (Berlinale). In development.

*The Dreams of Time*, dir. Jeissy Trompiz. 3 episodes of 25 min. VR. Spain/Venezuela. Immersive Week Rotterdam, Cinemart Immersive. In development.

*Jean Pierre Bourgeoisie* – The adventure of a pigeon from Rio de Janeiro condemned for his French ancestry, dir. Mariana Macedo. 25 min. VR 360°. Spain/Brazil

*La Canícula*, dir. Rod LLaverías. 80 minutes. Tropical Suspense, Color HD. Dominican Republic/Brazil. Fund FONPROCINE Desarrollo. TFL – Torino Film Lab FeatureLab 2025, Tres Puertos LAB Costa Rica. In development.

*Pardon*, dir. Cassiano Prado. 100 min. Thriller, Color HD. Brazil/Spain/Germany. In development.

*Salvador, It's Me*, dir. Julia Hannud. 80 min. Doc, Color HD. Brazil/Spain. In development.

## RECENT FILMOGRAPHY

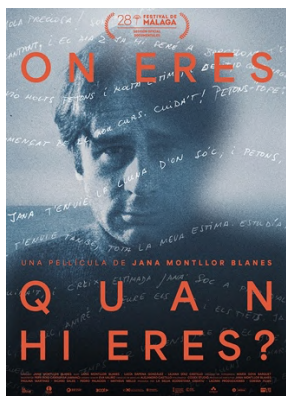


**The Flight of the Stork (2025)** 60/70 min DOC. Dir. Soumaya Djahdou & Berta Vicente Salas. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain/Qatar (trailer: <https://vimeo.com/1132755950>)

Synopsis: At 29, Spanish-Algerian filmmaker Soumaya Hidalgo Djahdou feels a compelling need to reconnect with her Algerian roots and understand the world her mother, Malika, left behind. With her childhood friend Berta Vicente Salas behind the camera, Soumaya confronts her fragmented identity and the complex legacy of the women in her family. Through family archives, intimate conversations with her grandmother in Algeria, and calls with her mother during Ramadan, what begins as a personal quest evolves into a profound exploration of intergenerational bonds shaped by exile, tradition, and the search for a shared future.

### Festivals:

- 2025 ZINEBI, Beautiful Docs. Spain
- 2025 Tallin Black Nights – PÖFF, Best of Docs. Estonia
- 2025 IDFA, Luminous. Netherlands



**Where were you when you were there? (2025)** 74 min DOC. Dir. Jana Montllor. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain

Synopsis: Jana Montllor Blanes, daughter of the renowned artist Ovidi, has lost the only photograph she took of her father on a trip they made to Mallorca. Navigating through the Mediterranean among family images, objects, smells, songs, press clippings and television programs, Jana begins another journey through memory to try to find the memory of her father, a person known to the public yet distant to her.

### Awards:

- Un Impulso Colectivo x Antaviana – D'A Film Festival. Spain

### Festivals:

- 2025 Festival de Málaga. Spain
- 2025 D'A Film Festival Barcelona. Spain



**The Inherited Silence (2025)** 81 min DOC. Dir. Lucía Dapena. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain (trailer: <https://vimeo.com/1006143764>)

Synopsis: How can we talk about what is not told? Lucía approaches her grandmother Edilia looking for answers, but she finds just silence. A long silence, deep-rooted; it's dark and painful, impossible to break. When Lucía accepts that Edilia will never give her the answers she seeks, she decides to look into that silence, to listen closely into it, trying to understand it. Together, they explore the limits of words and images, making that silence a place where they meet.

### Awards:

-2025 Best Screenplay Award, Panorama Galicia, Ourense Film Festival. Spain

Festivals:

- 2025 CinEuropa Festival, Santiago de Compostela. Spain
- 2025 CINEMED, 47º Festival Cinéma Méditerranéen Montpellier. France
- 2025 Ourense Film Festival. Spain
- 2025 DocsBarcelona, Secció Docs&Cat. Spain
- 2025 PLAY DOC Film Festival. Spain



**Scorpionikas—Countermanifesto (2025)** 13 min Doc. Dir. Bruna Kury, Nisha Platzer, Matheus Mello. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain/Netherlands (trailer: <https://vimeo.com/1132755913>)

Synopsis: In a fusion of manifesto and performance, “Scorpionikas” crosses three continents to follow an insurgent collective-trans women, sex workers, and racialized and gender non-conforming voices as they confront to dismantle the colonial and patriarchal systems that oppress them. Through radical acts of resistance, captivating performances, and intimate interviews, the film intertwines their stories with haunting archival footage: from the brothels of the Klondike Gold Rush in the 1890s to the heart of 1990s Brazil, and a convent turned art center of 2024s Barcelona.

Festivals:

- 2025 CineQueerMad. Spain
- 2025 FestCurtas BH. Brazil
- 2025 Vancouver Queer Film Festival – VQFF. Canada
- 2025 Kinoforum Sao Paulo Short Film Fest. Brazil
- 2025 Zinegoak. Spain



**Fin. Finite. Infinito (2022)** 8 min Fantastic Fiction. Dir. Laurence Henriquez. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain/Netherlands (trailer: <https://vimeo.com/650604635>)

Synopsis: Spanning the liminality between documentary, satire and science fiction, Fin. Finite. Infinito. It is a testimony to the last day of light on an “alien” planet whose civilization has known for 1000 years that its star would die. Ironic detachment and poetic license are used to “lift the veil” on the daily banalities of an island resort town, transforming it into a landscape of whimsy and myth that walks happily towards the apocalypse.

Festivals:

- 2023 International Film Festival Rotterdam. Netherlands
- Vision Du Réel Film Market. Switzerland
- Antimatter Media Art Festival. Canada



**Notes from a dromedary (2022)** 9 min DOC. Dir. Lucia Lalor. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain/Argentina  
(trailer: <https://vimeo.com/685942010>)

**Synopsis:** A teenager in a remote place narrates his story marked by a past in the Sahara as a camel, Pringles chips, desire for fat women's bodies, strange drawings, colonizers and reggaeton.

**Festivals:**

- 2022 Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (PÖFF). Estonia
- 2023 FIDBA / Buenos Aires International Documentary Film Festival



**Tegoyo (2022)** Fantastic Fiction 8 min. Dir. Guillermo de Oliveira. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain  
(Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/743191110>)

**Synopsis:** In 1968, legendary German filmmaker Werner Herzog filmed “Even Dwarfs Started Small” on the island of Lanzarote. More than half a century later, a peculiar scientist will try to recover sounds from the past.

**Festivals:**

- XX Festival de Cans – Sección Furacáns 2023. Spain
- 2023 Cortogijón – official section. Spain
- 2023 Muestra de cortometrajes de Granada. Spain
- 2023 Ibiza Cine Fest. Spain
- 2022 Raindance Film Festival. United Kingdom
- 2022 Sitges Film Festival. Spain
- 2022 Sydney Underground Film Festival. Australia



**Ixtlahuacán (2022)** Fantastic Fiction 12 min. Dir. Augusto de Alba. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain/Mexico  
(trailer: <https://vimeo.com/681834936>)

**Synopsis:** Under the wheel of time on a distant planet, In Lak'ech wishes to return home. The search for the way back will bring you an unexpected revelation and an unusual encounter with the deepest secrets of creation.

**Festivals:**

- 50th Athens International Film and Video Festival. Greece
- Santiago del Estero Film Fest. Argentina
- Sentiero Film Factory. Italy



**El Aljibe (2022)** Fantastic Fiction 10 min. Dir. Alejandro Ferlini. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain/Costa Rica (trailer: <https://vimeo.com/681977892>)

Synopsis: Antonio and Alberto live in a world without water. Faced with his brother's illness, Antonio will have to climb to the top of the volcano in search of the sacred water contained in El Aljibe.

Festivals:

- Ecozine International Film Festival. Spain
- KIMFF Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival. Nepal
- 41ème Édition des Rencontres du Cinéma Latino-Américain. France
- 2023 Manlleu Film Festival – Official Selecció. Spain
- 10 Costa Rica International Film Festival (CRFIC), Costa Rica -16 International Wildlife Film Festival, Germany -15 Villa de Orotava Cortos Festival, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain-11. Muestra internacional de cortometrajes “La Mida no importa”, Spain -XIV. Mittelamerikanisches Filmfestival Wien 2022. Germany
- Festival of Cortos – Villa de la Orotava. Spain



**Sans Sommeil Loin de Chez Soi (2022)** EXP 7 min. Dir. Axel de Chaunac-Lanzac Cuevas. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain/France/Mexico (trailer: <https://vimeo.com/681979553>)

Synopsis: Unable to sleep, Mamadou begins to walk non-stop to get tired and be able to dream one last time about the place where he was born.

Awards:

- Best Experimental Film Award 20th Tirana International Film Festival

Festivals:

- 2022 20th Tirana International Film Festival
- 2022 Silhouette Festival. France
- 2022 Decolonial Films Section at the 24th FestcurtasBH. Brazil
- 2022 Morelia International Film Festival. Mexico
- Lake Film Fest. Italy



**Xiao Qiang had a daydream (2020)** 17 min DOC. Dir. Xisi Sofia Ye Chen. Prod. Matheus Mello. Spain/China (trailer: <https://vimeo.com/830259637>)

Synopsis: Xiao Qiang is a mischievous boy who lives in a village in southeastern China. His desire for freedom leads him to live an adventure that will change his life.

Awards:

- Lotus International Film Festival Appreciation Award LIFFA 2022. India

Festivals:

- Official selection of the Skiptown IFF 2022. USA;
- Ljubljana International Short Film Festival. Slovenia;
- 2022 RURÉFILOS Film Festival and Rural World. Spain;
- Zinebi 2020;
- Curta Cinema - Rio de Janeiro Festival 2020;
- Catalog of Best Shorts Shortcat 2020.



**Tekoayhu (2019)** 79 min TELEDOC. Dir. Chico Faganello. Prod. Matheus Mello. Brazil/Paraguay/Argentina  
(trailer: <https://youtu.be/PlE2Hbhc0co>)

Synopsis: The story of the people who inhabit one of the most diverse and complex commercial centers in the world, the triple border between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.

Broadcaster and Platforms:

- CineBrasilTV
- ClaroTV+
- VivoPlay



**Kalunga (2019)** 22 min DOC. Dir. Lara Sousa. Prod. Matheus Mello. Brazil/Cuba/Mozambique  
(trailer: <https://vimeo.com/277561824>)

From a place far from home, Lara is driven by enigmatic dreams to fulfill a spiritual birth ritual that will take her along with her dead aunt back to Africa.

Awards:

- Best Latin American Short Film Award – 30th Kinoforum – São Paulo International Short Film Festival

Festivals:

- 30a Kinoforum – São Paulo International Short Film Festival



**Aurora (2020)** 15 min DOC. Dir. Everlane Moraes. Prod. Matheus Mello. Brazil/Cuba  
(trailer: <https://vimeo.com/278523496>)

Synopsis: Three women of different ages reinterpret their own conflicts on the stage of an abandoned theater.

Festivals:

- Contemporary Latin 2019 American Documentary Film Festival
- 30a Kinoforum – São Paulo International Short Film Festival
- 19th Doc Buenos Aires International Documentary
- Olhar de Cinema - Curitiba International Film Festival 2019
- 21st Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival 2019
- Opening of the 3rd SESC Film Festival
- 2020 True/False Film Festival
- DOC Waterfall, 2020



**I am (2017)** 12 min DOC. Dir. Cássio Kelm. Prod. Matheus Mello. Brazil/Cuba (trailer: <https://youtu.be/ktCnD9BAvdU>)

Synopsis: Foreign winds blow in Cuba and the island is invaded by a tidal wave of cameras that go there to record Fidel's death. A Cuban girl is thrown into the middle of what becomes a media carnival. How long can it carry the weight of the Revolution?

Awards:

-IDFA Special Jury Prize, 2017

Festivals:

- International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam (IDFA)
- Cartagena de Indias International Film Festival (FICCI)
- V Censurados Film Festival – Muros (In)visibles, Mexico and Peru
- Kuuba/Argentina poliitiline kinokunst, EKKM - Estonian Contemporary Art Museum
- Guanajuato International Film Festival, Mexico
- 5th Lumiar – Inter-American University Film Festival, Belo Horizonte
- Filmets – Badalona Film Festival – Barcelona, Spain, 2019



**Machimbrao — The New Man (2016)** 13 min DOC. Dir. Lara Sousa. Prod. Matheus Mello Cuba/Brazil/Mozambique

Synopsis: In a barbershop in a Cuban city, male bodies sit on the couch and interact. Between eyebrow arrangements with a razor, discussions about the types of peeling, or the latest football game. These Cuban “males” will highlight the armor they have created to follow foreign fashion and referents, without affecting certain notions of masculinity and their sexual choices

Awards:

-Best Latin American Short Film Award – 30th Kinoforum – São Paulo International Short Film Festival

Festivals:

- 30a Kinoforum – São Paulo International Short Film Festival
- Terra di Tutti Festival 2019
- ICAIC Youth Exhibition 2017.



**Tirisia (2016)** 3 min EXP Super8. Dir. Alejandra Larrea, Violena Ampudia, Matheus Mello. Prod. Matheus Mello. Brazil/Cuba (watch: <https://vimeo.com/223951737>)

Synopsis: The isolated, rested and defeated body is anchored in the vitality of a receptive body, from the creation of possibilities for the awakening of dreams. Does contact and listening make up the harmony between two beats, since the various individual cadences meet in a single movement?

Awards:

-3er SuperOFF Award – Super 8 mm Film Festival of São Paulo, Brazil

## **ADDITIONAL FILMOGRAPHY AS CREW**

**2025.** Silence of the Earth, Dir. Eulogio Romero. Production Assistant for Diagonal TV. Spain

**2024.** Los Cantos de Ekai. Dir. Afra Rigamonti. 72min. Production Coordinator and Assistant Director for Shaktimetta Producciones. Spain.

**2022.** Back Home, Dir. Nisha Platzer. Development Producer. Canada. Cannes Film Festival (Docs-in-Progress Canadian Showcase), Vancouver International Film Festival (Competition for Best Canadian Documentary), RIDM — Montreal International Documentary Festival (New Visions Competition), Chicago Underground Film Festival, Local Sightings Film Festival, Seattle, Antimatter Media Art, Victoria, Rendezvous with Madness (Opening Night Film), Toronto, Bogotá Film Festival (Winner: Best Artistic Documentary), Bogotá

**2021.** One Story Up. Season 1 Episode 8. Dir. Roger Ross Williams. TV series. Executive Producer for TOPIC. USA.

**2020.** Armugán. Dir. Jo Sol. 91min. Production Coordinator and Assistant Director for Bendita Produce / Shaktimetta Producciones. Spain. Winner of the Best Music Award and the Ecumenical Jury Prize for Best Film at the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2020. Jules Verne Award at the Cinéma Espagnol Nantes Festival 2021. Nominated for the Camel Awards of the Haifa International Film Festival 2021. Selected at the D'A Festival 2021.

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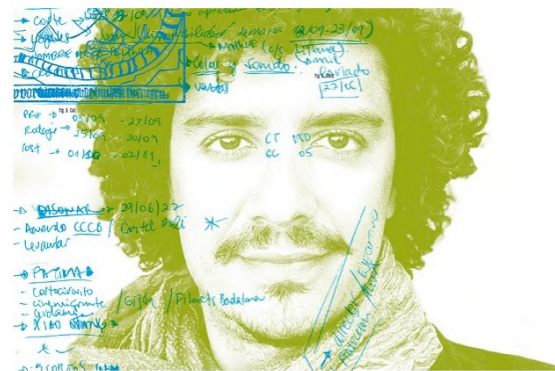
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## EMERGING PRODUCERS 2023 Matheus Mello - Producer "Filmmaking is the art of the encounter"

by EMERGING PRODUCERS

17/03/2023 - The Brazilian Emerging Producer, now based in Spain, talks about producing documentary films and finding audiences for his productions



An interview with **Matheus Mello**, a Brazilian producer now based in Spain selected for the 2023 Emerging Producers programme. Read his EP profile [here](#).

### Why do you produce documentaries? Do you see documentary cinema as an instrument of social and political change?

**Matheus Mello:** I strongly believe that there is a fine line between fiction and documentary films that has been fading over the years. There is a rise in hybrid forms and creative documentaries which introduce a strong authorial perspective. They unveil reality through the lenses of the filmmaker. That is why I love to produce documentary films. Because there is an opportunity to take on the current issues and the possibility to empathize with the characters or the subject. I honestly think that filmmaking is the art of the encounter, where we can bring close together different realities and gazes. Also, documentary filmmaking gives you the possibility to start with a given idea and end up surprising yourself; in that sense, reality is the queen.

Historically, documentaries were considered educational, or informative works; but more and more they are works of art as they can be entertaining and thus reach a larger audience. I think that good examples of this are: *Elena* (2012) by **Petra Costa** (the biggest box office for a documentary in Brazilian cinemas), *Silence of Others* (2018) by **Almudena Carracedo & Robert Bahar**, and *The Mole Agent* (2020) by **Maite Alberli**.

### Where do you find audiences for your films?

Every film and every documentary film is a world in itself. So for every new project I have, I seek ways to connect to its potential audience. There are more and more tools to do so. Trying to find the best outlets, which is a part of the job of the producer and also the sales and marketing professionals. It may help bring to the table the relevant conversations we are trying to trigger to make our audiences, local or global, aware of its issues. For that, I have been using more and more the *Audience Design* tools put together by the Torino Film Lab initiative. They help identify our potential audience since development, and this work is being done throughout the process of filmmaking until its distribution. Also, recent studies show that there is a growing market for this type of films, where their consumption is on the rise and should become a multimillion-dollar industry by 2029.

### What films have you seen recently and would recommend watching?

I have recently seen *Milisuthando* (2023) by **Milisuthando Bongela**, produced by **Marion Isaacs**, a colleague producer that participated with me in another workshop given by Reallness Institute in partnership with EAVE, Atlas Marrakesh, and Rotterdam IFFR. Marion showed us her film at a private screening in Rotterdam, after premiering it in Sundance and I was mesmerized by its quality and honest approach to the subject. It is a coming-of-age personal essay on love and what it means to become human in the context of race. It explores the memories and experiences of Milisuthando Bongela, who grew up in apartheid without knowing it was happening until it was over. Another documentary that has influenced me a lot was *The Mole Agent* (2020) by **Maite Alberli**, for its emotional take on strong real characters and singular use of the genre cinema, in this case, noir film, to create a narrative creative documentary.

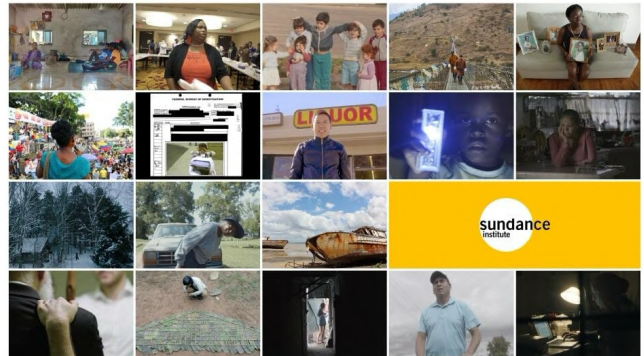
### What projects do you have underway (including fiction films and other projects)?

I have been developing *The Ship and the Sea* from **Lara Sousa & Everlane Moraes**, a creative documentary about "what it means to be black in the diaspora and in the contemporary Mozambique, Africa". It is a project that I have been creatively working on with the creators since its first film school in Cuba. I have also taken part in the development of various projects in Spain as Executive Producer to take them into packaging, financing and production. Nevertheless, I am looking for stories from underrepresented communities, and also for those where I can be a bridge between Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

EMERGING PRODUCERS is a leading promotional and educational project, which brings together talented European documentary film producers. The programme is organised and curated by the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival.



# Meet the 2021 Sundance Institute Documentary Fund Grantees



### Accessibility

Los Angeles — The Sundance Institute today announced the latest cohort of Sundance Institute Documentary Fund Grantees. A total of \$590,000 in unrestricted grant support has been provided to 18 projects in various stages including five in development, eight in production, and five in post-production. Grants are made possible by The Open Society Foundations, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and Luminate.

This granting cycle's supported projects are from 20 countries and territories across five continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America), with over half the projects having international roots. Granting focused on projects by artists from historically underrepresented communities, ensuring that these stories are being told from within the communities.

This year all of the U.S. films granted are helmed by at least one BIPOC director. The Fund's commitment to gender equity is evidenced in the 72% of granted projects that are helmed by women directors; additionally, 72% of grantees are early career filmmakers, working on their first or second feature film. These statistics reflect the Fund's commitment to emerging artists whose voices have been historically marginalized in hegemonic Western societies.

"Supporting equity in storytelling by elevating diverse cohorts is central to our mission," added **Hajnal Molnar-Szakacs**, Documentary Film Fund Director. "Sundance funding can play a vital role in creating a space for freedom of speech, stimulating local documentary production and ensuring that nonfiction narratives from around the world are elevated."

"This cohort of grantees reflects deeply artistic and personal storytelling, as they explore and reveal the contemporary human condition in all its complexity," said **Carrie Lozano**, Director of the Institute's Documentary Film Program.

The Documentary Fund supports the work of nonfiction filmmakers from around the globe. In a changing media landscape, the fund has been a stable, progressive force in supporting work that has expressed the world in creative, complex, beautiful, and provocative ways, and has created real cultural and social impact around some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Recent projects supported include: *American Factory*, *Collective*, *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*, *The Edge of Democracy*, *Of Fathers and Sons*, *Hale County This Morning*, *This Evening*, *Hooligan Sparrow*, *Minding the Gap*, *The Mole Agent*, *One Child Nation*, *Strong Island*, and *Time*.

The application for the next cycle of funding is currently open and closes July 26. The application can be found [here](#).

The Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program is made possible by founding support from The Open Society Foundations. Generous additional support is provided by Ford Foundation; John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Luminate; Sandbox Films; The Kendeda Fund; The Charles Engelhard Foundation; CNN Films; Compton Foundation; Genuine Article Pictures; Non McEvoy & Leslie Bertram; Violet Spitzer-Lucas and the Spitzer Family Foundation; Code Blue Foundation; EarthSense Foundation; Harbour; Adobe; WNET New York Public Media; and two anonymous donors.

The latest grantees, presented by production stage, are:

## DEVELOPMENT

### *The Gardeners* (U.S.A.)

Director: **Crystal Kayiza**

Producer: **Crystal Kayiza**

*The Gardeners* follows the Worthy Women of Watkins Street, keepers of one of the oldest Black cemeteries in Mississippi.

### *Gross National Happiness* (Bhutan, Hungary)

Director: **Arun Bhattacharj, Dorottya Zurbó**

Producer: **Noémi Veronika Szakonyi, Arun Bhattacharj**

Amar and Gunaraj are not only close friends, but also Happiness Agents who work together for the Happiness Ministry of Bhutan travelling door to door measuring people's happiness level while searching for their own among the remote Himalayan mountains. On their mission, they encounter various people chasing their dreams. This satirical road movie through a mosaic of different stories discovers the real desires of a society behind a national identity created by the Happiness Ministry of Bhutan, a closed country for centuries.

### *The Ship and the Sea* (Mozambique, Brazil, Portugal)

Director: **Lara Sousa, Everlane Moraes**

Producer: **Matheus Mello, Emerson d'Almeida, Joella Oliveira Gonzaga, Elsa Sertorio**

A cinematographic essay that portrays two crossed travels, weaved by travel diaries between "two Africas". Everlane leaves for Mozambique looking for the roots of a cultural matrix that is the cradle of Afro-descendants in Brazil. Lara searches in Everlane's country's Afro-descendant culture for traces of her erased identity. Later, both meet in Lisbon, the former colonial metropolis, where they cross experiences to shed light on the issue of black identity inside and outside of Africa.



"Estes produtores representam uma gama diversificada de vozes e interesses com redes sólidas ou crescentes de África e de outros lugares", disse Mehret Mandefro, diretor de desenvolvimento e parceria do Realness Institute. "Após o nosso CPI de grande sucesso no ano passado, vimos como estes programas intensos podem proporcionar oportunidades para os cineastas avançarem com as suas ideias e projetos."

"Não podemos mais trabalhar isoladamente ou em silos, o mundo mudou e a colaboração é fundamental", disse Kristina Trapp, CEO da EAVE. "O CPI cria um espaço sólido e seguro para os produtores encontrarem estratégias orientadas para soluções através da partilha de competências, ideias e redes."

"É nossa visão trabalhar lado a lado com uma nova geração de cineastas marroquinos, árabes e africanos e criar um espaço de intercâmbio entre profissionais internacionais e talentos regionais", acrescentou Thibaut Bracq, chefe dos Atlas Workshops em Marraquexe.

### Participantes do Produtor Criativo Indaba 2022

- Marion Isaacs (S Afr)
- Matheus Mello (Braz-Moz)
- Bramwel Iro (Ken)
- Sawsan Yusuf (Egy)
- Zoe Ramushu (Zim-S Afr)
- Caroline Kganyago-Ralefeta (S Afr)
- Lucia Meyer-Marais (S Afr)
- Tracey-Lee Rainers (S Afr)
- Mia Bittar (Sudão)
- Pedro Soule (Cabo Verde)
- Bartolomeu Luiz (Braz)
- Ellen Havenith (Neth)
- Flávia Zanon (Suíça)
- Kesmat El Sayed (Egy-Ger)
- Temilola Adebayo (Nio-Can)



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## Ji.hlava's Emerging Producers Reveal Pitches for Upcoming Projects (EXCLUSIVE)

By Leo Barraclough



Ji.hlava Documentary Film Festival has revealed to *Variety* the projects that the participants of its 2023 Emerging Producers program are working on. The producers were asked to deliver an elevator pitch for their projects.

Every year since 2010, the festival has selected 18 up-and-coming producers of documentary films (17 European and one representing a non-European guest country), which are then provided with educational, networking and promotional support.

Here's what they submitted:



### "Hold Time for Me"

Producers: Matheus Mello, Migranta Films (Spain); Fradique (Angola); Laura Kloeckner, Seera Films (Germany); Kamy Lara (Angola)  
 Director: Fradique  
 Genre: Road movie

Synopsis: When Luanda is sinking, a grieving young state photographer is assigned to find an eccentric overly-suspicious Cuban biologist who disappeared after she joined a secret expedition to find a new capital for Angola, 30 years ago.

Pitch: "Hold Time for Me" is the second feature film by the thought-provoking Angolan filmmaker Fradique. On the road, two travellers burdened with grief share their memories and unspoken fears, igniting hope amidst an environmental crisis where a city becomes an island, mushrooms speak, and cars transform into boats in the desert.

Festivals & Events

### Exclusive: Werner Herzog Wants to Film in Colombia with 50 of YOU

33 years after Herzog braved the Colombian jungle to shoot a movie, he returns to mentor a new generation.

By Jason Hellerman Jan 20, 2020



Werner Herzog is a filmmaker synonymous with adventure and exploration. Now, in conjunction with Spanish production company La Selva, he's going to take 50 filmmakers into the Amazon and mentor them through an 11-day course where they will complete short films.

But don't take my word for it, listen to Werner himself.

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### Pedro Costa to Host 2024 Creators Lab in Mexico's Yucatán Jungle

By Jamie Lang



Playlab Films

Portuguese auteur **Pedro Costa** will host this year's Creators Lab, organized and operated in Mexico by Playlab Films. The 2024 edition of the Lab will be held in Mexico, with a record 50 emerging filmmakers in attendance.

Pedro Costa Lab: Mexico will run from Sept. 23 to Oct. 3 at the Shambalanté, a space in the Yucatecan jungle curated by the Playlab Films team. According to its designers, the space uses "sacred geometry, ancient techniques, and modern eco-technology to achieve harmony across times, becoming a sanctuary of relaxation and healing."

For 12 days, participants will share meals, walks, and stream-of-consciousness conversations about their craft. Each will get the chance to make a short film with input and support from their peers. Ten of the shorts will be picked to receive full-color grading and distribution at international festivals. All on-site transportation, accommodations, meals, and activities are included in the Lab's €6,100 (\$6,600) fee.

Here's how La Selva puts it:

*"Under the advice of the mythical German director, each participant will individually experience all the stages of making a film, from the idea, inspired by a theme proposed by Herzog on the 1st day of the meeting, until the first exhibition of the piece finished on the eleventh day."*

That's a pretty exciting opportunity for filmmakers all over the world.

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[www.laselva.coop](http://www.laselva.coop)

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**FILMING A STRANGE PLANET**

Organized by **La selva** ecosistema creatiu  
With the support of: **WERNER HERZOG FILM**

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### Werner Herzog Leads Film Accelerator in Spain, Voice Acts in Bong Joon Ho's Upcoming Animated Feature (EXCLUSIVE)

By Anna Marie De La Fuente