



# PRESENT BODY

A FILM BY LEONARDO BARCELOS

**Starring** Ludmilla Ramalho

**Direction** Leonardo Barcelos **Executive Producer** Andre Hallak and Joana Braga **Director of Photography** Vagner Jabour **Screenplay** Leonardo Barcelos and Tiago Tereza **Editing** Fabian Remy and Leonardo Barcelos **Production** Amiten Panzera **Set Design** Nathalia Larsen and Eder Santos **Reserach** Laura Godoy **Sound Record** Gustavo Fioravante **Performers** Ayrson Heráclito, Marc Davi, Ana Luisa Santos, Guilherme Morais and Janaína Tábula

Production



Sponsorship



Incentive





## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Original title: Corpo Presente

English title: Present Body

Shooting formats: 4K

Runtime: 80'

Languages: Portuguese

Subtitles: English

Colour: Color

## CATAGORIES

Documentary, Art, Culture, Human Rights, LGBT



Director  
**Leonardo Barcelos**

Producers  
**Andre Hallak**  
**Leonardo Barcelos**  
**Sven Schnell**

Executive Production  
**Leonardo Barcelos**  
**Andre Hallak**  
**Eder Santos**

Production Manager  
**Joana Braga**

Writers  
**Leonardo Barcelos**  
**Tiago Tereza**  
**Christiane Tassis**

Director of photography  
**Vagner Jabour**

Sound  
**O Grivo**

Editor  
**Leonardo Barcelos**

# SHORT SYNOPSIS

Presente Body investigates contemporaneity through the body and its countless possibilities of expression and meaning. The film puts the body and the idea of the body in evidence, through the metalanguage, articulation and confrontation of documentary, fictional and performance languages. We closely follow the main character's journey who uses her own body to formulate universes and investigate the senses of the body based on her memories and bodily experiences. In a kind of subjective diary written on the skin, she registers sensations and reflections, seeking to find and understand her language, as well as that of other performance artists, who lead us to other bodies and other stories.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/623630687>

Password: presentbody



# LONG SYNOPSIS

The feature film PRESENT BODY investigates contemporaneity through the body and its countless possibilities of expression and meaning. The multiplicity of bodies is presented as a crossing place, organized by a political, poetic and critical perspective, in elaborate imagery and narrative compositions. Approaching the body, however, given its constitutive complexity, requires a multiform narrative, interspersed by distinct and successive approaches that complement each other. To reach this complexity, the feature uses a hybrid language, based on three perspectives: documentary, performance and fiction. It is through the approximation of these three approaches, the clash between them and the questions that they raise that PRESENTE BODY builds its voice.

The film follows the trajectory of the main character who uses her own body to formulate universes and investigate the senses of the body based on her memories and bodily experiences. In a kind of subjective diary written on the skin, she registers sensations and reflections, seeking to find and understand her language, as well as that of other performance artists, who leads her to other bodies and other stories. The film features performance artists who manage to unite different expressions in a unique and singular way, raising new discourses that circulate and inhabit the contemporary imagination, such as issues of gender and identity, social conflicts, colonization, among others. The multiple bodies signal new ways of being in the world, where cultural, identity and political signs coexist on a scaled skin with great potential for transformation. This mosaic includes archival images of key artists (Ana Mendieta, Paula Garcia, Pyotor Pavlenky, Musa Michele Matiuzzi) and new and established performers, such as Ayrson Heráclito, Ana Luisa Santos, Janaína Tábula, Ludmilla Ramalho, among others. In addition to the performers, scholars such as Ailton Krenac, Erika Hilton, Jo Clifford and Suely Rolnik reflect on the themes presented, drawing parallels and opening new possibilities for interpretation.

The feature film transforms art and its creative process into possibilities for resistance and aesthetic and political innovation, establishing, based on our physical matter or its abandonment, a place for public debate on crucial issues for our time.

# WRITER AND DIRECTOR

## BIOGRAPHY



Leonardo Barcelos

Leonardo Barcelos is a founding member of Teia, one of the most important audiovisual groups in the country, with works that have been selected and awarded at Brazilian festivals (Brasilia Festival, Rio Festival, It's All True, etc.), international film festivals (Berlinale, Venice, Toronto, Locarno, Rotterdam, Karlovy Vary, DOK Leipzig, etc.).

Leonardo directed the feature film SHAKY BUT STEADY and six short films, including the award-winning GOD'S BRIDE and BITES OF SKIN. He is in constant contact with other areas of activities: such as fine arts, dance, theater and performance. In addition he has been exhibited and installed in museums, such as MoMa and New Museum (NY) and in addition his works were sold to theaters, television channels, museums and the Internet. He has been researching the body and its countless possibilities for over 7 years.

He is currently pre-producing the 'Cartographies of the body' series, which features world-famous artists such as Marina Abramovic, ORLAN, Stelarc, Viktoria Modesta, Regina José Galindo, José Celso Martinez, among others.

# WRITER AND DIRECTOR

## FILMOGRAPHY

- **Shaky but Steady**

36th São Paulo International Film Festival; 34th International Festival of New Latin American Cinema – Havana; 15th Tiradentes Film Festival; 8th BrasilCine – The Brazilian Film Festival in Scandinavia, FIC Puebla 2013 – FIC Puebla 2013 Festival Internacional de Cine – Mexico; FIACID – Peru, Ciudades Reveladas – Muestra Internacional de Cine y Ciudad – Buenos Aires

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/174586931>

Feature complete <https://vimeo.com/63258806> password: bal2013

- **Bites of Skin**

22nd Queer Experimental Festival – 22MixFest – New York; 16th Mix Brasil – International Film Festival of Sexual Diversity; 31th Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano – Havana; 12th Tiradentes Film Festival; 7th Festival Internacional de Création Audiovisuelle et Cinématographique Signes de Nuit; 4th Tel Aviv International LGBT Film Festival; 9th Sergipe Ibero-American Film Festival; 12nd Panorama Cultural Thessaloniki's

Best poetry-video by the jury of the 7th Mostra Minas de Cinema e Vídeo; Best film by the popular jury of FLUXUS International Film Festival. Elected among the five best shorts in 12th Tiradentes Film Festival.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/13837532> password: nacos2008

- **God's Bride**

Elected by the Jury best video at the XXIV Brazilian Congress of Psychiatry. Best Videos 2005 Special Session Curta Minas.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/95900279> password: Noiva\_2006

- **Rouge**

Link: <https://vimeo.com/19669327> password: rouge\_2003

# PRODUCERS



André Hallak / Trem Chic, Brazil  
Producer

Successfully, André delivered projects for TV Channels such as the sci-fi BLUE DESERT (Eder Santos, 2015) for Sesc TV, the feature won the Golden Palm Award at Mexico International Film Festival; THE THIRD SHORE (Fabian Remy, 2016) for Curta!, brazilian channel that collaborates with Artè, the documentary won Best First Film at the French Festival Traces de Vies; the docuseries PLANTING WATER in 2020 for Futura; And most recently the documentary IRONLAND (Lucas Bambozzi, 2021) for Canal Brasil, awarded Best Photography at Festival de Brasilia.



Sven Schnell / san cinema, Germany  
Co-Producer

Reently, Sven completed the French/German/Brazil co-production: SALAMANDRA by Brazilian director: Alex Carvalho and the actress Marina Fois, which had its premiere 2021 at the Venice Critic Weeks. 2022 the co-Production LUCKY GIRL by Marysia Nikitiuk will be completed and premiere at the Talinn Film Festival in November 2022.



## Director's statement

In my work, I always try to address pertinent themes that illuminate contemporaneity and its most prominent issues. Therefore, I carry out a broad conceptual, political and aesthetic research in order to support and build the filmic and narrative discourses. The documentary addresses a current subject, highly relevant, and, in a certain way, urgent. The society must take part and engage in debate regarding the body, what it means and will in the future. With this questioning atmosphere, it is intended to inquire about the weight that the body has in the construction of each one's life and, beyond that, to rescue the significance of what it is to be present in the world. My goal is to create a film that is innovative in its concept and that combines different experiences and thoughts in relation to a topic that is relevant and crucial for us to understand who we are as a society and as individuals. Today, I believe that the body is at the center of all the most urgent, social and philosophical issues in the world.

In my projects I am interested in exploring the fertile tension between different languages and supports. The friction between them fascinates and instigates me. One of my ambitions is precisely to innovate in articulating documentary, fiction and performance with their unique characteristics, within the narrative flow of cinema. An important point of the project, and a challenge as a director, was precisely to create a cinematographic way of filming the different performances, establishing visual and montage links that echo its organicity, time and the strength of the body's presence inside the film. Because Brazil is a multi-racial country, I myself have an indigenous ethnicity and I have several black activist friends, and being gay myself and part of the LGBT community, I have already suffered prejudice and I closely observe the daily struggle of friends and acquaintances for money, dignity and for life itself. The topic naturally interests me, for personal reasons but at the same time as Brazil is going through a very strong conservative wave, nothing more important than discussing these issues, reinforcing the visibility and highlighting the risks that minorities face today, and also how art and artists are important to reveal these important questions. There is still a desire for diversity. We opted for characters and performances that were plural enough to give voice to a large number of people, especially those whose voices were always silenced, such as the identity and economic minorities, the non-standard bodies and the countless victims of colonization. The desire is to put contemporaneity on stage, together with all its plurality, fluidity and symbology.

# FEATURED PERFORMANCE ARTISTS

## LUDMILA RAMALHO



Actress and performer, graduated in Theater in UFMG and post-graduated in Performance Art in Angel Vianna University. Ludmilla has presented her performance pieces in multiple festivals and exhibits worldwide, such as FITA e A SALTO (Portugal), Ciclo de Mujeres de Brasil (Argentina), Santiago Off (Chile). She also coordinates the Photoperformance Forum that occurs in Belo Horizonte.

## MARC DAVI

Performer and plastic artist, graduated at the Guignard School of Plastic Arts, Marc is also a formed psychiatrist by the Medicine School of UFMG. His works transit in multiple languages and have been exhibited in places such as Inhotim and the 29a Bienal de São Paulo.



## AYRSON HERÁCLITO

Visual artist and Brazilian performer, Ayrson explores spirituality, ancestry and the consequences of colonialism in the contemporary world through ritualistic and artistic practices.



# FEATURED PERFORMANCE ARTISTS



## JANAÍNA TÁBULA

Performer and art educator, she explores feminist issues through relational art and performative pieces. She works with the idea of the body in several performances.

## GUILHERME MORAIS

Multiple artist: dancer, actor, performer, he coordinates the biggest Vogue Duel competition in Latin America, mixing fashion, identity, politics and street culture.



## ANA LUISA SANTOS

Renown performer and visual artist, her works debate gender performance, social politics and power relations in society. Many of her works are relational and propose conflicts and raw intertions with the public.

# FEATURED SPECIALISTS



## AILTON KRENAK

Indigenous philosopher, author of important titles, such as *Ideas to Postpone the End of the World*; Important leadership and recognized worldwide as one of the most prominent voices of the world today.

## LEDA MARIA MARTINS

Poet, writer and professor, PhD in Literature by UFMG, master in Arts by Indiana University, post-doctorship in Performance Studies by the New York University, Tisch School of the Arts. Her research explores black dramaturgy and ancestry.



## ERIKA HILTON

Brazilian trans politician, who was the most voted woman elected in 2020, with over 50 thousand votes and elected by the New York Times one of the 25 most influential black women in the world.

# FEATURED SPECIALISTS



## CARLOS MENDONÇA

Professor at the Social Communication Department at UFMG, Carlos studies Performance and Media intersections with an emphasis on gender and sexuality studies.

## SUELY ROLNIK

Psychoanalyst, art critic and university professor at PUC-SP. Suely lived in France during the 70s, where she worked alongside Guatarri and Deleuze, producing several texts together.,.



## DIANA CORSO

Psyicanalist and specialist on the theme of the feminine and its representations.



# PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS AND MARKETS

Present Body has been selected over the years, in its different stages for important festivals, markets and laboratories such as Cinemundi 2016/2020 (development and production), Festival de Málaga - MAFIZ 2018 and recently Ficviña Industry Laboratory for Work in Progress and Labex Argentina in the Latin American Competence for rough cuts.













# CONTACTS

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