

An Abubakir Filmes Production

# BELOV

## UMA VIDA NO MAR

(BELOV: A LIFE AT SEA)



A Film By  
**Tiago Abubakir**

BRAZIL | 2024 | STEREO | 1.33:1 | COLOR

PRODUCER CONTACT

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**2021** United Nations Decade  
**2030** of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

## TECHNICAL SPECS

**Country:** Brazil    **Directed by:** Tiago Abubakir  
**Running time:** 18 min.    **Produced by:** Tiago Abubakir  
**Format:** Digital, 1.33:1    **Concept by:** Tiago Abubakir, Luiz Humberto Campos  
**Shot on:** 30 fps  
**Audio mix:** Stereo    **Photography by:** Leonardo Papini, Aleixo Belov, Tiago Abubakir  
**Language:** Portuguese  
**Rating (US):** NR    **Film editing and VFX by:** Tiago Abubakir  
**Sound design by:** Tiago Abubakir

### Additional footage

Adson Almeida  
Hélio Viana

### Interview

Tiago Abubakir  
Luiz Humberto Campos

### Thanks

Ana Paula Pessoa  
Aleixo Belov  
Bjørn Ousland  
Bruna Abubakir  
Careline Oliveira  
Cláudia Cardozo  
Cristiana Biscaia  
Eduardo Athayde  
Franco Adailton  
Jorge de Souza  
José Mendonça  
Larissa Nabuco  
Leonardo Papini  
Luciano Costa  
Mariana Belov  
Mauricio Abubakir  
Rodrigo Oliveira

### Sound recordist

Tiago Abubakir

### Translations and text editor

Tiago Abubakir

### Post-production

Tiago Abubakir

### Subtitles

Tiago Abubakir

### Management

Tiago Abubakir

### Cast

Aleixo Belov

### Graphic designer

Tiago Abubakir

### Soundtrack

Dima Koltsov (CC BY)  
Redemption Music (CC BY)





## LOGLINE

From the Capital of the Blue Amazon to the World.

The first biographical documentary film about the greatest Brazilian sailor by miles traveled; the man who spent, in total, ten years at sea.

Setting sail from Salvador - Bahia, Capital of the Blue Amazon, the Ukrainian Brazilian personality Aleixo Belov has already circumnavigated the globe five times, three of them alone, aboard a little sailboat built in his own backyard.

## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

“Endorsed by UNESCO as an UN Ocean Decade activity and internationally awarded, ‘Belov: A Life at Sea’ is the first biographical documentary film about one of the most emblematic figures in the Brazilian sea universe; the war immigrant that, in addition to having spent, in total, ten years at sea, being a living testimony to the unlimited human capabilities, is the builder of a powerful legacy that continuously inspires all generations [[museudomaraleixobelov.org.br](http://museudomaraleixobelov.org.br)].

This film is a tribute to his life and career.

I spent about one year working on this project. At the beginning of everything, it was just me, a friend of mine of the same age and the following dream: to tell Belov's complex story in a synthetic, poetic and epic way, for the first time.

I'd never taken over as many functions while making a film, and being able to watch it, step by step, printing the screens around the world and moving different sorts of audiences was (and has been) a truly rewarding experience.

It is an immense honour to sign this tribute.”

- TIAGO ABUBAKIR



## AWARDS

With just three months running the fest circuit, BELOV: A LIFE AT SEA was selected, among other 23 films, to compose the program of the prestigious **ONA Short Film Festival** [[onafilmfestival.com](http://onafilmfestival.com)], an UNESCO partner event organized by ONA Sounds (an Italian-Argentinian production company specialized in the creation of soundtracks for major brands, such as National Geographic and Netflix). The festival, which takes place outdoors, at the Venice International University campus, on the island of San Servolo, in Venice, targets the celebration of the best short films of the year related to extreme sports, adventure, exploration and environmental conservation.

After finishing the last day's programming, BELOV: A LIFE AT SEA was contemplated with two prizes — the **Best Adventure Award** and the **CAI Award** (best short film award presented by the Italian Alpine Club) —, consecrating itself as the most awarded film of the 2024 edition. Director Tiago Abubakir and Aleixo Belov Foundation manager, Larissa Nabuco, on behalf of commander Belov, were present to receive the statuettes.

Among competitors, lots of popular brands put in an appearance, such as 11th Hour Racing and Korua Shapes, in addition to high-profile filmmaking personalities, such as the Canadian cinematographer **Ben Lalonde** and the British director **Sasha Rainbow**, BAFTA nominee.

The event brought together celebrities, like the sailor and Ocean Race winner **Francesca Clapcich** and the environmentalist **Bjørn Heyerdahl** (grandson of the legendary explorer **Thor Heyerdahl**, responsible for the Kon-Tiki expedition), and veteran film critics, like **Javier Barayazarra**, president of IAMF (International Alliance for Mountain Film).

Only one month after conquering the two titles in Venice, the short was awarded again. This time, on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

Director Tiago Abubakir won the **Young Filmmakers Showcase Audience Choice Award** at **Friday Harbor Film Festival** [[www.fhff.org](http://www.fhff.org)], an event held annually at San Juan Islands, in Washington state, USA. In the occasion, BELOV: A LIFE AT SEA was the most voted film of the showcase.

That is a meaningful recognition as well, not only because Friday Harbor Film Festival counts every year with the participation of influential professionals from the environmental conservation field and the North American filmmaking industry, but more importantly because it reflected the general public's preference.



## PREMIERE

Marking the Brazilian premiere, the screening of *BELOV: A LIFE AT SEA* at the UCI Orient multiplex, in Salvador of Bahia, moved the whole audience.

At the end of the screening, director **Tiago Abubakir** dedicated the **Best Adventure** award, won at the 2024 ONA Short Film Festival, to commander **Aleixo Belov**.

According to the jewelry *Suri*, responsible for manufacturing the statuette, the trophy was inspired by *Granceola*, a Venetian species of spider crab, threatened of extinction. Just like the crab, Belov is an ever rare type of explorer. It is worth highlighting that, during the awards ceremony in Venice, he was compared to none other than Marco Polo.

As explained by Abubakir, there was no fairer conduct than *“dedicating such a significant prize to the owner of the whole adventure”*. In an interview with [Jornal A Tarde](#), he stated that Belov is *“the owner of an unique life story”* and that *“on a cinematic level, he’s a really interesting character to work with”*.

In the same matter, captain Belov revealed that he felt like a movie star: *“I’ve turned into a movie star for being the main ‘actor’ of the film. I felt like a leading actor. I believe the film depicts my story very well. I’m aware I’m already a notorious figure, but now I’m going to become a little better known”*.

The night brought together friends and relatives from Belov and Abubakir, in addition to representatives of important entities — such as the Bahia Commercial Association, the Geographic and Historical Institute of Bahia, the Brazilian Navy and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) —, artists, journalists and businesspeople from Bahia’s nautical field.

Moreover, representatives from sponsors Paraguaçu Engenharia and Rede Outlight, supporters Fundação Aleixo Belov, Belov Engenharia, Codeba, Consplan and Aloha Náutica and institutional supporter WWI Brasil (Worldwatch Institute Brasil) took part in the event.

Foto: Leonardo Papini



## ALEIXO BELOV

Born in Ukraine, commander Aleixo Belov came to Brazil as a child with his parents, who were fleeing from World War II. Once here, they chose Salvador - Bahia, Capital of the Blue Amazon, as their new home. Belov was raised with the All Saints Bay as an inspiration, and he was enchanted by navigation. So much so that, in his youth, he already traveled across the oceans accompanying other renowned sailors, as he narrates in the book "Minhas viagens com outros comandantes" (My journeys with other commanders), released in September this year.

With the acquired knowledge, he began to sail around the world, with the sailing ship "Três Marias", with which he traveled three times around the world: just him and the oceans. As a result of this feat, he earned a diploma from the Brazilian Navy, for being the first to travel around the world alone on a vessel flying the Brazilian flag.

But he didn't stop there. The commander, who received the title of Citizen of Salvador in October 2021, also wanted to share this knowledge with the new generations. For that, he built the sailing-school "Fraternidade" (Fraternity) and invited crew, aged between 18 and 30, to understand the lessons of the sea.

All these experiences resulted in another eight books written by Belov, which narrate the trade of the sea and the stories of the peoples he met during his journeys around the planet. The works are also available at the Museum of the Sea.

Read more at: <https://museudomaraleixobelov.org.br/sobre/>



# TIAGO ABUBAKIR

Tiago Abubakir [[filmfreeway.com/tiagoabubakir](http://filmfreeway.com/tiagoabubakir)] is a 22 year-old independent filmmaker based in Salvador - Bahia, Brazil, currently majoring in Communication.

Since 2017, Abubakir has been consistently producing a wide range of audiovisual content from multiple genres and formats, including promotional spots, narrative short films, VFX, and video mapping projects.

In 2022, Abubakir concluded a film editing at Academia Internacional de Cinema, one of the most renowned filmmaking schools from Brazil. Currently, he is graduating in Communication with a qualification in Advertising & Marketing at Universidade Salvador.

His trademark has been the depiction of unique stories through inspired manipulation of the cinematographic language.

## Recent projects (highlights)

**The Great Father** | Short Film | 2020

**The Silence of Each Day** | Photoshoot | 2022

**Purangy** | Video Mapping | 2023

**Below: A Life at Sea** | Short Film | 2024

## Laurels

**ROOM's Short Movie Night** | Netherlands | 2020 | Official Selection

**SWIFF** | USA | 2023 | Semi-Finalist: Best Experimental Film

**Serbest International Film Festival** | Moldavia | 2023 | Semi-Finalist

**Ocean Films Húsavík** | Iceland | 2024 | Official Selection

**Wild Oceans FilmFest** | Spain | 2024 | Finalist: Best Young Director

**ONA Short Film Festival** | Italy | 2024 | Winner: Best Adventure

**ONA Short Film Festival** | Italy | 2024 | Winner: CAI Award (Best Short Film)

**Friday Harbor Film Festival** | USA | 2024 | Winner: Young Filmmakers Competition

**Festival de Cine del Mar** | Chile | 2025 | Official Selection

**Big Blue Film Festival** | USA | 2025 | Official Selection

**Barcelona Indie Awards** | Spain | 2025 | Nominee: Best Inspirational Film

**Kuala Lumpur International Film Academy Awards** | Malaysia | 2025 | Official Selection

Foto: Leonardo Papini

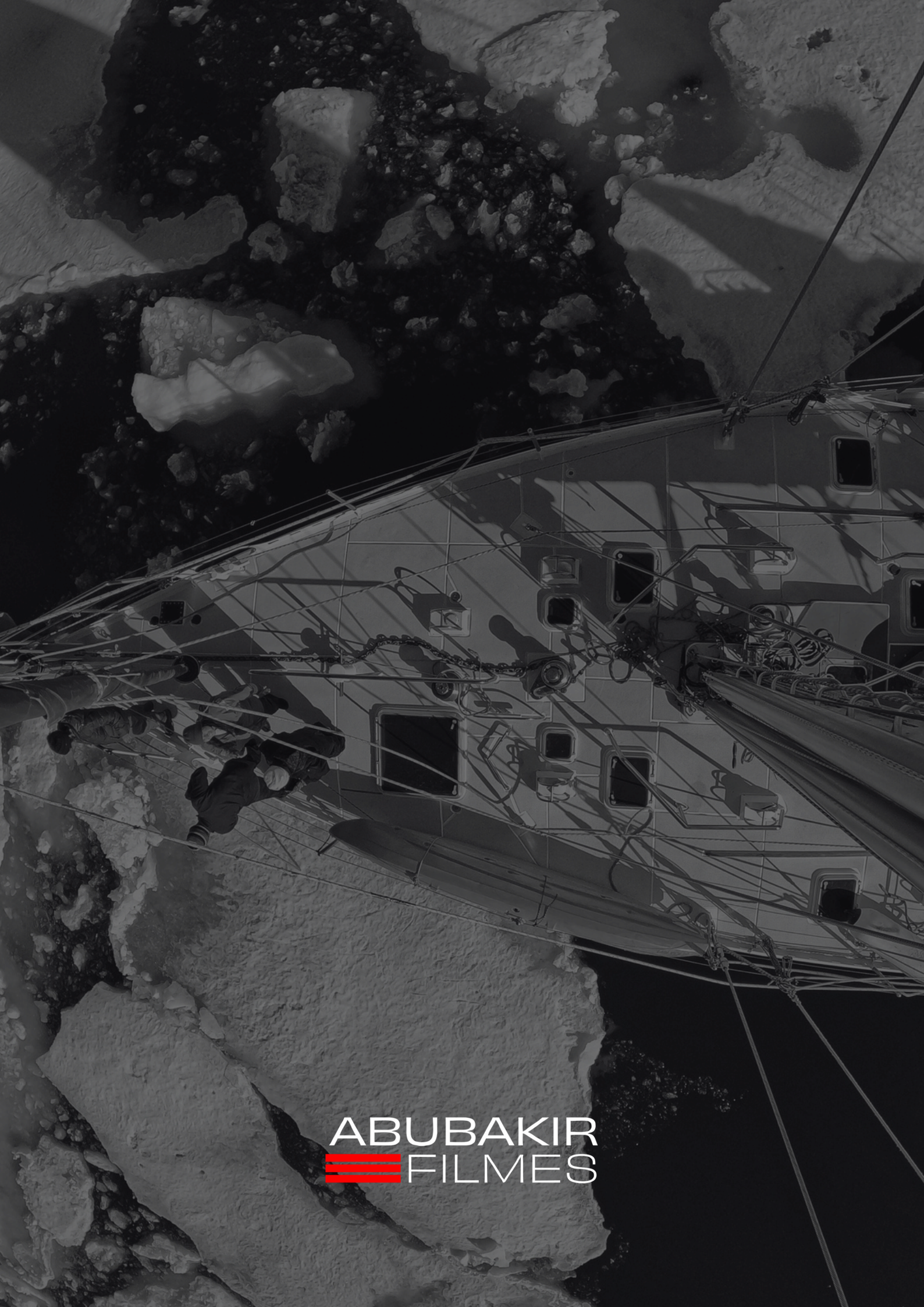


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