



PORTUGAL'S OFFICIAL ENTRY

OSCAR[®]

BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

A FILM BY ANTÓNIO FERREIRA

The Scent of Things Remembered

DRAMA | 96 MIN | PORTUGAL/BRAZIL 2025



SINOPSYS

ARMÉNIO, AN OCTOGENARIAN VETERAN OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIAL WAR, IS FORCED INTO A RETIREMENT HOME, WHERE HE MEETS HERMÍNIA, A BLACK CAREGIVER WHO WILL LOOK AFTER HIM.

Confronted with the vulnerability of old age, Arménio is compelled to face the ghosts of his past, while an unexpected friendship blossoms between him and Hermínia.

This film is a poetic and intimate portrayal of an elderly person in an institution, exploring the fragility of the human condition, the inevitability of death, and the quest for redemption. It addresses pressing issues in our society, such as the aging population and structural racism.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Portugal is the 4th oldest country in the world, with 182 elderly individuals for every 100 young people (2023 data). This demographic reality represents one of the country's major challenges, and it is a theme I aim to address in this film.

The story begins with our protagonist, Arménio, being “admitted” to a retirement home, seemingly against his will. Arménio is not only elderly but also a former combatant of the colonial war, a generation of men who had to live with the trauma of war, developing a hardened shell that has affected his family relationships over the years. Like many veterans, his relationship with the past is complex, particularly with Black individuals who were once seen as “enemies” or “terrorists,” a memory that is deeply ingrained in many war veterans.

Not coincidentally, the caregiver assigned to Arménio at the retirement home is a Black woman, Hermínia, who will bring to the forefront the ghosts of Arménio's past. This choice is deliberate, as anyone visiting a retirement home in our country will observe that a significant portion of the staff are immigrants who undertake the demanding task of caring for the elderly. However, Hermínia, a Black Portuguese woman, challenges this ingrained prejudice in Portuguese society.

In this context, Arménio, a man who has overcome the violence of war and is used to being independent and stern, finds himself weakened and in a vulnerable position under the care of a Black woman. He must grapple with his own prejudices while trying to maintain a balance between his

autonomy and his need for care due to his deteriorating health.

The film, therefore, explores themes of aging, bodily decline, the approach of death, and how we deal with these realities. It also addresses an entire generation of men who, in their early twenties, were thrust into a war where the enemy was the “Black terrorist.” Those who survived were sent back without explanations or assistance to reintegrate into a society that had undergone a revolution and transformed its ideals, leaving these men adrift in a new world, unable to escape the mentality imposed on them to prepare them for killing (Black people).

In the final phase of his life, Arménio, perhaps due to his increasing frailty, opens his heart and accepts help, finally establishing an affectionate connection with the Black woman he once viewed as a generic threat. Ultimately, racism is nothing more than a social construct (rooted in colonialist mentality) or ignorance (lack of knowledge about what is different from us) due to never having encountered the “other.” Forced into contact, the “other” becomes humanised and closer, ultimately equal to us.

This film also aims to honor the thousands of caregivers who diligently care for our elderly population day after day, highlighting a reality that remains behind closed doors and is largely unknown to the general public. To achieve this, the film incorporates “documentary” footage of real retirement homes, interspersed with the fictional narrative.

FESTIVALS / AWARDS

OFFICIAL SUBMISSION OF PORTUGAL FOR THE 'BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM' CATEGORY OF THE 99TH ACADEMY AWARDS IN 2027.

2025 | 27TH SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL [CN]
BEST ACTOR AWARD (JOSÉ MARTINS)

2025 | TRIBECA FESTIVAL LISBOA [PT]

2025 | 49TH MOSTRA DE SÃO PAULO [BR]

2025 | 14TH TANGIER FILM FESTIVAL [MA]
BEST SCRIPT SPECIAL MENTION

2025 | 15TH ISTAMBUL INT. CRIME AND PUNISHMENT FILM FESTIVAL [TR]

2025 | MACAO CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES FILM FEST [CN]

2025 | ENTRE OLHARES [PT]
AUDIENCE AWARD

2025 | 31ST CAMINHOS DO CINEMA PORTUGUÊS [PT]
BEST ACTRESS AWARD (MINA ANDALA)

2025 | 42. BOGOCINE - FESTIVAL DE CINE DE BOGOTÁ [CO]

2025 | SHANGHAI PORTUGUESE FILM FESTIVAL [CN]

2026 | CINEUPHORIA AWARDS [PT]
BEST ACTRESS (MINA ANDALA)

2026 | PLATINO AWARDS FOR IBERO-AMERICAN CINEMA
(SHORTLISTED)
PLATINO AWARD FOR CINEMA AND EDUCATION IN VALUES
PLATINO AWARD FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS (MINA ANDALA)

2026 | BALINALE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL [ID]

2026 | PRÉMIOS SOPHIA [PT]
(WON) BEST LEAD ACTOR
(NOMINATED) BEST FILM, BEST DIRECTOR, BEST LEAD ACTRESS, BEST ORIGINAL SCRIPT, BEST ORIGINAL MUSIC, BEST EDITING, BEST SOUND

2026 | PERIFERIAS FESTIVAL INT. DE CINEMA [PT/ES]

2026 | GLOBOS DE OURO [PT]
(NOMINATED) BEST FILM, BEST ACTOR



ANTÓNIO FERREIRA

WRITER DIRECTOR



António Ferreira was born in Coimbra, in 1970. In 1994, he entered the Superior School of Theater and Cinema (**ESTC**), in Lisbon. In 1996, he moved to Germany to study at the Berlin Film and Television Academy (**dfwb**). In 2000, he rose to prominence with the film “*Respirar (debaixo d’água) / Breathing Under Water*”, an official selection of the **Cannes Festival** (Cinefondation) with which he won several awards at a number of international festivals. In 2002, the feature film “*Esquece Tudo o Que Te Disse / Forget Everything I’ve Told You*” premieres, a co-production with France. In 2007, the short film “*Deus Não Quis / It Wasn’t God’s Will*” debuts, with which he wins more than a dozen international awards. In 2010, his second feature film “*Embargo*” debuts, an adaptation of José Saramago, a co-production between Brazil, Portugal and Spain, exhibited in movie theaters in Portugal and Brazil. In 2012, he staged, for R. Maria II National Theater, the play “*The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant*” by R.W. Fassbinder. In 2012, he made the short film “*Posfácio nas confecções Canhão / Posfácio At The Clothing Factory*”, by the European Capital of Culture’s invitation. In 2018, “*Pedro e Inês / The Dead Queen*” premieres, a co-

production between Portugal, France and Brazil, which became the most watched Portuguese film of the year, being selected at several selections in festivals. The film was exhibited in movie theatres in Portugal, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras. In 2023 releases his 4th feature “*A Bela América*”. In 2025 releases his 5th feature “*A Memória do Cheiro das Coisas / The Scent of Things Remembered*”.

[IMDB](#)

FILMOGRAPHY

- features -

2025 A MEMÓRIA DO CHEIRO DAS COISAS | Portugal/Brazil

2023 A BELA AMÉRICA | Portugal/Brazil

2018 PEDRO E INÊS | Portugal/France/Brazil

2010 EMBARGO | Portugal/Spain/Brazil

2002 ESQUECE TUDO O QUE TE DISSE | Portugal/France

- shorts -

2012 POSFÁCIO NAS CONFECÇÕES CANHÃO | Portugal

2007 DEUS NÃO QUIS | Portugal

2000 RESPIRAR DEBAIXO D’ÁGUA | Portugal/Germany



JOSÉ MARTINS
(Arménio)



MINA ANDALA
(Hermínia)





PRODUCER

Founded in 1999, **PERSONA NON GRATA PICTURES** has produced over 30 films in coproduction with several countries - Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Portugal, Spain, France, Germany and Mozambique.

The international character of our films, has allowed a wide circulation in festivals around the world, as well as in movie theaters and television channels. Our films express the culture, thinking and imagination of the countries of origin, through the vision of its creators.

We favor projects with an international appeal through the establishment of coproductions, whereas our films have benefited in recent years from the support of international institutions such as Ibermedia, Media, ICA (pt), FSA (br) and CNC (fr).

The **PERSONA NON GRATA PICTURES** is currently directed by the producers **Tathiani Sacilotto** and **António Ferreira**.

Tathiani Sacilotto started as a lawyer and she is the co-founder of the production companies **Persona Non Grata Pictures** (Portugal/Brazil) and **Diálogos Atômicos** (Portugal).

Tathiani is a member of the **European Women's Audiovisual Network** (EWA) **EAVE Puentes**, **Producers on the Move** and **ACE Producers** 2022/2023.

FILMOGRAPHY

[IMDB](#)

FEATURES

2026: "LOS DÍAS LIBRES", Argentina/Brasil/Mexico/France
2025: "A MEMÓRIA DO CHEIRO DAS COISAS", Portugal/Brasil
2023: "A BELA AMÉRICA", Portugal/Brasil
2021: "ESE FIN DE SEMANA", Argentina/Brasil
2020: "GAFAS AMARILLAS", Equador/Brasil
2018: "PEDRO E INÊS", Portugal/França/Brasil
2018: "CAMINHOS MAGNÉTICOS", Portugal/Brasil
2013: "SOMOS GENTE HONRADA", Espanha/Portugal
2010: "EMBARGO", Portugal/Espanha/Brasil
2009: "RETORNOS", Espanha/Portugal/Argentina
2002: "ESQUECE TUDO O QUE TE DISSE", Portugal/França

DOCS

2015: "OPERAÇÃO ANGOLA", Portugal/Moçambique
2014: "AS COISAS NÃO SÃO FEITAS POR ACASO", Portugal/Brasil
2011: "DAS 9 ÀS 5", Portugal
2009: "FUTEBOL DE CAUSAS", Portugal
2007: "POETICAMENTE EXAUSTO, VERTICALMENTE SÓ", Portugal
2006: "ROCKUMENTÁRIO", Portugal
2006: "HUMANOS, A VIDA EM VARIAÇÕES", Portugal

SHORTS 16 short films produced.



TRAILER



DIRECTOR ANTÔNIO FERREIRA

WRITERS TIAGO CRAVIDÃO, ANTÔNIO FERREIRA

PRODUCER TATHIANI SACILOTTO (PNGP PICTURES) [PT]

COPRODUCER ELIANE FERREIRA (MUIRAQUITÃ) [BR]

GENRE DRAMA

DURATION 96 MIN. | DCP 4K 1.66 | ATMOS 7.1.4 | HDR

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