

MY MUM'S
LETTERS





AS CARTAS DA MINHA MÃE

"My Mum's Letters"

Narrative Fiction Short Film

Running Time: 16 minutes
Genre: Fantastical Realism
Year: 2020
Language: Portuguese
Country of Origin: Portugal
Format: DCP - 4K 1.66 24fps
Sound: Stereo & 5.1

Written & Directed By: Antonio Sequeira
Produced By: Pedro Magano
Antonio Sequeira
Julien Cornwall
Cinematographer: Anastasiia Vorotniuk
Production Designer: Shira Haimovici
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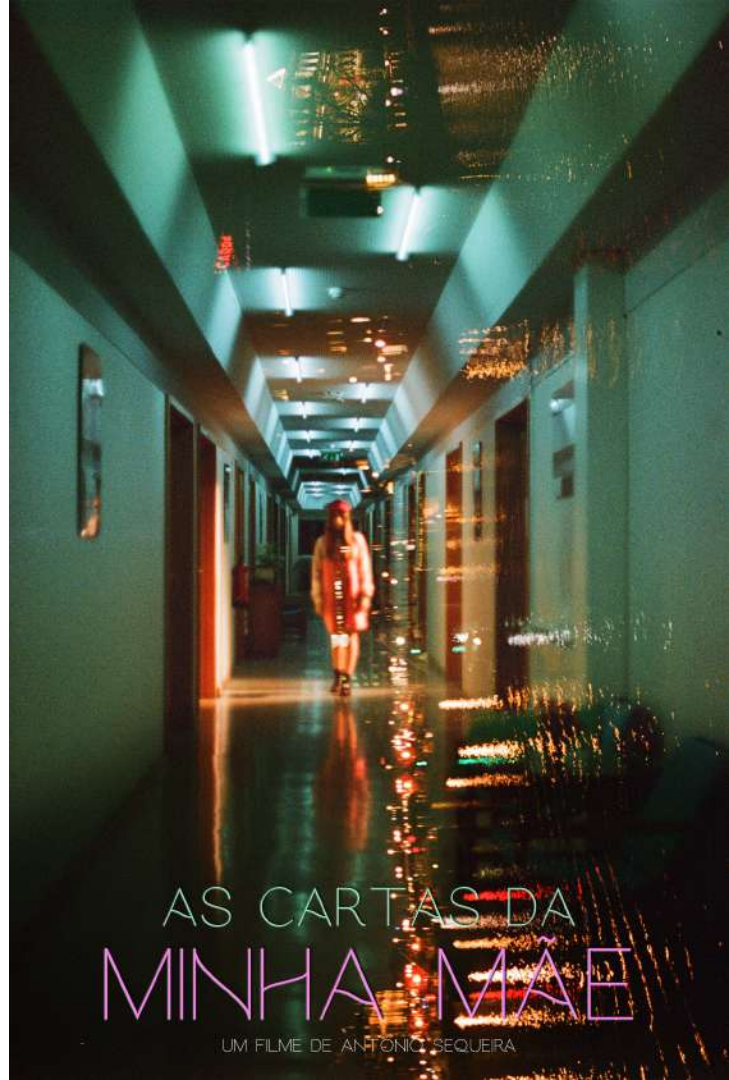
LOGLINE

Alice is 13, bubbly, colourful and ... a Daughter of Death! Every day, she receives a letter with a name and does her duty unwillingly. But her views on her job are challenged when she starts developing a relationship with a suicidal teenager.

SYNOPSIS

Alice is a Daughter of Death. Every day, she receives letters with the names of people she is supposed to “put to sleep” with the beautiful melody that she hums. However, she is tired of doing her job. She is more intrigued by humans and their notion of love than doing her duty.

When she meets Pardal, a teenager obsessed with pretending to kill himself, the two develop an odd relationship. He is fascinated with Death. She is fascinated with Life. And by spending time with him, Alice slowly starts finding her identity and understanding the importance of her job.



AS CARTAS DA
MINHA MÃE

UM FILME DE ANTONIO SEQUEIRA

CAST

Beatriz Frazão as *Alice*



Fun Fact: Beatriz didn't want to rehearse the final scene of the film, in order to be as raw as possible. So, we made sure the whole crew was ready for when she entered the room. There was no Action! But when Antonio said Cut, everybody had *goosebumps* and a huge round of applause started involuntarily. It was one of the most beautiful moments we've witnessed on set.

Beatriz Frazão is one of the most promising young talents in Portugal. The fifteen year-old actress is known for her work in the TV Series “Conta-me como Foi”, “Vidas Opostas”, “A Família Ventura” and “Jardins Proibidos”. In 2017, she won a Golden Globe for her performance in “Amor Maior” and in 2018 she won the Revelation Award. She has also been nominated for “Best Actress in a Short Film” in 2020 for her work in “Canção de Embalar”.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6201224/>

Rodrigo Antunes as *Parda1*



Fun Fact: Rodrigo spent a few days before shooting on our empty “hospital” set so he could fully understand how boring it is to be in a place like that and how that would mentally influence Parda1.

Rodrigo Antunes is a young actor known for his work in the feature film “Índice Médio de Felicidade” and TV series “Aqui Tão Longe” and “Alma e Coração”. He has also been a part of many famous Portuguese plays. With great sense of humour and a charismatic look, Rodrigo intends to keep developing his craft of acting for the screen.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7837738/>

Fun Fact: Margarida wasn't cast in a traditional way. As her character had no lines, an audition wouldn't be of much use. So, instead Antonio and her simply had a coffee together, where he observed her physicality and eyes, casting her there and then.

Margarida is a Portuguese actress, currently living in New York. She started her very prolific acting career with the French TV Series “Deux Justiciers dans la Ville”. She is most known for her work in TV series “Maré Alta”, “Lua Vermelha”, “Voo Direto” and “Doce Tentação” and in feature films “Daqui P’ra Frente” and “Quinze Pontos na Alma”.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2315868/>

Margarida André as *Mother*



Director's Statement

In Art, the personification of Death is usually a black hooded figure, carrying a scythe, meaning something bad or scary.

I wanted to show Death in a different light, because I think we need to change the conversation when it comes to the finality of our lives, hence why I personify it here as a 14 year-old colorful bubbly girl...

And for me the film is about acceptance of what you have no control over. But also about identity and the sense of belonging. I grew up in Portugal, a small country, and so I always felt as if I didn't belong and for a long time didn't want it to be part of my identity, doing whatever I could to escape it.

But after studying abroad, I understood that actually being Portuguese IS part of my identity and of who I am. So, now I feel like I should embrace it, instead of running away from it, which is what I want to explore with the character of Alice. She goes from trying to escape who she is, to embracing her job by understanding that Death is an important part of Life.

I'm very interested in creating a story world that is slightly different from our own, a more exaggerated reality but yet still coherent and which works within our society and our rules. This way I can talk about complex subjects like Life and Death in a light way, without "preaching" a message to the audience, but still making them think about it afterwards.



DIRECTOR, Antonio Sequeira

Born in 1995, Azores, Portugal, Antonio has been directing short films since he was 8 years old. Feeling like the cinema industry in Portugal was very different from the films he wanted to make, Antonio went to London to study the craft of filmmaking. With the newfound skills and sensitivities he developed on his BA, he managed to produce and direct multiple projects that were selected to some festivals, including the BFI Future Film Festival, which helped him to receive a scholarship from Creative Skillset to study an MA in the London Film School, where he continued to develop his skills and grow even more as a director. Directing in 16mm forced him to focus on the precision of visual storytelling and his film "Danke", was nominated for many international awards. While studying, Antonio received funding to shoot a short film to promote positive mental health, which allowed him to work with big Portuguese actress Paula Lobo Antunes and to take his skills to another level. This film won the Grand Prix at "FEST-New Directors" and was selected to the academy-award qualifying "Short Shorts Film Festival" in Japan, amongst others. The film was also listed as one of the best short films of 2019 by "Close-up Culture". Before finishing his graduation film, "My Mum's Letters", he was offered the opportunity to direct a sci-fi mini TV-series for a National Portuguese Channel, called "Instaverse".

Website: <http://www.antoniosequeira.weebly.com/>



FILMOGRAPHY

Showreel: <https://vimeo.com/397025475>

Previous projects include amongst others:



Instaverse (2020) - TV Series



A Son Like Others (2019) - Short



Danke (2018) - Short



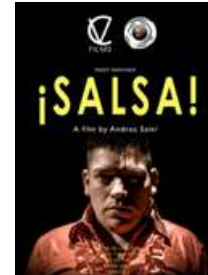
Living Off Laughter (2018)
Documentary



My Clown (2018)
Short



Ice Tulips (2017)
Short



Salsa! (2017)
Short



Misplaced (2016)
Short



Director of Photography, ANASTASIIA VOROTNIUK

Anastasiia Vorotniuk has studied and practiced a wide variety of subjects ranging from Acting, to Philosophy, to Photography, to Dancing and Directing, making her a very volatile Cinematographer, with an artistic vision that is very unique and peculiar. The film she directed “Me, My Germs and James” was nominated for best British Student Film at the Academy Award Qualifying “Encounters Film Festival”. She has lent her unique cinematographic style to short films “We Three”, “Artificial Bid”, “Protect You” and “A Son Like Others”, which have all been in festivals around the world.

Production Designer, SHIRA HAIMOVICI

Shira Haimovici is an Israeli filmmaker, based in London. Between 2014-2016 she served as a film editor and graphic designer in the Israel Defense Forces’ (IDF) intelligence unit. Recently, she has worked extensively in the area of Production Design. Known for her incredible sets in “Interloper”, she then designed “Une Paire de Jumelles” and “Water off a Duck’s back”. She has also worked as an Art Director on the features “Cranley Gardens” and “Slaughterhouse Rulez”, starring Margot Robbie, Asa Butterfield, Michael Sheen and Simon Pegg.



Producer, JULIEN CORNWALL

Julien Cornwall went to study Law at Bristol University before deciding to pursue a life in the film industry. He worked at WME and Bob & Co before attending LFS, where he has flourished as a producer, cultivating a diverse body of work, including "Dogeater", "Sauce for the Goose", "The Enquiry" and "The Lost Scot". He recently launched his own production company, SeaWhisker Films, which has successfully branched out into the commercial world with an eye towards film and TV.



Producer, PEDRO MAGANO

Pedro Magano is the founder of the production company "Pixbee", which works mostly in the commercial branch, but is interested in switching towards narrative filmmaking. He studied Audiovisual Communication in Porto. Recently, he produced the documentary "Irmãos", which won the Grand Prix at "Festival Caminhos do Cinema Português" and the Golden Lynx at "FEST - New Directors New Films" and also the short film "Luana", which had its premiere in the biggest short film festival of Latin America, SHORTS MEXICO.



BEHIND THE SCENES





CREDITS

Director

Screenwriter

Producers

Cinematographer

Production Designer

Costume Designer

Hair & Make-up Artist

Art Assistants

1st Assistant Director

1st Assistant Camera

2nd Assistant Camera

Gaffer

Sparks

Antonio Sequeira

Antonio Sequeira

Pedro Magano

Julien Cornwall

Antonio Sequeira

Anastasiia Vorotniuk

Shira Haimovici

Quin Sotelo

Madalina Elena Popa

Joana Freire

Carolina Sequeira

Gonçalo Ribeiro

Loui Sharman

Josimar Krithinas

Abigail Hurcomb

Pedro Pimentel

Bárbara Sales

Catarina Ribeiro

Steadycam Operator

Sound Recordist

Production Managers

Production Assistants

Composer

Sound Design & Mixing

Colourist

Editor

CAST

Daughter

Pardal

Mother

Sister

Nurse

Edmond Pitarma

Alexander Harrison

Albina Ferreira

Carlos Sequeira

Patrícia Tavares

Júlia Lima

Tiago Cardoso

Dinis Henriques

Philipp Morozov

Antonio Sequeira

Beatriz Frazão

Rodrigo Antunes

Margarida André

Rafaela Oliveira

Sofia Príncipe

