

# É Tudo Verdade It's All True

FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE DOCUMENTÁRIOS  
INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

**“OUT OF BREATH” AND “THE BALCONY MOVIE” ARE  
THE WINNERS OF IT’S ALL TRUE 2022**

**“Out of Breath”, by Anna Petta and Helena Petta, wins the  
Brazilian Competition for Feature and Medium-length Films**

**“The Balcony Movie”, by Pawel Lozinski, is the best film in the  
International Competition for Feature and Medium-length  
Films**

**“Chants from a Holy Book” and “How Do You Measure a  
Year?” are selected the best short films in the Brazilian and In-  
ternational competitions, respectively**

**For more information about the Festival, see  
<http://etudoverdade.com.br>**

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The leading festival dedicated to documentary filmmaking in Latin America, the **It's All True International Documentary Film Festival** announced on Sunday, April 10, the winners of its 27<sup>th</sup> edition. The titles awarded Best Film in the Brazilian and International categories will be reprised on the É Tudo Verdade Play platform at 9pm between April 11 and 12. The platform will also re-screen the Brazilian and foreign winners in the Short films category starting at 12pm on April 11. Once again, there will be a limited number of viewings. The prize-giving ceremony (trophies and certificates) took place at Espaço Itaú Augusta immediately after the screening of Alex Pritz's documentary **The Territory**.

Directed by Anna Petta and Helena Petta, **Quando Falta O Ar (Out of Breath)** was chosen as winner of the Brazilian Competition for Short Films, and receives the R\$20,000 in prize money and the It's All True trophy. The film takes a close look at the work of doctors, nurses, and other health professionals during the pandemic, and shows the human face behind the collective struggle against COVID-19.

The Jury on the Brazilian Competitions was formed by the historian **Eloá Chouzal**, the cinema and TV director and cinematographer **Carlos Ebert** ("O Bandido da Luz Vermelha", "Vlado – 30 Anos Depois"), and the author, screenwriter and filmmaker **Renato Terra** ("Uma Noite em 67", "Narciso em Férias"). The winner was selected because "it is more than just a hard-hitting and courageous x-ray of the COVID-19 pandemic in Brazil. The directors managed to broaden our understanding of the humanitarian tragedy from various perspectives: the community agents working to prevent infections, the hospital ICUs, and, of course, the corpses bagged and buried in frightening numbers. It was all done with the very careful eye of those who know how to build and capture scenes that value the human feeling of the individuals portrayed."

In addition to its impeccable cinematography, **Quando Falta O Ar** gauges the temperature of events, the heroism and exhaustion of the health professionals on the front line, the patients' fight for life, the raw intense relief of those who avoid infection, the fear hanging in the air, and the

sorrow of those who have lost loved ones. It's a precise record of still-recent collective memory, and an invaluable testament to the importance of Brazil's public health service", says the Jury.

**Symphony for a Common Man (Sinfonia de Um Homem Comum)**, by José Joffily, received honorary mention for its engaging editing. "The film tells the story of a Brazilian who fought against the overwhelming US interests behind the war in the Gulf and Syria. The film is deft in balancing the unshakable character and artistic talent of its subject, the diplomat José Bustano, in order to tell his story in an original and efficient way."

The Jury chose **Chants from a Holy Book**, by Cesar Gananian and Cassiana der Haroutiounian, as winner of the Brazilian Competition in the Short Film category. The directors receive R\$6,000 in prize money and the It's All True trophy. For the Jury, "coming from an original angle, the film broadens our understanding of the Velvet Revolution that occurred in Armenia in 2018. By adopting complementary simultaneous perspectives, the film shifts from the personal to the collective without losing direction. To achieve this, it adopts sophisticated, elegant, and highly effective narrative devices. It's as though we're watching the Velvet Revolution unfold from various points of view, and we can pick up on everything from the smallest everyday alternations to more complex changes in the spirit of the time. It also helps us understand a little better what's going on in Ukraine today."

**Cadê Heleny? (Searching Heleny)**, directed by Esther Vital, also received honorary mention in the Brazilian short film competition. The Jury highlights that "the documentary uses stop motion on dolls and embroideries so wonderfully produced by a collective of dozens of individuals and uses this technique to tell the story of the imprisonment, torture and disappearance of Heleny Guariba, a militant with the People's Revolutionary Vanguard during the Brazilian military dictatorship. More than that, by adopting the 'arpillera' technique to create the characters and settings, Esther Vital embroiders with the tragic dictatorships of South America. The film offers a surprising historical approach by tackling such a

“tough” subject in a “gentle” language, and manages to do so without losing any force of expression or emotion. This theme, which has been frequently explored in recent years, becomes even more pertinent here, showing the cruelty of a dictatorship that is celebrated by the callous government currently in power.”

The Jury also notes that the selection of short films revealed a “more robust presence of the racial theme as explored by Black filmmakers. The documentaries **Alágbedé**, by Safira Moreira, and **Solmatalua**, by Rodrigo Ribeiro-Andrade, breathe fresh air into Brazilian cinematographic thought.”

The Jury on the International competition for short and feature/medium-length films was composed by the Brazilian filmmaker and author **Luiz Bolognesi** (“Ex-Pajé”, “A Última Floresta”), the Uruguayan author, journalist and designer **Hugo Burel**, and the North-American filmmaker **Megan Mylan**, winner of the 2009 Oscar for Best Documentary Short for “Smile Pinki”.

The winner of the International Competition: Feature and Medium-length Film is **The Balcony Movie** (Poland), by Pawel Lozinski. The film sees the director interviewing passersby from the balcony of his Warsaw apartment. This device enables him to capture unique takes on life and how we live it as individuals. The film receives R\$12,000 and the It’s All True trophy.

The Jury’s decision was unanimous and “takes into consideration the mosaic of deep portraits of characters plucked from urban anonymity through a quirky and simple device that achieves surprising depth in its immersion into the personalities, fears and desires of its subjects. In addition to the lyricism of these characters, the originality of the narrative approach blends the simplicity of an ingenious idea with the Polish director Pawel Lozinski’s patient and sensitive listening.”

**Ultraviolette and the Blood-Spitters Gang** (France), by Robin Huzinger, received honorary mention. “The Jury decided to award the prize in

response to the construction of a lyrical narrative that lays bare a young woman's sense of unbelonging in an institutionalized world deaf to her values and demands. The beauty of the narrative manages to build a panorama that combines a personal history with the cinematographic memory of the time, in a poetic and original language", says the Jury.

**How Do You Measure A Year?**, by Jay Rosenblatt (USA), was chosen as this year's winner of the International Short Film prize, and receives R\$ 6,000 and the It's All True trophy. In its decision, the Jury highlights, "the originality of the idea, the effort that went into a 17-year production process, the control needed to ensure that this extended timeframe did not affect the aesthetic and language of the film, and the human content, expressed in the growth and transformation of the filmmaker's infant daughter—and the film's only character—into a young woman. The answers she gives to the same questions from her father year after year condense a very moving, direct and existential message. Over only 29 minutes, the baby becomes a woman, growing and changing before our very eyes."

The jury also awarded special mention to **Ali and His Miracle Sheep** (Iraq/UK), by Maythem Ridha. "The Jury lauds the sobriety, sensibility and economy of visual and narrative means used to tell the story of a 9 year-old boy who sees himself obliged to sacrifice Kirmeta, his favorite sheep. On his journey to the sacrificial site, Ali is both witness and guide to the essence of an Iraq that is at once beautiful and impoverished, its social reality intimately bound up with ancestral beliefs and with a higher realm to which sheep must be offered in sacrifice. His pilgrimage becomes a rebellion against barbarity, and it's all rendered with crushing objectivity and restraint."

Recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in the USA as a fast-track festival to the Oscars®, It's All True's winners of the Brazilian and International Feature/Medium-length and Short Film competitions automatically qualify for Oscar® contention in the Best Documentary Feature and Best Documentary Short categories.

“It was emotional for us, during this hybrid edition, to see the Festival reunited with cinema theaters, film teams and audiences”, says Amir Labaki, director of It’s All True. “We hope that It’s All True 2022 can mark a safe and definitive in-person return of viewers to cinemas and onsite cultural events, of course in full compliance with pandemic-related health protocols.”

## Parallel Prizes

The following parallel prizes were also announced at the ceremony:

- The Canal Brasil Acquisitions Prize, an award granted in the interests of promoting Brazilian short-filmmaking, went to **Cadê Heleny? (Searching Heleny)**, by Esther Vital, who receives R\$15,000 and the Canal Brasil trophy;
- The Mistika Prize, which awards R\$ 8,000 in digital post-production services, was announced along with the official jury’s prize for Best Brazilian Short Documentary: **Cantos de um Livro Sagrado (Chants from a Holy Book)**, by Cesar Gananian and Cassiana der Haroutiounian, receives the award;
- The EDT (Brazilian Association of Audiovisual Editing Professionals) Prizes, for best editing in a short film and feature-length film, went to **Solmatalua** by Rodrigo Ribeiro Andrade (short), and **Sinfonia de um Homem Comum**, by José Joffily (feature).

## 78 Titles

Between March 31 and April 10, the Festival screened a total of 78 short and feature-length films in and out of competition, totally free of charge, on streaming platforms with Brazil-wide coverage. In addition, this year the Festival returned to cinemas, with in-person sessions in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

## 2023

The 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival will be held between April 13 and 23, 2023.

The **27<sup>th</sup> edition of the It's All True International Documentary Film Festival** is sponsored by ITAÚ and conducted in partnership with SESC-SP, with additional cultural support from SPCINE, RIOFILME and ITAÚ CULTURAL.

Produced by the São Paulo City Department of Culture, São Paulo State Department of Culture and the Creative Economy, and the Federal Ministry for Tourism's Special Department of Culture.

### **PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE AWARD-WINNING DIRECTORS**

This Monday (11/04), at 11am, a Press Conference will be held with the award-winning directors. To register for the conference, please send the details below. The link will be sent shortly before the press conference begins.

- Critic's name:
- Critic's e-mail:
- Press vehicle represented:

### **REPRISE OF THE WINNING FILMS**

**On the É Tudo Verdade Play platform**

#### **Features:**

**11/04: 9pm** – The Balcony Movie

**12/04: 9pm** – Out of Breath

#### **Shorts:**

**11/04, starting at 12pm, until 13/04, at 11:59pm** (respecting the viewing limit): Cantos de Um Livro Sagrado and How Do You Measure A Year?

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