

FEATURE FILM · FICTION · HISTORICAL EPIC · ACTION

Maculelê

Bahia, 17th century. Wounded and hunted, a rebel enslaved man is saved by an Indigenous tribe — and turns the sugar mill that grinds people into a free quilombo.

THE PROPOSAL

Brazil has never had a film hero of its true colour. Maculelê is that hero.

The mill burns through bodies faster than they are born. The Dutch hold Pernambuco, Portugal has just broken from Spain: Brazil is a powder keg — and Maculelê is the man who will light the fuse. A saga of love, revenge and freedom.

WHY THIS PROJECT

More than half the country is Black. Almost none of Brazil's film heroes are.

01 55.5% of Brazilians are Black or mixed-race (IBGE, 2022). Almost none of Brazilian cinema's heroes are.

02 Fewer than 1% of Brazilian films from 1908 to 2015 had a Black lead: an empty seat waiting for a hero.

03 The capoeira circle is UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (2014), and capoeira and maculelê are practised on every continent: a global audience already in place.

FORMAT

Feature film · Fiction

GENRE

Historical epic · Action

MATERIALS

Treatment ready

AVAILABILITY

Open to production companies

BUDGET

High

RIGHTS

100% owned by the writer

SEEKING

Producer and distributor

REFERENCES

APOCALYPTO meets DJANGO UNCHAINED — in the Bahian Recôncavo.

Apocalypto (2006) · Mel Gibson

Django Unchained (2012) · Quentin Tarantino

The Woman King (2022) · Gina Prince-Bythewood

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