



# AMOR FATI

Documentary, 102', Portuguese, DCP, 2020

Subtitles: Portuguese, English, French and German

a film by

CLÁUDIA VAREJÃO

director of AMA-SAN

*Amor Fati* seeks out parts that complete each other. These are portraits of couples, friends, families and pets and their owners. They share the intimacy of daily life, habits, beliefs, tastes and even some physical traits. From their faces, from the choreography of their gestures, we unveil the story that binds them. Drawn from everyday life, right before our eyes the film portrays a chorus of affection and the collective memory of a country, evoking Aristophanes' speech in Plato's Symposium: *Do you desire to be wholly one; always day and night to be in one another's company? For if this is what you desire, I am ready to melt you into one and let you grow together, so that being two you shall become one?*

Production  
TERRATREME FILMES

Co-production  
MIRA FILM  
LA BELLE AFFAIRE



*Each of us are, therefore, only one side of the coin, divided, as we are, into halves  
(...) and it's its own half, which each tirelessly seeks.*

Aristophanes, *Symposium*, Plato

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Aristophanes, in his speech in the *Symposium*, presents us with a unique vision of love: in the beginning, human beings had a single body, with four legs, four arms and two faces. These beings were fundamentally safe and invincible, to the point of defying the gods and trying to ascend to the heavens. Zeus, worried and uncompromising, retaliated against their audacity by throwing a lightning bolt that divided them into two halves: on each side was a being with two legs, two arms, one face and one gender. Since that day, on this earth, the two halves have been constantly searching for each other.

The aim of *Amor Fati* is to seek out these halves that have converged again today, as if they were chemical elements attracted in the same direction. The present is a moment of destiny in which the parts merge without being influenced by reason: they are creatures of intuition. They do not long to be in any other place, have no desire for a different future or past. They wish to ascend, together – and again – to meet Zeus. But anyone who thinks that Aristophanes' gaze only referred to a (re)encounter between bodies is destined for disappointment. Perhaps he spoke to us, above all, about absence as a vital condition and the path that we must travel alone. Disparity as the constant basis of encounters.

For two years, I have travelled around Portugal, from north to south, looking for stories of unshakable love, which were expressed, at first glance, in similar physical features. I met with hundreds of peers and groups who were right at that moment living stories of rare bonding. I filmed without knowing how all of these stories would form a narrative. Later, during editing, I placed them side by side, hoping that the rhymes and delicacies





of chance would emerge. The lives of some echoed in the lives of others. And the achievements of some filled the empty spaces of others. The film was stemmed from this process - its own search for a missing part.

I tried to build a choral side of life, in which the singular gives way to the plural and the micro to the macro. This film is an atlas of stories and emotions that express my feelings for humanity and that tend to become magnified in the face of our vulnerability, in the face of death. Creating images is my attempt to overcome the ephemerality of events by incorporating something bigger and more beautiful. That is life - unintelligible. With my films, I try to make it intelligible. Perhaps cinema can help us cheat the end.



Cláudia Varejão





## CLÁUDIA VAREJÃO

Claudia Varejão was born in Porto and studied at the Creativity and Artistic Creation Program of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, in partnership with the German Film und Fernsehakademie Berlin and the São Paulo International Film Academy. She also studied Photography at AR.CO in Lisbon. Cláudia is the author of the short film trilogy *Weekend*, *A Cold Day* and *Morning Light*. *Ama-san*, a portrait of Japanese divers, was her feature debut, receiving dozens of awards around the world, followed by *In The Darkness of the Theater I Take Off My Shoes*, a film that shows the intimacy between a group of dancers within a dance company. *Amor Fati* is her latest film scheduled to premiere in 2020 and in *Wolf and Dog*, in development, she will return to fiction. Cláudia's films have been selected for and awarded at the most prestigious film festivals, including Locarno, Rotterdam, Visions du Reel, Cinema du Reel, Karlovy Vary, Art of the Real - Lincoln Center, among many others. Besides her work as a filmmaker, she developed a career as a photographer and she's a guest professor at AR.CO and the Catholic University of Porto. Her work, whether in film, photography, documentary or fiction, is based on its proximity to the people portrayed.

## TERRATREME

PORTUGAL

TERRATREME is a film production company created in 2008 by a group of young filmmakers whose goal is to find production models that can reconcile different forms, scales and time frames for their own films. Our goal was to articulate research and creation in a working method where the production model is determined by each film's needs.

## MIRA FILM

SWITZERLAND

MIRA FILM has been developing and producing independent films for cinema and television since 2002. We enjoy cooperating with filmmakers who seek their own creative forms and with partners who share our passion for cinema. We produce for a curious audience that shares our joy in diving into complex contexts and changing perspectives. In fact, our films are opportunities to surprise yourself and broaden your horizon.

## LA BELLE AFFAIRE PRODUCTIONS

FRANCE

LA BELLE AFFAIRE PRODUCTIONS is a Paris-based production company, created by Jérôme Blesson in 2016. With a ten-years experience in the field, working for producers, distributors and sales agents, Jérôme notably produced the feature film *Alva* by Ico Costa, with Terratreme Filmes and *Un Puma*, which premiered at the Bright Future International Competition of the Rotterdam IFF 2019, and *Le Pays* by Lucien Monot, which premiered at the Burning Lights International Competition of Visions du Réel 2019. LA BELLE AFFAIRE is currently developing or finalizing several projects of fiction, documentary and animation, both nationally and internationally.



WITH

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MICHAEL MARGARIAN  
OSVALDO MATOS  
NEWTON  
JOÃO PACOLA  
NIX ÉTER  
RINGO NOGUEIRA  
CARLA MONTEIRO  
ANÍSIO FRANCO  
MARGARIDA DE SOUSA PEREIRA  
ALZIRA DE SOUSA PEREIRA  
SIMÃO TELLES

GIANNI  
INÊS MELO E CAMPOS  
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