

**Fictional feature film**



**Written and directed by  
Paulo Caldas**

**Screenplay by  
Paulo Caldas and Peter Ketnath**

# SERTÃO MAR

# LOGLINE

**1942. The last living couple of Cangaceiro bandits are determined to leave their life of crime behind them and flee to the south of the country with a pile of gold. But first, Guiomar, the cangaceira, wants to see the ocean. At the same time, a German submarine sinks off the coast of north-eastern Brazil. A submariner survives the shipwreck and is washed up almost lifeless on the beach where the Cangaceiros are also to be found. This unusual encounter will change everyone's lives forever, while governmental troops are also on the chase for prisoners.**





# PRESENTATION

Second World War. President Getúlio Vargas and the dictatorship of the "new state". In the north-eastern hinterland, the heavily persecuted Cangaço banditry is dying. At the same time in the South Atlantic off the coast of Brazil: Germans against Brazilians. An unfair naval war that begins with attacks by German submarines on Brazilian merchant cargo and passenger ships.

A post-Cangaço film, the only truly generic Brazilian genre, although inspired by the Wild West genre. Nevertheless, it is the fruit of Brazilian culture and the inventiveness of its cinema, which throughout its history has produced everything from crowd-pleasers to classics. Films such as "O Cangaceiro" by Lima Barreto and masterpieces such as "Deus e o Diabo na Terra do Sol" (1964) by Glauber Rocha conquered the world in their time. More recently, the film "Baile Perfumado" (1987) by Paulo Caldas and Lírío Ferreira returned to this genre and is considered a classic of the renaissance of Brazilian cinema. This is our western, and it's very Brazilian.

The Second World War has spawned so many films that it is not only considered a film genre, but an inexhaustible source of classics and masterpieces of world cinema. To name just a few of the most important, we can talk about Wolfgang Petersen's magnificent "Das Boot" (1981), Steven Spielberg's impressive "Schindler's List" (1993) and the most recent "Son of Saul" (2015) by Lazslo Nemes.

This film is a dizzying immersion into its characters, focusing on human relationships and their extreme emotions as they live through key moments in Brazilian and world history.

The film's main original element is the meeting of Cangaceiro bandits and Nazis, which is unusual but could have happened as German sailors shipwrecked in U-boats washed up on the beaches of the Northeast and Cangaceiros were seen on the sea at the same time.

Behind an adventure and action film lies the intensity and originality of the approach to themes that are so important to our culture and history.



# SYNOPSIS

1942.

The world is in a trance, the Second World War reaches the South Atlantic and Brazil enters a conflict that will change the history of mankind.

Like a historical action novel, the film recreates Brazil at the time of the Second World War, based on unique characters living through their personal dramas. A provocative and unusual encounter between two peoples, Brazilians and Germans, through CANGAÇO and NAZISM.

In the film, two stories run parallel, one above sea level with the Cangaceiros and the other below sea level with the Nazis in the submarine. The two stories intersect on the beach, on the edge of the Atlantic.

The two cangaceiros cross the Caatinga of the Sertão, the rainforest of the Zona da Mata, dunes and mangroves towards the sea. They are pursued by a troop of soldiers commanded by Sergeant Flores, whose task it is to put an end to the banditry, and to do so fatally.

Off the coast of north-eastern Brazil, a German submarine glides through the water. Inside the steel prison, we get to know the intense and nervous relationship between the brothers Ullman and Fritz, two German sailors. Ullman, the elderly, is the hydrophonist. The younger Fritz works in the engine room on the submarine's machinery.

The Cangaceiros arrive on a paradisiacal beach. They are surprised by the arrival of Ullman, a survivor of the wreck of the bombed submarine. What strange relationship could result from the Cangaceiros' encounter with the Nazi?

The movie will show what happens to the characters after this encounter, how their lives change and surprise even themselves.





# CHARACTERS

- **GUIOMAR: (35 years old) Cangaceira.** - The companion of Mormaço. Intelligent, beautiful and strong. She commands the cangaceiro with cunning and patience, making him believe he is her boss. But in the end she knows that she will always defeat him because of her tenacity and intelligence. Despite everything, she is romantic and loves the Cangaceiro. She was raped by him, something she cannot forget. She dreams of seeing the sea. As the only woman among the men, she is the one who will determine her fate and that of all the others; she is the backbone of the movie. She is ambitious and strives for a better life, for a different future. She can no longer stand the Cangaço, she wants to get out of this life full of crime and violence. She dreams of having a child, but so far she has not succeeded. Above all, she wants to change her life, move to the city, live like "normal" people and stop running away.

- **MORMAÇO: (40 years old) Cangaceiro.** - A man of dry calculation, without feeling, rough as a rock. Yet he is intelligent. His thinking is agile, quick and direct. He drives his life forward, he has been alive longer than he would have thought. His instinct is that of a Caatinga animal. He is totally influenced by the phenomena of nature and his state of mind is directly related to every change in nature. He is like the "mormaço", the tropical sun, which burns his skin fiercely on cloudy days: strong and persistent. He has an often surprising instinct, like a wild animal, a predator.

- **BOY: (10 years old)** - The only survivor of the massacre of his childhood home by the Cangaceiros. He adopts Guiomar as his mother, which is very convenient for her in view of her unfulfilled desire to have children.



# CHARACTERS

## GERMAN SUBMARINERS

- **ULLMAN: (45 years old) German sailor.** Engineer, a comrade highly esteemed by his submarine colleagues. He is Fritz's brother. Blond, full beard, very experienced in his profession. A music lover, an amateur musician himself, he operates the hydrophone, a sophisticated listening device that is essential for the submarine's defense and attack. He is one of Captain Achilles' favorite sailors. Despite all the stress of submarine life and the growing tension of war, his greatest concern is for his younger brother Fritz. The young man works in the engine room of the submarine and suffers from panic attacks, which are exacerbated by the consumption of the methamphetamine Pervitin.

- **FRITZ: (30 years old) German sailor.** The younger brother of Ullman. He works in the engine room of the submarine and becomes addicted to methamphetamines to cope with the pressure. His brother has been his hero since childhood. He is currently experiencing a seemingly endless crisis caused by his imprisonment in the submarine and the dangers of war. Although the dangers get closer every day, they never seem to materialize, which only worsens his mental state and drives him to the brink of madness. Each day he relies more and more on the hypnosis used by the ship's doctor. Although he works hard and is an excellent shipboard mechanic, his severely impaired mental state begins to hinder his professional performance.



- **Captain ACHILLES: (55) Submarine commander.** German naval officer, experienced, cold. He was once one of the leading German submarine commanders, but his abuse of alcoholic beverages brought him into disrepute. His face is tired, he has aged considerably in a short space of time. But his eyes are lively and sharp. His body is stocky, strong and robust. He always wears his captain's uniform, even in the heat of the tropical sea. He is in a crisis because he has to take his submarine to the Brazilian coast. This is a less important combat place of war for him, a proof of his discredit, which he does not accept. His mood swings to extremes from one hour to the next. Within a second, he changes from calm to uncontrollable nervousness.



# CHARACTERS

## SOLDIER TRUPP:

- **Constable FLORES: (50 years old).** He's been with the police for many years, he's the oldest, most experienced and wisest of the squad. He is the commander. Full of biting humor, he despises others and himself. He is sarcastic and does not "forgive" his subordinates, who are terrorized by his words and never know if he means what he says. When he drinks, he gets worse, he changes. The length of his service makes him tire more and more easily. Nevertheless, he is persistent and will not rest until he has completely wiped out the cangaço and eliminated every single cangaceiro. He believes that the cangaceiros can come back with full force, because they are vicious and tenacious. He admires Corporal Jacinto for his comradeship during many battles together, despises the soldier Fiapo, a former cangaceiro, and despite these differences, he treats them both with the same authority.

- **Corporal JACINTO: (40 years old).** Tracker, hunter, delicate, almost effeminate and of above-average intelligence. He literally reads nature, knows plants, animals, the wind, the clouds. He is sensitive. He has an unusual sense of premonition. He pays a price for all this: his health is poor, he is weak, anything can make him ill. Nevertheless, the wheel would not turn without him, he is the compass of the group. For this reason, the sergeant and the soldier fear and admire him despite his obvious physical frailty. They are afraid of losing him. On the other hand, he does not like the Volantes at all, he is only with them because it is his job, his life, and because without them he would not be able to cross the hinterland and travel far away from villages and other people. Because he is less afraid in solitude.

- **Soldado FIAPPO: (40 years old). Former bandit.** An emaciated, experienced villain. He was captured during a failed robbery in which most of his gang were killed. After a few days in prison, he couldn't take it anymore and asked to be allowed to serve as a soldier. A turncoat and traitor, without feelings, a corrupt character. He does everything he can to stay alive and - if possible - to gain an advantage. He has spent his life fighting for survival at all costs. He is constantly trying to spin intrigues between his fellow soldiers. Although he rarely succeeds, he never misses an opportunity to play one off against the other. He is a human parasite.





# CHARACTERS

## SUGGESTED CAST

- **GUIOMAR** - Alice Braga or Maeve Jinkings
- **MORMAÇO** - Irandhir Santos or Lázaro Ramos
- **ULLMAN** - Peter Ketnath
- **FRITZ** - David Zimmerschied
- **Captain ACHILLES** - Milton Welsh or Stephan Kampwirth
- **Sergeant FLORES** - Irandhir Santos or Lázaro Ramos
- **Sergeant JACINTO** - Mateus Naechtergaele
- **Private FIAPO** - Aramis Trindade





# THE DIRECTOR'S VISION

As in many of my films such as "Baile Perfumado", "O RAP do Pequeno Príncipe contra as Almas Sebosas", "Deserto Feliz" and "Atmosfera", "Sertão Mar" is about the unusual meeting of people who would normally never meet and what this meeting triggers in their lives from then on.

An adventure and action film that shows the inner and outer struggles of the characters. The effects of the geographical isolation they experience intensify the drama of persecution. Death is always close at hand.

Many aspects of World War II can be seen from different angles on the big screen, but when it comes to WWII in the South Atlantic, there exists not one movie.

A war story told from a female point of view. One woman, Guiomar, the wife of Cangaceiro Mormaço, is the only one among men of different origins. She asserts herself in the course of the film and gives a new meaning to war itself.

At this time, there is an urgent need to look at the subject of National Socialism and Fascism anew through the eyes of the present. We must not forget the danger of backlashes and the possibility of new wars for political and religious reasons that surround us every day.

The sound of the film is a prominent narrative element based on the rich sounds of the submarine and the nature of the Northeast. The music is another fundamental element of the narrative, as the character Ullman acts as a sort of DJ on the submarine.

The photography of the film is monochrome in the first part, reproducing the beige hinterland and the blue sea with its various tones and undertones. Then, at the end, on the beach, it explodes in the characteristic colors of the tropical light of the Northeast.

The camera "flies" through nature, both on land and in the sea. It also goes with the characters, moves with them, almost becoming their second skin. It feels the heat, it sweats and trembles with them, it carries their intensity within itself.



# DIRECTOR AND SCREENPLAY

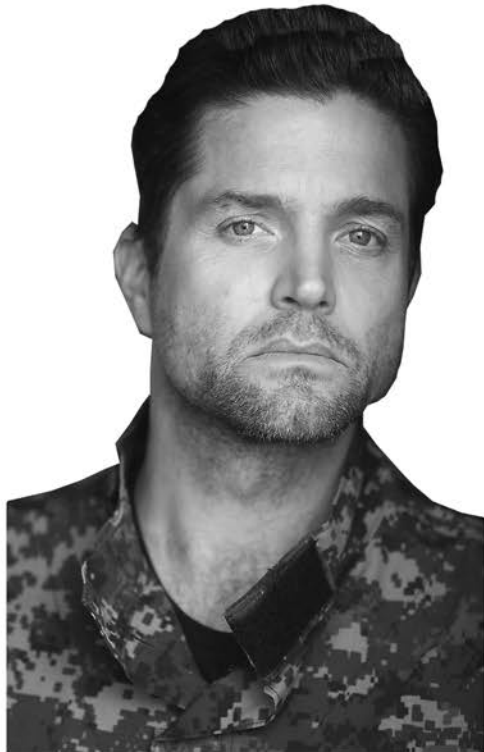
**Paulo Caldas** is a director, screenwriter and producer. He made his feature film debut in 1997 with *Baile Perfumado* (1997), which he co-directed with Lício Ferreira. The film won an award at the Brasília Film Festival and is considered a classic of the revival of Brazilian cinema. In 2000, he was the only Brazilian representative at the Venice Film Festival with the documentary *O Rap do Pequeno Príncipe contra as Almas Sebosas* (2000), directed by Marcelo Luna. His third feature film *Deserto Feliz* (2007) premiered at the Berlin Film Festival. He won the prize for best director at the Guadalajara International Film Festival. She was awarded Best Actress at the Paris Film Festival and the Santa Maria da Feira Film Festival. At the Gramado Film Festival, she received six awards, including Best Director and the Critics' and Audience Jury Award for Best Film. *Country of Desire* (2013) is his fourth feature film, which premiered at the Taormina Film Festival in Italy and was part of the São Paulo International Film Festival, among others. His fifth feature film, the documentary *SAUDADE* (2018), won the award for best documentary at FESTin Lisboa, and he directed *Abismo Tropical* (2019), which was the opening film at the São Paulo International Film Festival, Janela Internacional de Recife and Pachamama Cinema de Fronteiras. In 2019, he co-directed *Flores do Cárcere* (2019), an Academia de Filmes production that premiered at the São Paulo International Film Festival and was part of the official competition of the Rio Film Festival. *O Circo Voltou* (2021), which he directed, participated in several festivals and was released in cinemas in 2022. He was general director of the television series *SAUDADE* (2019) and *Comida é Arte* (2021). He also wrote the screenplay for *Cinema, Aspirins and Vultures* (2005), directed by Marcelo Gomes, which was included in the official selection of the Cannes Film Festival. His new feature film *Atmosfera* (2023) was selected for the competition of the Rio Film Festival and the São Paulo International Film Festival, will be distributed by O2 PLAY and is scheduled for release in theaters in the first half of 2024.

**FILMOGRAPHY:** *Baile Perfumado* (1997), *O Rap do Pequeno Príncipe contra as Almas Sebosas* (2000), *Deserto Feliz* (2007), *País do Desejo* (2013), *SAUDADE* (2018), *Abismo Tropical* (2019), *Flores do Cárcere* (2019), *O Circo Voltou* (2021) and *Atmosfera* (2023).





# PRODUCTION, SCREENPLAY COLLABORATION AND ACTORS



**Peter Ketnath** is managing director of the production company Cinezebra GmbH, founded in 2013 and based in Stuttgart, Germany. A graduate in theater and film studies, he has been active in the audiovisual world since 1995. Peter graduated from the New York Film Academy in 1994, the famous Zinner Studio in Munich, his hometown, in 1996 and studied film at the FU Berlin from 1998 to 2002. He has acted in several feature films, mini-series and series and has worked with directors such as Joseph Vilsmaier, Heinrich Breloer, Carlos Saldana and Rainer Matsutani. In 2002, he became interested in Brazilian cinema and worked on films by directors such as Marcelo Gomes, Paulo Caldas, Karim Ainouz, Ricardo Waddington, Marcus Baldini, Klaus Mitteldorf, Jayme Monjardim and Dira Paes. In 2007, he began producing films, focusing mainly on co-productions on the international market. To date, he has produced 10 feature films, including several Brazilian films. As part of his screenwriting studies at UCLA in California, Peter has also been writing and partnering creatively on writing projects since 2017.

**Recent co-productions as producer and releases as actor:** WHEN IN VENICE, screenwriter, protagonist and producer, directed by Juan Zapata, released in all Latin American countries and soon in the USA. ATMOSFERA, producer, directed by Paulo Caldas, premiered at the Rio Film Festival and the São Paulo Film Festival and will be released in Brazil by O2play in May 2024. International premiere and also scheduled for 2024. NIMUNEDAJU, actor and producer, animated film for adults by director Tania Anaya, about the life of German ethnologist Curt "NIMUENDAJU" Unckel, will be released in cinemas in 2024. STUTTGART HOMICIDE (SOKO STUTTGART), male protagonist, popular series in Germany and several other European countries, will start in September 2024 with season no. 15. The current season has been running since September 2023. It has an average market share of 20% of all viewers in Germany and is broadcast by ZDF.

KOHLABENSCHWARZ, co-protagonist of the Paramount+ series, HOW TO BE CARIOCA, on Disney+, premiered on October 18, 2023. The protagonist of the second chapter is the maestro Alemão, who has to make his way in Rio. Directed by Carlos Saldanha and Joana Mariani. PASSAPORT TO FREEDOM, antagonist, Globoplay series with SONY, which will premiere in October 2023 in the USA on Amazon Prime. PASARGADA, male protagonist, directed by Dira Paes, Globo Filmes. Expected premiere in 2024.