



4K Restoration

THE DEVIL QUEEN

A film by Antonio Carlos da Fontoura

KINO
CULT

THE DEVIL QUEEN (A RAINHA DIABA)

Rio de Janeiro's criminal underworld is run by an unexpected boss: Diaba (Milton Gonçalves), a femme queen with a taste for power and violence. When the police come after her boy toy, Diaba attempts to find a scapegoat to take the blame and a plot to dethrone Her Majesty arises! Always clad in gloriously colourful outfits and accessories inspired by Afro-Brazilian culture, Diaba runs a mob of eccentric misfits made up of drag queens, pimps, prostitutes, and queer folks of all stripes. The movie's bold and audacious color palette and camp aesthetic evokes the early films of Pedro Almodóvar, while its stylized and over-the-top violence is giving Quentin Tarantino queer fever dream.

SYNOPSIS

Rio de Janeiro's criminal underworld is run by an unexpected boss: Diaba, a drag queen with a taste for power and violence. When the police come after her boy toy, Diaba attempts to find a scapegoat to take the blame and a plot to dethrone Her Majesty arises!



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It is difficult for me to define *The Devil Queen*, a unique film that perhaps does not fit conventional labels, because despite the slashes, shots, and conflicts, I did not set out to make a realistic view of the criminal underworld of Rio de Janeiro.

The plot I developed with the playwright Plinio Marcos leads the film to its bloody end, but the film, like all the films I love, goes far beyond the story it is telling. What fascinated me as a director was the possibility to invent a different reality, distant of all polite limits, in camera movements, in strident sound, in art collages, in set decoration, in costumes, in piercing music, in the red of the blood, in the gold of the sequins.

I invented my direction on the film set, chasing the actors with my Super 8, to José Medeiros translate the movements for his unlocked 35mm camera. That was my spirit, the spirit of the team and the spirit of the cast, an unlocked, rebellious, marginal, happy creative freedom.

And the same spirit remains for anyone who watches the film now. With all my heart I give my thanks to the Berlinale Forum, that opened doors for the bloody *Devil Queen's Ball*.

Antonio Carlos da Fontoura



DIRECTOR ANTONIO CARLOS DA FONTOURA

Born in São Paulo on 20/11/1939, Fontoura has lived in Rio de Janeiro since 1950, where he graduated in Geology in 1960 and began his cinematographic studies in 1962 with the Swedish documentary creator Arne Sucksdorff. From 1965 Fontoura wrote and directed 12 documentaries about the artistic scene and 8 feature films, also dedicating himself, since 1970, to writing and directing fictional series for Rede Globo and other Brazilian networks. Author of two theatrical plays and one literary novel, since 1990 he promotes screenwriting laboratories, has taught Screenwriting Structure at Estacio de Sá University for 10 years and is currently dedicating himself to developing new series and features projects.



DIRECTOR CINEMATOGRAPHY

SHORTS

Heitor dos Prazeres (Heitor dos Prazeres) 1965 12 min, Doc.

Ver Ouvir (To See, To Listen) 1966 18 min, Doc.

Scliar e Ouro Preto (Scliar and Ouro Preto) 1969, 12 min, Doc.

Meu nome é Gal (My name is Gal) 1970, 10min, Doc.

Mutantes (The Mutants) 1970, 10 min, Doc.

Wanda Pimentel (Wanda Pimentel) 1971, 12 min, Doc.

Chorinhos e Chorões (Chorinhos) 1974, 12 min, Doc.

Arquitetura de Morar (Architecture to Live) 1975, 12 min, Doc.

Ver Ouvir Roberto Magalhães (Roberto Magalhaes) 2019, 26 min, Doc

FEATURES

Copacabana me engana (Copacabana is mine) 1968, 93 min

A Rainha Diaba (The Devil Queen) 1974, 100 min

Cordão de Ouro (The Golden Necklace) 1976, 75 min

Espelho de Carne (Flesh Mirror), 1984, 95 min

Uma Aventura do Zico (Zico' Adventure) 1988, 90 min

No Meio da Rua (The Game Boys) 2005, 82 min

Gatão de Meia Idade (Middle Age Cat) 2006, 93 min

Somos Tão Jovens (We Are so Young) 2013 104 min

CREW

Director – Antonio Carlos da Fontoura
Argument – Plinio Marcos & Fontoura
Screenplay – Antonio Carlos da Fontoura
Director of Photography – José Medeiros
Director of Art – Angelo de Aquino
Sets and Costumes – Angelo de Aquino
Makeup – Carlos Prieto
Music – Guilherme Vaz
Sound – Alberto Vianna
Editing – Rafael Valverde
Assistant Director – Emiliano Ribeiro
Production Director – Antonio Calmon
Executive Producer – Mauricio Nabuco

CAST

The Devil Queen – Milton Gonçalves
Bereco – Stepan Nercessian
Isa – Odete Lara
Catitu - Nelson Xavier
Madame Violeta – Iara Côrtes
Manco – Wilson Grey
Coisa Ruim- Procópio Mariano
Anão – Lutero Luis
Lilico – Carlos Prieto
Bigode – Haroldo de Oliveira

CAST



MILTON GONÇALVES – The Devil Queen

Beginning his acting career in São Paulo, started a trajectory of more than 60 years dedicated to TV, theater, and cinema, to become an artistic and political reference in Brazil. In cinema he participated in classics such as *Macunaíma* (Joaquim Pedro de Andrade, 1969), *A Rainha Diaba* (Antonio Carlos da Fontoura, 1974), *Eles Não Usam Black-Tie* (Leon Hirzman, 1981) and *O Beijo da Mulher-Aranha* (Hector Babenko, 1985).



ODETE LARA - Isa

Theater, TV and film actress, the muse of an entire generation of cinema novo and bossa nova, has amidst her 40 films the emblematics *A Noite Vazia* (Walter Hugo Khouri, 1964) and *Dragão da Maldade contra o Santo Guerreiro*, (Glauber Rocha, 1969). Her first work with Antonio Carlos da Fontoura was *Copacabana me Engana* (1968), prior to her outstanding performance as a cabaret singer in *The Devil Queen*.

CAST



STEPAN NERCESSIAN - Bereco

Debuted in the film *Marcelo Zona Sul* (Xavier de Oliveira, 1970), starting his career as an actor in soap operas and comedies on Rede Globo. He acted in 50 feature films, including *Barra Pesada* (Reginaldo Farias, 1977), *Lúcio Flávio*, *Passageiro da Agonia* (Hector Babenco, 1977) and *Orfeu* (Carlos Diegues, 1998). In his most recent film "O Velho Guerreiro" (Andrucha Waddington, 2010), Stepan performs Chacrinha, the most emblematic presenter of Brazilian TV.



NELSON XAVIER - Catitu

Acting in more than 40 features, made his film debut in *Fronteiras do Inferno* (Walter Hugo Khouri, 1959). After his remarkable role in *Os fuzis* (Ruy Guerra, 1964), he acted in another Ruy Guerra film, *A Queda* (1978), that received the Silver Bear in Berlin. He participated in several international productions, such as *Moonlight over Parador* (Paul Mazursk, 1987) and *Brincando nos campo do Senhor* (Hector Babenco, 1991).



CONTACT INFO

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