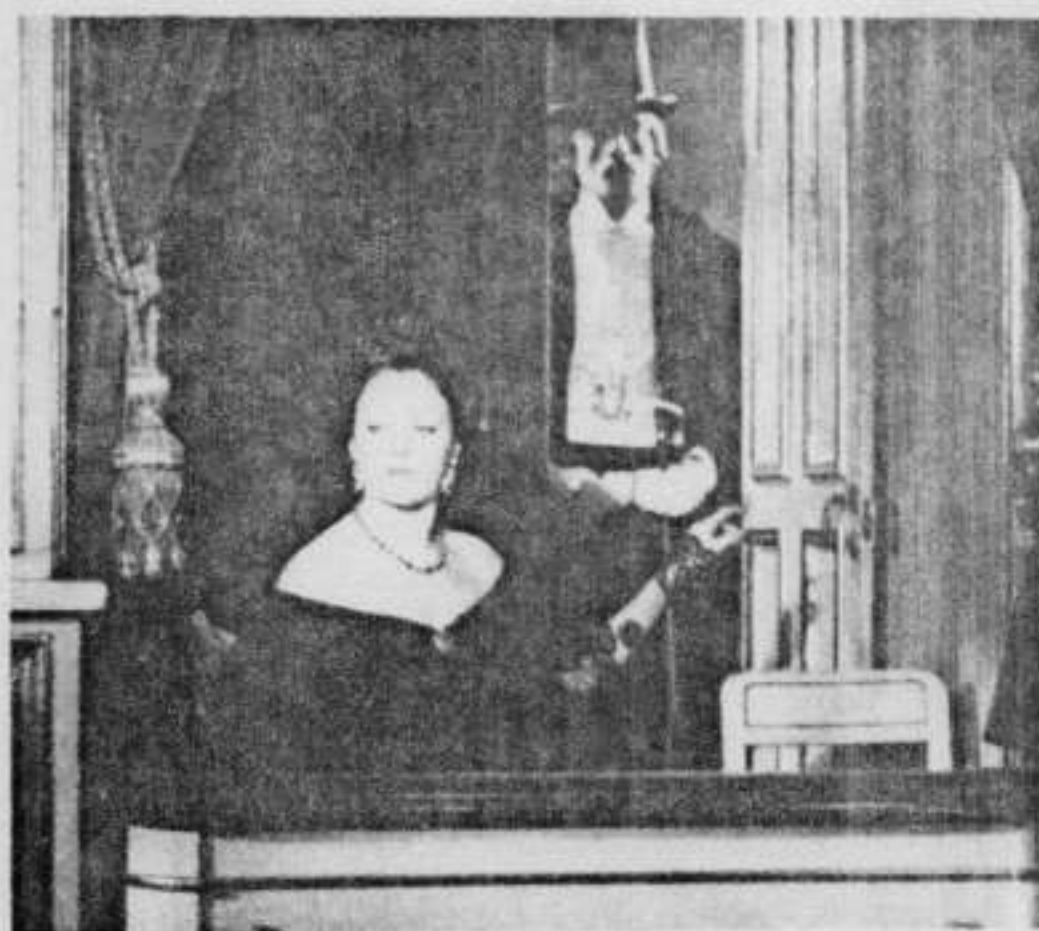


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# LFF '81



PORTUGAL 1981

## Francisca

Sun 8 Nov 9.00

**Director:** Manoel de Oliveira

*Production Company:* VO Filmes/Instituto Português de Cinema

*Screenplay:* Manoel de Oliveira

*Based on a story 'Fanny Owen' by:* Agustina Bessa Luís

*Photography (Eastman Colour):* Elso Roque

*Editor:* Monique Rutler

*Art Director:* António Casimiro

*Music:* Joao Paes

*Sound:* Jean-Paul Muel

*Costumes:* Rita Azavedo Gomes

*Export Agent:* VO Filmes, Hors Champ, 18 rue de Faubourg du Temple 75011 Paris

*Leading Players:* Diogo Dória, Teresa Meneses, Mário Barroso

*Running Time:* 166 mins

*Festivals:* Cannes, Venice

**Critic's Choice:** Nigel Andrews

'This based-on-truth tale of doomed love narrates the moth-like convergence of two wealthy young men around a famous female flame of the last century. More even than *Terayama*, de Oliveira is a movie "painter" in the best sense: using the screen not as a window onto mere reality but as a *tabula rasa* for the imposing of colour chiaroscuro and compositional élan. De Oliveira is a formalist, a mischievous delighter in ritual – his tirelessly talkative characters group themselves in velvet-rich conversational tableaux, sometimes looking at each other, mostly gazing out to camera in an Old Master trance as if Velasquez stood off-screen palette in hand. But his images are never "static". Like the endless flux of the ocean that bays outside his Portuguese mansion, his movies have a slow Protean pulse, a surging grandeur and a power to build to a tragic breaking-point without any showy climaxes. *Francisca* is a masterpiece – will some imaginative distributor please bring it to Britain?' – *Nigel Andrews, Financial Times.*