

Document Citation

Title	No, or the vain glory of command (Non, ou a vã gloria de mandar)
Author(s)	Laura Thielen
Source	<i>San Francisco International Film Festival</i>
Date	1991
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Non, ou a vã glória de mandar (No, or the vain glory of command), Oliveira, Manoel de, 1990

34th SF Int'l F.F. (Spring 91) program guide



NO, OR THE VAIN GLORY OF COMMAND

Non, ou a vã Gloria de Mandar

Undisputed master of Portuguese cinema, Manoel de Oliveira [*Cannibals*, SFIFF 1989] always offers audiences an intelligent and challenging experience—he never disappoints. In this latest (and perhaps most accessible) opus, de Oliveira moves beyond the interior realm of emotions to cast a ruminating eye on History—the birth of a nation and its hidden destiny. Angola, 1973: as a transport truck rolls through the bush, a Portuguese lieutenant (Luis Miguel Cintra) passes time by regaling his troops with heroic tales from Portugal's past: the dawn of their civilization, the deeds of Vasco da Gama and other great explorers, the battles with Spain, the Moors and Africa. Intercut with the learned officer's discourse are lavishly mounted tableaux, illustrating key episodes in

Portugal's rise and fall as a colonial power, as well as its mythological antecedents. All of which leads us back to the present and final debacle of a gasping empire. Inspired by the revolution of 1974 which triggered profound changes in the Portuguese psyche, **No, or the Vain Glory of Command** is steeped in the historically accurate epic poetry of Luís de Camões. De Oliveira counterpoints passages of lyrical exoticism and historical pageantry with the gritty realities of war to offer a timely and moving contemplation on History—how we make it and at what cost. —*Laura Thielen*

PORTUGAL, 1990 110 min.

DIRECTOR/SCREENPLAY: Manoel de Oliveira **PRODUCER:** Paulo Branco **CAMERA:** Elso Roque **EDITOR:** de Oliveira, Sabine Franel
ART DIRECTION: Luis Monteiro, Maria José Branco **SOUND:** Gita Cerveira **CAST:** Luis Miguel Cintra, Diogo Doria, Miguel Guilherme, Luis Lucas **PRINT SOURCE:** Portuguese Film Institute