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Brazilian Cinema



A idade da terra (The Age of the Earth)

Brazil 1980

Director: Glauber Rocha

Production Company: Embrafilme

Producers: Wilson Andrade, Glauber Rocha

Screenplay: Glauber Rocha

Cinematography: John Howard Sherman with
Pedro de Moraes, Roberto Pires

Editors: Raul Soares, Carlos Cox, Richardo Miranda

Sound: Sylvia de Alencar

Music: Rogério Duarte, with the participation of
Nana, Villa Lobos, Jorge Ben and others.

Principal Cast: Mauricio do Valle, Antonio Pitanga,
Jece Valadão, Ana Maria Magalhães, Norma
Bengell, Danusa Leão, Tarcisio Meira

180 minutes

Venice Film Festival 1980

Glauber Rocha was the most prestigious and influential of all Brazilian and Third World filmmakers. His premature death in 1981 ended a prolific career which started in 1957 and ended with **A idade da terra** in 1980. "Glauber's dream consists of deciphering that gigantic social dream called Brazil," writes Brazilian critic Eduardo Mascarenhas. Every sequence is determined by the complexity of the country: the present with its past and its future; the ugly and the beautiful with its aggression and its love; the tyrannical and the democratic; the epic and the banal with its utopia and "dailyness."

From the orgiastic opening sequences to Glauber Rocha's presence directing his actors, from the multiplicity of soundtracks to Rocha's own voice, **A idade da terra** is a conversation between director and spectator. A deeply modernist and radical film, it explodes like thunder on the screen, its emblematic characters recount through metaphor the history of Brazil and of the Third World. It is an anguished yet hopeful cry for liberation, a mystical and rhetorical experience, an aesthetic, erotic and intellectual perception of a social reality seen through the eyes of one of the greatest revolutionary filmmakers of world cinema.

7TH INT. FILM FESTIVAL
TORONTO, 1982