



RED DESERT
JBA PRODUCTION
INCOMATI FILMES

EPK

WE MUST NOT FORGET THE PAST
OS CONTINUADORES DA REVOLUÇÃO

A FILM BY PEDRO NEVES

LOGLINE

On the light table, I examine thousands of negatives. I find myself surrounded by ghosts that whisper the echoes of Portuguese and Mozambican revolutions.

SINOPSE

On the light table, I examine thousands of negatives photographed by Manuel Roberto, in Mozambique, during the time of Samora Machel, the first postindependence president. In these images, I find the history of a country that tried to be the best People's Republic in the world. I find myself surrounded by ghosts that whisper the echoes of Portuguese and Mozambican revolutions.

Documentary 88' Portugal, France, Mozambique

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NOTE OF INTENTIONS

On the light table, there's a series of negatives. Thousands of them, and I examine them one by one. I find many stories. Each image is a story, and I wanted to get to know all of them. Their author is Manuel Roberto, a photographer who lives and works in Porto, just like me.

I wasn't born during the colonial war. Manuel Roberto had been and grew up during it. With independence, which ended centuries of colonization, came a period of peace and dreams. Like thousands of children, Manuel Roberto was a continuator of the revolution within an organisation founded by Samora Machel. The organisation was based on collectivist ideology similar to that in the Eastern Bloc.

I was born in 1977, the year the civil war began in Mozambique. On one side was Frelimo that had strong support from the Soviets, and on the other, Renamo, supported by the racist government of Rhodesia and apartheid-era South Africa. The war lasted 16 years and resulted in five million displaced people and one million deaths from combat and hunger. When Manuel began taking photographs, I was a child. While he lived through a colonial war followed by a civil war, I experienced the aftermath of a revolution within a revolutionary family environment.

We talked for hours and hours. With every conversation, I became increasingly perplexed by our shared history, his past, and the unfinished and infinite movement of our two revolutions. I found myself searching for the ghosts that I had always been told didn't exist. I looked for them in Manuel's photographs, on the red, dirt roads that are the veins of Mozambique, and in the living and the dead. I also looked for them within myself. Perhaps they know where our revolutions are.

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PORTUGUESE
ENGLISH
FRENCH

TRAILERS

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PEDRO NEVES

DIRECTOR

Pedro Neves, born in Leiria in 1977, is a Portuguese director and producer devoted to documentary cinema. He studied in Porto, completing a postgraduate degree and a Master's in Culture and Communication with a specialisation in Documentary Studies. His dissertation focused on the role of documentary during the 25 April 1974 Revolution. In 2007 he attended the International School of Film and Television in Cuba and, in 2008, founded RedDesert Films. His films have won several awards and have been broadcast on channels such as RTP, Canal Plus and TVCine. They have also participated in international festivals such as Clermont-Ferrand, Guadalajara, Doclisboa, Seville, São Paulo, Porto/Post/Doc, CPH:DOX, Thessaloniki, Curtas Vila do Conde, L'Alternativa, Encounters, among others. His works include *Os Esquecidos* (2009), *Água Fria* (2011), *A Raposa da Deserta* (2014), *Hospedaria* (2014), *A Praia* (2016), *Tarrafal* (2016) and *Sonhos de uma Revolução* (2023). His latest film is *Os Continuadores da Revolução - We must not forget the past* (2025).

MANUEL ROBERTO

PHOTOGRAPHER

Maputo, Mozambique (1965). Manuel Roberto began his career as a photojournalist in the 1980s at the Mozambican weekly Domingo. In Portugal, he worked for Jornal de Notícias and Primeiro de Janeiro before joining the newspaper Público in 1994, where he remains to this day. With Público, he covered conflict zones in Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. He was the first journalist to win a Gazeta Award in two individual categories, for two different pieces: "Filhos do Vento" (2013), about the children of former Colonial War combatants, together with Catarina Gomes, Ricardo Rezende, Dinis Correia, and Andreia Espadinha; and "A Guerra que Portugal quis esquecer" (2014), about the clashes between Portuguese and German troops in northern Mozambique during World War I, co-authored with Manuel Carvalho.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Organization of the Continuators of the Mozambican Revolution was created on October 25, 1985, by decision of the first President of independent Mozambique, Samora Machel, with the purpose of promoting the Children's Rights and transmitting values such as patriotism, solidarity, and national unity. Even during the national liberation struggle, children and adolescents in the Liberated Zones had formed a group that would later be known as the "Continuators." It was based on the understanding that only the education of children could ensure a brighter future for the country. At the time of independence, Mozambique had one of the highest illiteracy rates in the world: about 93% of the population could neither read nor write. According to Ivone Mahumana, who served as the organization's Secretary-General from 1985 to 2002, "The Continuators emerged during the armed struggle as a concern of FRELIMO, with the aim of sheltering and caring for orphaned children whose parents were victims of the war and beyond. This stance was based on the belief that they were the seed of the Mozambican Nation, which was evident in the name they would take: Continuators of the Mozambican Revolution."

Mozambique was one of the first countries in Southern Africa to join, in 1984, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Most children in Mozambican schools during the 1980s and early 1990s sang the song "Continuators of the Revolution". The children were seen as successors in a revolutionary vision based on the struggle against colonialism and on international pan-African solidarity among peoples.

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STILLS

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE
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POSTER

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POSTER LINK.](#)

DIRECTOR'S PHOTO

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE
DIRECTOR'S PHOTO LINK.](#)

NOTE

The black and white photographs are by Manuel Roberto and all must be credited with his name. The color images should be credited to Pedro Neves/Red Desert.

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED by Pedro Neves

PHOTOGRAPHS Manuel Roberto

CINEMATOGRAPHY Pedro Neves

EDITING Tomás Baltazar, Pedro Neves

MUSIC Ivan Mucavel, João Ricardo OCPO, Ramrife

SOUND Ricardo Leite, Pedro Neves

NARRATION Pedro Neves, Bartolo Mazuze

Angelina Ndzevo Jenny Neves

TEXTS Pedro Neves

PRODUCTION Red Desert, JBA Production

Incomati Filmes

PRODUCTION MANAGER Pedro Neves (Portugal)

Milton Mahenje (Moçambique)

PRODUCERS Pedro Neves, Marianne Dumoulin

Jacques Bidou, Milton Manhenje

FINANCIAL SUPPORT ICA, RTP, CNC, Filmporto

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TECHNICAL DATA

GENRE Documentary

LENGH 88'

COUNTRIES Portugal, France, Mozambique

ASPECT RATIO 4K, 1.85

SOUND 5.1

TYPE Feature documentary

LANGUAGES Portuguese, Changana

YEAR 2026

EXHIBITION FORMATS Digital Projection
(DCP), Prores 4K

SUBTITLES English, Portuguese, French

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

RED DESERT

Founded in 2008 by director and producer Pedro Neves, Red Desert Films is an independent production company based in Porto, primarily dedicated to documentary cinema. Red Desert favours author-driven projects with a strong aesthetic and narrative identity and invests in new voices in documentary cinema and films that blend documentary and fictional language. The company's work has been screened and awarded prizes at national and international film festivals such as Doclisboa, Fidmarseille, Porto/Post/Doc, Clermont-Ferrand, Curtas Vilado Conde, São Paulo, Thessaloniki, Documenta Madrid, CPH:DOX, Guadalajara and Seville, and broadcast on channels like RTP and CanalPlus (France and Africa).

Further information can be found <https://reddesertfilms.com/>

JBA PRODUCTION

Since its creation, JBA has dedicated itself to exploring new cinematic worlds. JBA has produced more than 118 films, including 45 feature films, 21 of which have premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. Half of its productions are first films by directors from over 30 countries that have premiered and won numerous awards at major film festivals such as Cannes, Sundance, Berlin, Venice, Locarno and Toronto. JBA has worked with filmmakers as diverse as Maria de Medeiros, Raoul Peck, Rithy Panh, Annemarie Jacir, Alice Rohrwacher, Pablo Aguero, Tsai Ming-Liang, Fernando Guzzoni, Merzak Allouache, Massoud Bakhshi, Sergei Loznitsa, among others. Further information can be found <http://jbaproduction.com/en/production/>

INCOMATI FILMES

Incomati Filmes is a Mozambican production company, founded in 2023 by Milton Manhenje, dedicated to producing both documentary and fiction film. The company has been involved in several co-productions with countries such as South Africa, the United States and Portugal, where it has partnered with producers like Red Desert, Real Ficção, Bando à Parte and Olharde Ulisses. It co-produced O Feitiço da Areia(2025) ('The Sand Spell'), Cabeça de Martelo (2026) ('Hammerhead') and Os Continuadores da Revolução (2026).

CONTACTS

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