



LAKE MESSEJANA

A FILM BY DIEGO MAIA

ANNECY

2026

SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE



LogLine

In 2040, at the abandoned Lake Messejana, a pair of egrets struggles to find a safe place to nest and protect their eggs as a large-scale construction project brings workers and heavy machinery dangerously close.

ABOUT THE FILM

Drama, Fantasy

Animated Short Film

2D Digital

10 min, Dialogue-free

Brazil, 2026





Director
Diego Maia

Script
Diego Maia and Natália Parente

Executive production
Caroline Louise, Natália Parente and Diego Maia

Sound design and re-recording mixing:
Lucas Coelho

Sound editing assistant
Leticia Belo

Mix studio:
Atelier Rural

Foley
Tres Sonido Argentina

Original music
Marta Aurélia, Éden Barbosa and João Victor Barroso

Music production
Vitor Cozilos, João Victor Barroso and Diego Maia

Distribution
Sacrebleu Productions



Director's Statement

I grew up in Messejana, a neighborhood on the outskirts of Fortaleza, Brazil.

The egret has been a recurring symbol in my work for many years, and I've always been fascinated by its symbolism. When I started developing the film, I wanted to explore the contrast I see when I look at Lake Messejana. It's an incredibly beautiful place, but at the same time it is surrounded by neglect and precarious conditions. So I realized that the egret could become the central point between urban growth and nature.

Although Lake Messejana is rooted in a specific location, it speaks to a universal experience. At its heart, the film is about love, resilience, and the instinct to protect what matters most.



PRODUCTION NOTES

*This is an independent production.
The whole process took around three years to complete but it was put on hold for about a year.*



VISUAL DEVELOPMENT

Although Lagoa do Abandono is a digitally animated 2D film, every background and animation frame was painted by hand. Every brushstroke, texture and imperfection carries the presence of a human hand.

This dialogue between tradition and technology is one of the central ideas behind the film's visual language.





DIEGO MAIA

Director

Diego Maia (1983) was born in Fortaleza, Brazil. He's been creating illustrations for over 20 years for the film, game, and animation industries.

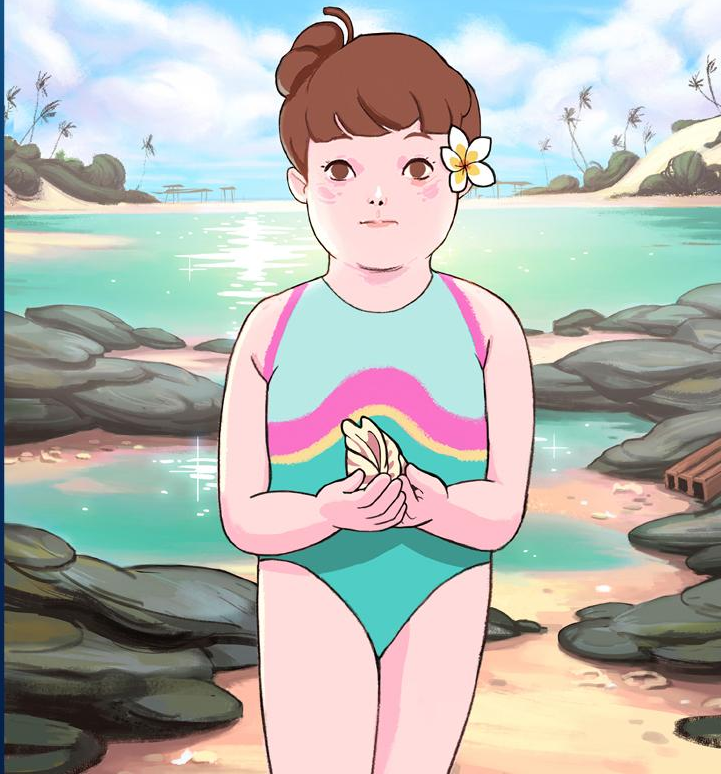
He investigates the connections between figurative painting, animation, and music, using references to Brazilian culture such as its rich coastline and the ghettos of the city, as well as imagining oneiric universes or those related to game fiction.

*Director of the animated short films
Barra Nova and Lake Messejana, officially selected for
Annecy 2026.*

DIREÇÃO E MONTAGEM: DIEGO MAMA, RUTHIERO DIEGO MAMA, NATÁLIA PARENTE, JOÃO LUCAS COELHO. JORNALISMO DE BOM LÉTICIA BELLO. ESTÚDIO DE SOM: ATELIER RURAL.
VÍDEO EDIÇÃO: OLÍVIA PARENTE, JOÃO PEDRO CALCANENTE, ALESSA CALCANENTE, DANIEL DIÓGENES COELHO, CELINA ELIANO DIÓGENES, THOMAS ELIANO DIÓGENES.
MÚSICA: ELISA PORTO. FOLIA: "TRES SONIDOS ARGENTINA". IMAGEM ORIGINAL: COZILDO VITOR, JOÃO VICTOR BARROSO. CRIAÇÃO: ELISA PARENTE.



barra nova



PRODUCTION COMPANY

BARRA NOVA is an independent animation studio based in Brazil.

Its debut short film, Barra Nova (2023), screened at renowned festivals including the Oberhausen International Short Film Festival, Animafest Zagreb, Imaginaria, Tiradentes Film Festival and Kinoforum. The film received several awards, including the ACECCINE Award for Best Short Film from Ceará, and was shortlisted for the Grande Otelo Awards.



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THANK YOU!

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