

HARGROVE ENTERTAINMENT INC.

P.O. BOX 750338 Forest Hills, NY 11375-0338 (718) 657-0542

Email: tvsales@HargroveTV.com Website: www.HargroveTV.com

BRAVE NEW LAND

(Brava Gente Brasileira)

Running Time: 100 mins.

Director: Lucia Murat

Original Language: Portuguese w/English Subtitles

Awards: Festival Of Brazil (Best Actress, Best Soundtrack)

Film Festival Screenings: Toronto (World Premiere), Sundance, Seattle, Mar del Plata, Hong Kong, Toulouse, Palm Springs, Taos, Robert Flaherty Seminar

Cast: Diogo Infante, Floriano Peixoto (Carandiru), Luciana Rigueira (Who Killed Pixote?), Leonardo Villar, Buza Ferraz, Hilario Silva (Casa De Los Babys)

Description:

The year is 1778, on the border of Brazil and Paraguay. A group of soldiers is escorting Diogo, an astronomer, naturalist and cartographer on a mission to settle a border dispute between Portugal and Spain. On their journey they encounter a group of Guaicuru women swimming and savagely attack them, led by the particularly ferocious Pedro. Diogo is forced to confront his "enlightened" education with the harsh reality of colonial life. Antonio is obsessed with the secret map he's carrying with the location of supposed silver mines. They all end up involved in a slaughter, even Diogo.

Eventually the company makes it to Fort Coimbra, along with a Guaicuru woman Diogo prevented Pedro from killing and a little white boy who was kidnapped by the Indians. The fort's commander lives with an Indian woman from another tribe - Guana. Conflicts grow as Diogo finds himself falling in love with the Guaicuru woman while he valiantly attempt to keep the peace, but is undermined at every turn by Pedro's violent outbursts and Antônio's fantasy about the silver mines, which possesses his body and soul, leaving him incapable of dealing with reality.

Meanwhile, the Guaicurus devise an ingenious retaliatory plan, which they conduct with razor sharp precision.

Press:

"A moving, brilliantly executed tragedy worthy of being ranked alongside 'Aguirre, The Wrath of God.'" -- Tom Lyons, Eye Weekly, Toronto

"A beautiful anti-epic, 'Brave New Land' is an obligatory film." -- José Geraldo Couto, Folha de São Paulo, Brazil

"The best Brazilian surprise of this (International São Paulo Cinema) Festival. With a tender, feminine, patient way of filming indigenous life, Lúcia indeed evokes a still virgin, innocent and yet wild and violent Brazil." -- Luiz Zanin Oricchio, O Estado de São Paulo, Brazil

"Lucia Murat courageously opted to identify the viewer's point of view as the colonizer's, limiting any possibility of idealization to the extreme. After all, as it's very well registered in the final sequence, pain does not distinguish color, race nor creed." -- Ricardo Cota, Jornal do Brasil

"A compelling chronicle of history observed from the point of view of a conquered people. With 'Brave New Land', Lucia Murat challenges our pre-conceived notions of history. Her highly developed journalistic method and keen eye for historical drama make this a truly tense and daring film."
-- Ramiro Puerta, Toronto International Film Festival

"'Brave New Land' deploys fresh cinematic strategies to reimagine Brazil's colonial past. Murat shuffles the deck – of language, of culture, of race – and deals a new hand, one that forces us to give up our cherished fantasies and confront a history of misunderstandings, violence and revenge. Bravo for a brave new film." -- B. Ruby Rich, San Francisco Bay Guardian

Film Photos:



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