

## PRESS RELEASE

### **‘Clarice’s Dream’: Brazilian Animated Feature Gains Global Festival Momentum**

*Clarice’s Dream*, the first animated feature ever produced in Brazil’s Federal District, is making waves on the international festival circuit. With over 30 official selections across Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, the film is earning acclaim for its emotional depth, handcrafted aesthetic, and distinct narrative voice.

The 2D animated film had its world premiere on December 11, 2023, at the 56th Brasília Festival of Brazilian Cinema, where it won Best Art Direction, Best Sound Editing, and Best Original Score. Since then, it has received numerous accolades, including an Honorable Mention for Best Direction at Italy’s Cartoons on the Bay, and multiple awards at the 47th Guarnicê Festival, including Best Screenplay, Best Sound Design, and Best Score.

In September 2024, *Clarice’s Dream* was honored with a Special Mention for Best International Film at the Tamizhagam International Film Festival in Sri Lanka. The film also took home awards for Sound Design and Art Direction at the Colombo Film Festival, solidifying its growing international profile.

#### **A Personal Story Told Through Magical Realism**

Set in a working-class neighborhood on the outskirts of Brasília, the film follows Clarice, a bright and imaginative young girl navigating the loss of her mother. Her father, a stage actor, struggles to cope, and together they face the emotional weight of grief. Clarice retreats into her imagination—combining cherished memories with vibrant fantasies—to transform her daily reality into a surreal world full of curious allies and wondrous adventures.

The film is both a meditation on loss and a celebration of the small joys of daily life. Its dual narrative structure contrasts a grounded, realistic portrayal of urban Brazil with dreamlike, expressionist sequences that act as metaphor for emotional healing.

#### **A Visual Language Rooted in Place and Emotion**

*Clarice’s Dream* features hand-drawn 2D animation, with visual choices shaped by both budget limitations and a desire to portray Brasília beyond its iconic modernist landmarks. The settings draw from lesser-known residential and commercial zones, such as Recanto das Emas and Cruzeiro Velho. The visual palette plays with scale, emptiness, and monochromatic tones to reflect the protagonist’s inner world.

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The score—performed primarily on accordion and percussive objects from Clarice’s father’s cart—was composed to mirror the rhythm of the character’s emotional journey. The music bridges the real and imagined worlds, helping propel Clarice through her metamorphic arc.

### Education and Industry Roots

The film was developed and produced with the participation of over 80 professionals and more than 20 students from Brazil’s Federal Institute of Brasília (IFB). Many were involved in technical areas such as rigging, animation, and post-production after completing a dedicated training program in animation. All compositing work on the film was executed by graduates of the program.

The original screenplay was developed during director Fernando Gutiérrez’s Ph.D. research at the University of Brasília, in collaboration with César Lignelli (professor, Department of Performing Arts). The project is supported by the Federal District’s Cultural Support Fund (FAC) and Brazil’s Audiovisual Sector Fund (FSA).

### About the Directors

Fernando Gutiérrez holds a Ph.D. in Arts from the University of Brasília and has directed several award-winning short films, including *José* and *O Mascate*. He currently teaches film and animation at the Federal Institute of Brasília (IFB).

Guto Bicalho is a writer, director, and storyboard artist who has worked on projects for Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon, Disney, and Gloob, among others. He co-directed the feature *Clarice’s Dream* and served as President of the Brazilian Association of Animated Cinema (2019–2020). He currently teaches at the independent film school Story Curso.

### Film Credits

Title:	<i>Clarice’s Dream</i>			
Directors:	Fernando	Gutiérrez,	Guto	Bicalho
Writers:	César	Lignelli,	Fernando	Gutiérrez, Guto Bicalho, OKO
Main Cast:	Dandara Luana, Ellen Oléria, Fernando Gutiérrez, Paula Passos, Clarice Gutiérrez			
Distributor:	Encripta			
Producers:	Fernando	Gutiérrez,	Vivian	Palmeira
Music:	César Lignelli			
Sound Design:	César Lignelli, Fernando Vieira, Francisco Vasconcelos			

### Key Awards

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- 56th Brasília Festival of Brazilian Cinema (Brazil): Best Art Direction, Best Sound Editing, Best Original Score
- 47th Guarnicê Festival (Brazil): Best Screenplay, Best Sound Design, Best Original Score
- Cartoons on the Bay (Italy): Honorable Mention – Best Direction
- Tamizhagam International Film Festival (Sri Lanka): Honorable Mention – Best International Film
- Colombo Film Festival (Brazil): Best Sound Design, Best Art Direction

### Selected Festivals

- Brasília Festival of Brazilian Cinema (Brazil)
- Cartoons on the Bay (Italy)
- Guarnicê Festival (Brazil)
- Fantaspoa (Brazil)
- Olhar de Cinema (Brazil)
- Afro Cine (Colombia)
- Mostra Ipê de Cinema (Japan)
- Kultura Con (Mexico)
- Vancouver Black Independent Film Festival (Canada)
- Jordan Children's Film Festival (Jordan)
- uMgungundlovu Film Festival (South Africa)
- INSÓLITO Fantastic Film Festival (Peru)
- Kolibri Festival (Bolivia)
- Minsk International Film Festival (Belarus)
- Under Our Skin Human Rights Film Festival (Kenya)

The film continues its global festival journey through late 2024, with additional screenings scheduled across Latin America, Asia, and Europe.