

LIBERTA!

Liberty!

"One book can change a destiny"

Liberta! is a documentary about literature as social transformation within the prison system.

Feature Film | Brazil | 2024

Script and Direction: **Débora Gobitta Executive**

Production: **Daniela Conde | Jefferson Mello | Juliana Vedovato**

Original title: **Liberta!**

Format: **Documentary - Color - Digital Genre: Human**

Rights Duration: **75 Minutes**

Production: **Carmela Conteúdos | Indio Creative Co.**

Associated producer: **Grupo Mulheres do Brasil Age**

Rating: **Free**

Synopsis:

Within the walls of Brazilian prisons, men and women reflect on the transformative impact of literature on their lives. Their narratives are intertwined with the voices of legal professionals, judges, teachers, and reading mediators, who expose the flaws of the prison system but extol the subversive power of literature as an instrument of change. The documentary highlights sentence reduction projects through reading, initiatives that, although still in their infancy, hold the potential to reimagine a future for the world's third-largest prison population. The film illuminates these actions as concrete examples of harm reduction, promoting literature as a tool for social transformation.

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Press Release: A Critical and Transformative Look at the Brazilian Prison System

**You simply cannot mistreat people and
expect it to work out. - Toni Morrison**

In a necessary and revealing dialogue, the documentary *Liberty!* questions the Brazilian prison system, highlighting it as a symbol of systemic failure. With a critical yet sensitive approach, the film exposes how prisons are overcrowded, inhumane, and perpetuate a cycle of violence and oppression that spans generations. It brings to light a long history of abuse in our country, showing how the situation only worsens as incarceration continues to be treated as the sole solution.

No one comes out of prison better under the current system; on the contrary, these institutions dehumanize and perpetuate social exclusion. Brazilian society, marked by an exclusionary nature, feeds on violent rhetoric—amplified by mass media—that sustains the harmful notion that 'the only good criminal is a dead one.'

The film challenges viewers to deconstruct this mindset through stories and testimonies that contextualize the prison system and, more importantly, point toward paths of transformation. Its narrative offers a new perspective on prison reality by highlighting the role of literature within prisons, through reading clubs and sentence reduction programs based on reading. According to the film, speaking about literature behind bars is nothing short of 'a revolution.'

This practice opens invisible doors and grants the incarcerated the right to dream and reinvent themselves. When those who have lost all hope are given horizons and...

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...perspectives, and the opportunity to dive into a world beyond the one they know—a world of imagination and the accumulated knowledge of humanity—there emerges the possibility of true freedom. If not the freedom of the body, confined by incarceration policies, it is the freedom of the soul, a vital breath amid oppression.

Liberty! invites everyone to reflect on the true purpose of prisons and to consider alternatives that humanize and offer new possibilities to those deprived of freedom.

Impact Distribution

In June 2024, the film's impact distribution began, marking its presence in a variety of spaces and events closely connected to the theme, ranging from universities and institutions to male and female prisons, both within and outside the state of São Paulo. Each screening is followed by a discussion with the director and special guests.

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AWARDS

In November 2024, the film received the award for Best Documentary at the London Women Film Festival.

Additionally, it was selected for the festivals:

- Santos Film Fest, Mostra Humanidades - Brazil
- Festival Internacional de Cine de Los Derechos Humanos - Bolivia
- Under Our Skin International Film Festival on Human Rights - Kenya

Próximas Sessões

- Faculdade São Francisco (Brazil)
- Universidade de Coimbra (Portugal)
- Observatório do Livro - Ribeirão Preto (Brazil)
- Universidade de Campo Grande (Brazil)
- PB1 - Penitenciária Masculina de Segurança Máxima - João Pessoa - Paraíba (Brazil)
- ABLC - Academia Brasileira de Letras do Cárcere (Brazil)
- SEMEAR - Ação Pela Paz - São Paulo (Brazil)

Apresentação:

