

# Punta del Este celebrates the silver anniversary of its film festival

February 12, 2023

by Roger Lerina ([https://www-matinaljornalismo-com-br.translate.goog/author/roger/?\\_x\\_tr\\_sl=auto&\\_x\\_tr\\_tl=en&\\_x\\_tr\\_hl=en](https://www-matinaljornalismo-com-br.translate.goog/author/roger/?_x_tr_sl=auto&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en))



Sérgio Machado, director of "The River of Desire". Photo: Roger Lerina

Celebrating **its silver anniversary**, the **Punta del Este International Film Festival** closed its 25th edition this **Saturday (11/2) with the screening of the competition's main winners at Sala Cantegril** – the main screen of the event in the sophisticated Uruguayan resort. Between the **5th and the 10th of February** , **48 feature films** were screened in different theaters around the city, divided into competitive and out-of-competition screenings, in free sessions. The only Brazilian title among the 10 competitors in the Ibero-American fiction film category, **O Rio do Destino** – which is scheduled to open in March in **Brazil**– received two special mentions from the official jury: for actress **Sophie Charlotte** and for director **Sérgio Machado** , who attended the awards ceremony on **Friday night (9/2)** .

Punta del Este Festival showcases Ibero-American cinema  
([https://www-matinaljornalismo-com-br.translate.googleusercontent.com/rogerlerina/cinema/festival-de-punta-del-este-apresenta-a-versao-de-anita-garibaldi/?\\_x\\_tr\\_sl=auto&\\_x\\_tr\\_tl=en&\\_x\\_tr\\_hl=en](https://www-matinaljornalismo-com-br.translate.googleusercontent.com/rogerlerina/cinema/festival-de-punta-del-este-apresenta-a-versao-de-anita-garibaldi/?_x_tr_sl=auto&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en))

FestPunta 2023 was curated by Uruguayan journalist **Daniela Cardarello** , artistic director of the event. The best film at the event was the disturbing Spanish drama **Mantícora** , by **Carlos Vermut** , whose protagonist **Nacho Sánchez** went to Punta before returning to **Spain** where he was up for best actor at the **Goya** awards this Saturday .

The award for best direction went to **Andrés Ramírez Pulido** for **La Jauría** , a co-production between **Colombia** and **France** that deals with juvenile delinquency and social precariousness in Colombia. The acting awards went to two cast members of the Portuguese drama **Nunca Nada Happened** , by **Gonçalo Galvão Teles** : actress **Inês Aires Pereira** and actor **Filipe Duarte** – who died in April 2020, shortly after filming.



Ana García Blaya, director of “La Uruguaya”. Photo: Roger Lerina

The best fiction feature by popular vote was the romantic comedy ***La Uruguay*** , a co-production between **Argentina** and **Uruguay** based on the homonymous novel written by **Pedro Mairal** . “I just want to say thank you for the opportunity that women also have to tell men's stories, because for a long time men have told ours, and we are grateful, but we also like to talk not only about ourselves, but also about what we see in you men. We love you very much, but we also have our version”, said director **Ana García Blaya** when giving thanks for the award on stage at Sala Cantegril. *La Uruguay* is the result of an unusual process: the budget of US\$600,000 was raised from a group of 1,900 supporters, who participated in the film's artistic and production decisions – including casting choice – by voting in an online community.

In the documentary dispute, the winner was the Peruvian ***Wandari*** , about an indigenous community in the country that is on the verge of disappearing. A Version ***of Anita*** , an Italian-Brazilian co-production directed by the Italian **Luca Criscenti** about the Brazilian revolutionary **Anita Garibaldi** (1821 – 1849), won a special mention. “I thank the festival for valuing a project that obliges us to visit history from a woman's point of view,” said Colombian producer **Juan Zapata** upon receiving the award.



Juan Zapata, producer of “The Anita Version”> Photo: Roger Lerina

The FestPunta 2023 awards ceremony was also marked by two moments that moved the audience. The ceremony began with a tribute to master **Carlos Saura** (1932 – 2023), Spanish filmmaker whose last work, **Las Paredes Hablan** , had been shown the day before at the Uruguayan festival, ending the documentary competition out of competition. The announcement of the death on Friday of the director of classics like **Cria Corvos** (1976), **Mamãe Faz 100 Anos** (1979) and **Bodas de Sangu e** (1981) surprised many festival-goers, who still didn't know about the fact.

The title screened at the closing, out of competition, was the long-awaited **A Baleia** , by American filmmaker **Darren Aronofsky** , in **which star Brendan Fraser** 's performance as a literature professor with morbid obesity impressed the audience in Punta. **Oscar-**nominated in three categories – including best actor –, *A Baleia* opens in Brazil on **February 23rd** .



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February 14, 2023 at 6:02 pm

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**Music session of “Frankenstein” opens Fantaspoa 2023 warm-up program** (<https://www-matinaljornalismo-com-br.translate.goog...>)

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**Short film based on comics by cartoonist Rafael Corrêa premieres at Vila Flores (<https://www-matinaljornalismo-com-br.translate.goog...>)**

February 14, 2023 at 3:05 pm

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**“Mars Um” and “Aftersun” are chosen as the best feature at the 2022 Abraccine Awards (<https://www-matinaljornalismo-com-...>**

February 13, 2023 at 5:56 pm