



Exclusive interview with the EMMY-award winning director Joe Tripician

[Original Portuguese version found here:

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Arriving in Brazil to film a super production, Joe Tripician, an American director, spoke exclusively with Portal Almanac about his newest project "Motor Angels" or "Moto Anjos" as it will be called in Brazil.

The action movie that tells the story of a motorcycle courier who risks his life to face a criminal gang, should start filming later this year in São Paulo. The premiere of the film might be held at Cannes next year. The film has been gaining momentum in the media and has been the subject of the famous American trade magazine *Variety*. Contrary to what was reported by the website Globo G1 and in the media, the feature's budget is around \$1.5 million USD.

Joe Tripician is an award winning American director with over 30 years in the industry, winning such awards as the Emmy [for Best Documentary], and the Chicago Film Festival. He has worked with such renowned names as Jim Henson, Lou Reed, Jeff Buckley, Steve Buscemi, Jim Carroll, and Quentin Crisp.

Check out the full interview where the director talks about the project, Brazil, and our national Brazilian cinema.

- **How did this project come into your hands? What attracted you to it?**

Joe: I read an early version of the script given to me by Gilson Schwartz, who is now our Brazilian Executive Producer on the film. We met through a mutual connection from New York.

The film project was born out of the cultural and educational course "Audiovisual Media Management for Local Development " developed between 2008 and 2010 by the research group The City of Knowledge (at the University of São Paulo) headed by Professor Schwartz. The production concept for the film was based on the results of the course's activities, in which motoboys used cellphone cameras to record their daily lives.

I immediately saw the story's power and its audience potential, especially for the international market. The motoboy culture is not widely known outside of Brazil. So, this story opens a window on that culture to the world.

The story also has a universal appeal, and mirrors what Brazil the country is currently experiencing.

Motoboys represent Brazil's emerging middle class, where for the first time many of them have access to credit, and to buy things they haven't had before.

Yet, they are still struggling to provide for themselves and their families, in an environment where the temptations to engage in criminal activities are great, because of the more lucrative compensation. This reflects on Brazil's current turning point in its history. She can turn against corruption and impunity, or continue on a systemic criminal path. The choice between these two roads will decide her future.

- **How did the casting come together?**

Joe: I was introduced to the top Brazilian casting agents, and through them met an extremely talented group of actors and actresses. This has been the greatest pleasure of this project.

In addition to our two leads, Vinícius de Oliveira and Maria Flor, also joining us is Kaíque Jesus Santos, Luca Bianchi, Geraldo Rodrigues, Gustavo Machado, Daniela Lavender, João Baldasserini, Cristiane Sobral, Silvia Suzy Pereira, Raquel Bonfante, Sandro Rocha, Germano Pereira, and Gilmar Guido.

- **When do you start filming?**

Joe: We have about half of the production budget raised so far, and hope to film this year.

- **Will "Moto Anjos" be seen as the next national blockbuster?**

Joe: That's up to the national audience to decide. What I can say is that this is a story born from Brazil, written and acted by Brazilians, which reflects the Brazilian culture, society, style and heart. It may be controversial, it may stir up strong feelings, but we aim to entertain and enlighten, and share it with Brazilians and the rest of the world.

- **What will be the predominant spoken language in the film?**

Joe: We aim to be both authentic and gripping. Because we value authenticity, we will shoot in Portuguese. We have already secured a distributor for North America along with an international sales agent, who have shown a strong support and faith in the project. I personally know Brazilian producers who also aim for an engaged national and international audience. There are so many compelling stories to be told from Brazil, and it's a shame that more Brazilian films don't reach the audiences they should. I want to be a part of a national cinema movement that forms alliances with more international partners, and helps build national cinema into a strong and sustainable future.

- **Can you tell me how Maria Flor was cast, since originally it was reported that Tainá Müller was the female lead?**

Joe: Tainá signed a contract with Globo and was unavailable. I met with Maria who was introduced to me by her agent, and she was interested in the role. I am excited to be working with Maria, who is extremely talented.

- The film's Facebook page can be found here:
<https://www.facebook.com/MotoAnjosFilm>
Almanaque TV will continue to report on this film.

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