

The Summer of Gods

Written & directed by Eliciana Nascimento

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Logline:

A young girl is guided by Orishas (African Gods) on a spiritual experience during a summer visit to her grandmother's village in rural Brazil.



Synopsis:

The Summer of Gods is a short film about a young girl named Lili who unites with her Afro-Brazilian religious ancestry on a summer visit with family to their ancestral village in rural Brazil. During her stay, she encounters Orishas (African gods) who help her find peace with a gift that has previously vexed her. The film is set in the Northeast of Brazil where Afro-Brazilian religious traditions remain strong. Lili's Grandma upholds Orisha traditions as an admired local priestess, but to ensure these traditions carry on after she passes, the gifted Lili is led on a mystical adventure of initiation through a nearby forest.

"My goal is to use cinema as a tool to reveal the beauty, culture and mythology of my people."
-Eliciana Nascimento

"My interest in telling this story is to help preserve my ancestors' traditions."
-Eliciana Nascimento



Director's Statement:

This film is very personal to me. I wrote it based on my relationship with my mother and our diverse experiences with ancestors and Orishas. The story represents my slow acceptance and initiation into my ancestors' religious traditions.

When I set out to make this film, I couldn't find others like it. Now that it's done, the overwhelmingly passionate responses from audiences shows me we're hungry for more like it. As actor Danny Glover said in my fundraising video: "The world of cinema is missing stories like this." I'm proud that the universal themes in *The Summer of Gods* touch the hearts of both children and adults from different backgrounds and traditions. My hope is that an uplifting story rooted in African mythology like this one will spur folks to learn more about our traditions and find a firmer belief in themselves.

Cast:

Lili	Isabela Santos
Grandma	Rosalina Santos
Eleggua	Lucas Santos
Mother	Carolina Su
Yemanjá	Jamile Alves
Oxum	Josi Reis
Younger-Brother	Israel de Jesus
Older-Brother	Pablo Souza

Crew:

Writer, Director & Producer	Eliciana Nascimento
DP & Co-Producer	Benjamin Watkins
Steadycam Operator	Maoma Faria
Music Composer	George Kallis
Costume Designer	Zuarte Junior
Hair and Makeup	Wilson Argolo
Supervising Editor	Pat Jackson
Sound Recordist	Anderson Santos
Sound Supervisor and Mixer	Dan Olmsted
Sound Designer	Jamie Branquinho
Foley Artist	Rodolfo Gutierrez
Colorist	Chris Tipton-King



Director's Bio:

Eliciana Nascimento holds an MFA (Master of Fine Arts) in Cinema from San Francisco State University. *The Summer of Gods* is her second narrative film set in her native home of Bahia, Brazil. Before traveling to the US to attend grad school, she founded an independent production company in Brazil called Candace Cine Video (www.candacecine.com) and co-produced the documentary *Rhythmic Uprising*.



Co-producer's Bio:

Benjamin Watkins is a filmmaker and motion graphics artist based in San Francisco, CA. This is his third film collaboration with Eliciana. The first was his feature-length documentary *Rhythmic Uprising* which chronicled the transformative powers of Afro-Brazilian culture on youth in Bahia. These films combine his passion for storytelling with his affinity for African-influenced cultures.

Additional Information:

Running Time: 20 minutes 13 seconds

Format: 1080 HD

Aspect Ratio: 1.77:1 (16x9)

Sound: Dolby Surround 5.1



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