IRACEMA (DE QUESTEMBERT)
by Maria Thereza Alves
SHORT SYNOPSIS
In her fictional docudrama Iracema (de Questembert), Maria Thereza Alves recounts the story of Iracema, a young indigenous woman from the isolated Brazilian village of Corubime who inherits her father’s vast estate in France and founds the Questembert Institute for Art and Science.

LONG SYNOPSIS
In the fictional docudrama, “Iracema” (de Questembert), specially made for the Lyon Biennale, Maria Thereza Alves recounts the story of Iracema, a young indigenous woman from the isolated Brazilian village of Corubime. Iracema makes the long journey from her village to São Paulo and then to France, where she learns that she has just inherited her father’s estate.

Iracema is now the owner of a vast property which the local authorities would like to buy from her rather than see it in the hands of a “savage”. Undaunted, Iracema fights to keep her property, where she later founds the Questembert Institute for Art and Science. She makes speeches at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre questioning the legality of French statehood and sets about meeting artists and thinkers such as Carla Accardi, Fabrice Hybert, Constantine Brancusi and Olivier Messiaen.

BIO
Maria Thereza Alves, (1960) a Brazilian artist living in Europe, researches social and cultural phenomena working particularly with situations which question social circumstances about what we think we know and who we think we are and look instead at where and how we actually are at this time.

Alves will participate in Documenta 13 and has recently exhibited at the São Paulo Biennale; a solo exhibit with Michel Rein Galerie in Paris, the Guangzhou Triennale, Manifesta in Trento, the Prague Biennale. Tamayo Museum in Mexico City Fondazione Sandretto in Torino, Berlin Film Festival, Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol, Kunsthalle in Basel, San Francisco Art Institute, Ursula Walbröl Gallery in Düsseldorf, NBK in Berlin, Liverpool Biennale, and Palais Tokio in Paris.

Prix de l’artiste francophone at the Lyon Biennale X
São Paulo Biennale, 2010
Close Encounters: The Next 500 Years, Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art, 2010
imagineNATIVE festival, 2010
Panorama, Galerie Michel Rein, 2011
CREDITS

Director, screenplay and editor:
Maria Thereza Alves

Produced by: Alves-Durham GbR

With the support of:
Biennale d’art contemporain de Lyon X

Cast:
Iracema in the present: Shirley Krenak
Iracema in the future: Michelle Coudray
Principal lawyer: Michelangelo Dalisi
Anthropologist: Dominique Pasqualini
Second lawyer: Pascal Beausse
Olivier Messiaen: Jimmie Durham
Housekeeper: Dora Stiefelmeier
Groundskeeper: Jimmie Durham
Artist: Carla Accardi and Fabrice Hybert
Journalist (voice): Michel Rein
Truckdriver: Alessandro B. Raposo
Third lawyer: Francesco Colombo
Limo driver: Marco di Pietrantonio
Hotel concierge: Yodit Teka
Forum participants:
Filomena Barone, Marilena Borriello, Valentina Brescia,
Fabio Cafagna, Alessia Colasanti, Giulia Dezi, Giorgia Fileni, Alessandra Genero, Michele di Lascio, Fabrizio Manzari, Alessandra Marchese, Silvia Marsano, Emanuele Rinaldo Meschini, Luisa Miceli, Francesco Morelli, Giulio Morera, Valentina di Petta, Valerio Pizzardi, Silvia Pujia, Maria Elisa Sassu, Maurizio Sertuca, Marialuna Storti and Saverio Verini
Dog: Achille

Camera in Europe and Assistant Director: Cristian Manzutto

Iracema’s tattoo and jewelry: Tam Krenak
Music: Jimmie Durham
Simonetta Guerrieri - piano
Shirley Krenak – flute and vocals
Tam Krenak – flute and cavaquinho
Douglas Krenak – flute
Sabelli Ensemble:
Maria Thereza Alves – rattles, whistle
Jimmie Durham – cuica, drums, skilet, metal disk, shears, and cloth
Sophie Moiroux – metal pipes and triangle
Luis Sezões – berimbau, accordion, jew’s harp and basse
Elisa Strinna – percussion, bells, scissors

Translators: Emilie Courtel, Léna Monnier, Tam Krenak and Sophie Moiroux
Production assistant: Luis Sezões
Grip in Brazil: Waketan Francis da Conceição
Make-up in Brazil: Amanda Michelly Caldeira

Filmed on location:
Sete Salões, Aldeia Krenak, Resplendor and Belo Horizonte, Paris and Rome

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Gianni, Origoni, Grippo and Partners
Hotel Locarno
Ristorante Open Colonna
Marco di Pietrantonio and MDP Car Service
Indiana Dog Training School

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