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João Pedro Rodrigues, João Rui Guerra da Mata

IEC LONG

The latest collaboration between João Pedro Rodrigues and João Rui Guerra da Mata is a short film that marks the return of the two filmmakers to the former Portuguese colony Macao where they shot *The Last Time I Saw Macao* in 2012. The word “panchão” was first heard in Macao. From the Chinese “pan-tcheong” or “pau-tch-eong”, dictionaries define it as a Macanese regionalism also known as “China cracker” or “Chinese rocket”. Making firecrackers used to be one of three main crafts in Macau, the others being making joss sticks and making matches. The craft of making firecrackers arrived in the city late in the 18th century. The two filmmakers trace the history of the Iec Long Fireworks Factory, which is the only well-preserved survivor of industrial heritage in Macao. An eye witness reports:

“I first entered the Iec Long Firecracker Factory led by my father. Times were difficult and children had to help support their families. It was tradition, it was like that back then... And it still is in some regions of China. Some of us were only six years old... It was hard work... It was dangerous work, there were many explosions. There were lots of dead people, many of whom were children, and dozens were injured. Throughout the years, many people died... I lost many friends. Yes, these memories haunt me like ghosts.”

2014, colour, DCP, 31 min., Cantonese. **Directed by** João Pedro Rodrigues, João Rui Guerra da Mata.

João Pedro Rodrigues, born in 1966 in Portugal, lives and works in Lisbon. After studying biology at Lisbon University he attended the Lisbon Film School. Since 1988 he has directed numerous short and feature lengths films which have been shown in festivals world wide, such as Venice, Cannes, Locarno, and Toronto.

João Rui Guerra da Mata, born in Lourenço Marques, Mozambique, lives and works in Lisbon. He is an art director, scriptwriter, and director. Rodrigues and Guerra da Mata have collaborated on films since the 1990s, and shared the directing credit since 2007.

Joined Filmography: *O Corpo de Afonso (The King's Body)* (2014), *Mahjong* (2013), *A Última Vez Que Vi Macau* (2012), *Alvorada Vermelha (Red Dawn)* (2011), *China, China* (2007).

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Łukasz Ronduda, Maciej Sobieszcański

OSKAR DAWICKI IN THE PERFORMER

An insight into the contemporary art world, based on the life of performance artist Oskar Dawicki who plays himself. The main theme of his art is the search for an answer to the question of whether... Oskar Dawicki exists at all. The trademark of his performances is his blue shining jacket.

We meet Oskar at a turning point in his life, when he learns that his Mentor Zbigniew Warpechowski is dying. Warpechowski has also been mentoring the Dearest, Oskar's childhood friend and a rival, who has devoted himself to more commercial art and become the most profitable contemporary artist in Poland. Oskar has one more complicated relationship in his life: a love affair with his art dealer. As in Dawicki's previous works, established norms of moral, spiritual, and social order are challenged and put on trial. *The Performer* is the first-ever art exhibition in the form of a feature film: Oskar Dawicki's works are connected on the screen not only by time and space, but also by narrative, drama, and emotion. The film is an unusual mix of performance art with acting, and a fusion of documentary film-making with fictional storytelling. The premiere screening of the film will be followed by Oskar Dawicki's performance *I am sorry* (2015).

2015, colour, DCP, 62 min., Polish. **Written and directed by** Łukasz Ronduda, Maciej Sobieszcański. **Production** Kuba Kosma, Wojciech Marczewski. **Cast** Oskar Dawicki, Agata Buzek, Zbigniew Warpechowski, Anda Rottenberg, Jakub Gierszał, Arkadiusz Jakubik, Katarzyna Zawadzka. **Director of photography** Łukasz Gutt. **Editor** Rafał Listopad, Mateusz Romaszkan. **Production design** Joanna Kaczyńska. **Sound** Paulina Bocheńska. **Music** Antoni Komasa-Łazarkiewicz.

Łukasz Ronduda is a curator, writer, scriptwriter, and film director living in Warsaw and working on the interface between contemporary art and cinema. He is the curator of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. His novel *Half Empty (Lampa i Iskra Boza)* was published in 2011. The book's main hero is Oskar Dawicki.

Maciej Sobieszcański is a film director, screenwriter, playwright and lecturer. He teaches at the Wajda School as well as the National Higher School of Film, Television and Theatre in Łódź. His directorial debut *Birthday* was screened at many festivals, including the Gdynia FF, Warsaw Film Festival, and the “Etiuda&Anima” festival in Krakow.

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