



I BUILT A ROCKET IMAGINING YOUR ARRIVAL

By Janaína Marques

Festivals

Berlinale Forum

Logline

An MRI exam sends fifty-year-old Rosa on a delirious inner journey in search of a happy memory she is unable to remember.

Short synopsis

Surrounded by the hypnotic humming of a MRI machine, Rosa is told to think of a happy moment in her life. It is within this subconscious odyssey that she reenounters her mother, Dalva, with whom she invents non-existent memories.

Long synopsis

Surrounded by the hypnotic humming of a MRI machine, Rosa (50) is told to remember a happy moment in her life. As she journeys through her subconscious, she revisits the past and reconstructs an event that never happened: a trip with her mother, Dalva, a free-spirited and irreverent woman who had once been arrested for murdering a man on the verge of committing a femicide. Brought up without her mother, Rosa still carries the blame and fear of the episode inside. Now, suspended between life and a made-up memory, she imagines a reencounter that is slowly transformed into an attempt at a cure and reconciliation.

Director's Statement

What motivated me to direct this film comes from my experience as a woman and from the need, after turning forty years old, to rediscover the desire to live. Reaching this age led me to revisit old wounds, many inherited from my mother, others shaped by my father's absence and by people who crossed my life. Like Rosa, I am made of contradictory layers: the visceral force of motherhood and the female lineage, and the masculine interferences that attempt to define our emotional and physical boundaries. Between these voices, the impulse to seek my own territory emerges.

This search is expressed in the film's cinematic language. Space is constructed as an extension of Rosa's emotional state, an environment that folds, narrows, or expands according to her inner perception. The locations do not describe the external world; they reveal her inner world. They are the architecture of her memories, her trauma, and her desire.

Time in the film is not linear; it is the time of thought. Rosa moves between the present and her childhood as naturally as breathing, crossing real memories and imagined recollections. The film

operates within a mental code: everything on screen is born from her, as if her emotions were reorganizing the very fabric of time. Past and present communicate constantly, and sometimes they blur.

Sound is the thread connecting these layers. It carries voices, echoes, and noises that belong both to what Rosa lived and to what she never lived but imagines. The sound design weaves these temporal lines together, creating an acoustic landscape that pulls the character deeper into herself.

I believe that at some point in life, everybody feels the call for this inner journey, a crossing that heals, reorganizes, and restores the possibility of existing truthfully. This film is born from that impulse: the search for a late emotional freedom and for a rebirth that only happens when we finally return to ourselves.

In essence, this is a film about the desire to live, and to savor every second that life offers.

Director's Statement Short

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Director Biography

Filmmaker Janaína Marques graduated with a degree in Film Direction from Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV (EICTV-Cuba); attended the Cinematographic Industry Management course at the Carlos III University in Spain; Cinema and Television Production College in Fortaleza as well as graduating in Journalism from the Federal University of Ceara.

She directed and wrote the screenplay for one of the shorts awarded by EICTV entitled Los Minutos, Las Horas first showing at the Cannes Cinéfondation (2010) being awarded at Clermont-Ferrand, Biarritz, Havana, San Sebastián and Zinebi, as well as winning the French Prix Radi Short Film award.

She also directed and wrote the screenplay for the short film Madrid, shown in various countries by the Cervantes Institute as well as directing the feature film I Built a Rocket Imagining Your Arrival (Berlinale Forum 2026). She is presently directing and writing the screenplay for the animation feature film Os Olhos do Caranguejo as she prepares Uma Película Invertebrada.

Director Biography Short

Janaína Marques studied film direction at the Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV (EICTV-Cuba), cinematographic industry management at the Carlos III University in Spain and attended the Cinema and Television Production College in Fortaleza; she holds a degree in Journalism from the University of Ceará.

She directed and wrote the screenplay for one of EICTV's most awarded short films, LOS MINUTOS, LAS HORAS, which premiered at the Cannes Cinéfondation (2010) and received awards at Clermont-Ferrand, Biarritz, Havana, San Sebastián and Zinebi, in addition to winning the French Prix Radio Short Film. She is also the director and screenwriter of the short film MADRID, which has been presented at numerous festivals worldwide.

I BUILT A ROCKET IMAGINING YOUR ARRIVAL is her debut feature film, premiering worldwide at the Berlinale Forum 2026. She is currently in pre-production on the animated feature films OS OLHOS DO CARANGUEJO and UMA PELÍCULA INVERTEBRADA.

Director Filmography

Los Minutos, Las Horas (2010) - 11 min

Madrid (2012) - 14 min

I built a rocket imagining your arrival (2026) – 92 min

Cast

Verônica Cavalcanti - Rosa
Luciana Souza - Dalva
Sílvia Moura - Nurse / Consuelo
Fabíola Líper - Dona Juju
Christiane de Lavor - Gislane
Jéssica Teixeira - Convenience Store Attendant
Lua Arellano - Rosa (child)
Ridson Reis - Jonas
Pedro Domingues - Francisco
Paulo Ess - Doctor / Police Chief
Max Eluard - André
Higor Fernandes - Police Officer
Osiel Gomes - Radio Host (Presenter)
Milena Gadelha - Ghost Expert
Marta Aurélia - Radio Host (Tigresa)

Crew

Director: Janaína Marques
Writer: Xenia Rivery, Taís Monteiro, Pablo Arellano, Pedro Cândido
Cinematographer: Ivo Lopes Araújo
Editor: Fred Benevides, Luísa Marques
Sound: Homer Mora, Moabe Filho, Pedrinho Moreira
Music: Clau Aniz
Art Director: Patrícia Passos
Producer: Maurício Macêdo
Coproducers: Taís Monteiro & Pedro Cândido
Executive Producer: Isabela Veras, Maurício Macêdo
Associate Producer: Xenia Rivery, Murilo Hauser
Production Company: Moçambique Audiovisual, Delírio Filmes

Technical Information

Original Title: Fiz Um Foguete Imaginando Que Você Vinha / shot digital Mini Alexa / available for screenings in DCP 2K 24 fps / color / image format 1:1.66 / approx. 92 min / sound format 5.1 / original language: Portuguese with English subtitles / Delírio Filmes, Moçambique Audiovisual, Brazil, 2026

Production Company

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