



THE DIRECTOR: Fernando Meirelles

Fernando Meirelles graduated in Architecture from the prestigious University of São Paulo. Still in the university, with a group of friends and equipped with a portable VHS camera he made his first experimental productions that attracted interest and won several prizes in the earliest independent video festivals in Brazil.

That group of friends went on and found the brazen studio Olhar Eletrônico (Electronic Glance), that helped to freshen the Brazilian TV in inventive ways in the 1980's. For ten years, the group produced programs for different TV stations. In 1989-1990, he created and directed the children's series *Rá-Tim-Bum*, for the public TV network. Those 180 programs received the Gold Medal in the New York Film and TV Festival, besides other awards.

From television he went on to advertising films. His independent studio became the largest studio in Brazil: O2 Filmes. For the last ten years he has directed commercials, among other projects. In that activity he was awarded the most important national and international prizes, winning five Cannes' Lions, Clios, nine Professionals of the Year, and many others.

In 1997 he directed his first feature film, *O Menino Maluquinho (Crazy Kid)*, with Fabrizia Pinto.

In 2001 followed his second feature film *DOMESTICAS, O FILME (MAIDS)*, with the director Nando Olival, which had the participation of the Hubert Balls Fund for Post-Production and Distribution and was selected for the Tiger Award competition - International Film Festival Rotterdam 2001.

Also in 2000 he was invited by Guel Arraes, from Rede Globo, to be a part of the project "Brava Gente Brasileira", directing the episode *PALACE II (GOLDEN GATE)*, adaptation from the best selling novel "Cidade de Deus" ("God's Town"), by Paulo Lins. *PALACE II* has been transformed in a short film and it was awarded the Best Short Film at the Panorama Section of 2002 Berlinale.

In 2002 he finished his new feature film, *CIDADE DE DEUS (CITY OF GOD)*, also an adaptation from the best selling novel *CIDADE DE DEUS*, by Paulo Lins. *City of God* won more than 30 awards around the world and received 4 nominations on the 2004 Academy Awards: Best Director (Fernando Meirelles); Best Cinematography (Cesar Charlone); Best Editing (Daniel Rezende) and

Best Adapted Screenplay (Braulio Mantovani). It was also nominated for a Golden Globe and a BAFTA.

After the success of *City of God*, O2 Filmes together with Globo Television produced 4 episodes for the TV series *City of Men (Cidade dos Homens)*, in 2002. Fernando produced all four and co-directed one.

In 2003, five new *City of Men* episodes were produced by Fernando, and he also directed one.

In 2004 Fernando directed *The Constant Gardener*, a British independent production shot in Germany, England and Kenya. The feature was released in 2005 and Fernando was nominated for a Golden Globe and a BAFTA for Best Director. The film won three BIFAs, one BAFTA (Best Editing), one Academy Award (Best Supporting Actress for Rachel Weisz) and one Golden Globe (Best Supporting Actress).

In 2007, he directed *Blindness*, a film based on the novel by José Saramago, starring Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo and Danny Glover.

Fernando shot in 2008 a new TV series for Rede Globo: *Som e Fúria (Sound and Fury)*, an adaptation of the Canadian *Slings and Arrows*.