



http://www.variety.com/index.asp?layout=print_review&reviewid=VE1117939728&categoryid=31

To print this page, select "PRINT" from the File Menu of your browser.

Posted: Fri., Feb. 20, 2009, 2:37am PT

April Showers

(Portugal) A Filmes do Tejo II production. (International sales: Insomnia World Sales, Paris.) Produced by Maria Joao Mayer, Francois D'Artemare. Directed, written by Ivo M. Ferreira.

With: Goncalo Waddington, Joana Seixas, Hugo Tourita, Adelaide Joao, Lidia Franco, Candido Ferreira, Juan Jesus Valverde.

By [JAY WEISSBERG](#)

Family secrets don't stay buried long in docu helmer Ivo M. Ferreira's solid sophomore feature, "April Showers." Knowledge of the turbulence following Portugal's 1974 revolution, sweeping away decades of military dictatorship, is helpful to understanding the story of a thirtysomething discovering his leftist past, but Ferreira's strong narrative hook means interest stays high, notwithstanding a weaker second half. Skedded for local release in April, the pic could see robust home returns, while fests may find interest in this accessible Portuguese release.

While Pedro (Goncalo Waddington) helps grandma Ines (the great Adelaide Joao) pack up before moving to a nursing home, he uncovers items from 30 years earlier that appear to link his deceased father with a politically motivated kidnapping. Driven by a need to understand his family's history, he hits the road, leaving pregnant g.f. Rita (Joana Seixas) and grandma trailing, followed by expat mom Leonor (Lidia Franco), herself a fugitive from her memories. Ferreira nicely captures generational differences in processing the past, and he shows an acute feel for atmosphere, but the ensuing journey lacks the necessary thrust, while Wild West parallels are over-scripted. Tech credits are problem-free.

Camera (color), Susana Gomes, Pedro Carneira; editor, Sandro Aguilar, Rodolfo Wedelles; music, Antonio Pedro Vasques; production designer, Nuno G. Mello; costume designer, Fatima Imaginario. Reviewed at Rotterdam Film Festival (Bright Future), Jan. 27, 2009. Original title: Aguas mil. Portuguese, Spanish dialogue. Running time: 77 MIN.

Read the full article at:

<http://www.variety.com/story.asp?l=story&r=VE1117939728&c=31>

April Showers BF-2009



Ghosts from the time of the Portuguese Carnation Revolution come back to life when the theatre maker Pedro, after making a discovery in his grandmother's old things, goes looking for the facts. What was his revolutionary father doing in Spain?

Just before the commemoration of the Portuguese Carnation Revolution, the young theatre maker Pedro - whose play about events just won't get off the ground - makes an interesting discovery. While clearing his grandmother's house after she's moved to a home, he discovers something that could serve to throw some light on his father's disappearance soon after the revolution. That would explain why some former revolutionaries curse his grandmother. In the caravan in which the family used to go on holiday to Spain, Pedro finds two revolvers. He runs out on his pregnant girlfriend and other obligations and hitches the caravan up to his car. The journey takes him to Spain, via a man who probably knows more. He tells him that Pedro's father and a certain Chico stayed in Spain. One of the two was killed by the other. Pedro's idiosyncratic family travels after him knowing that they will have to face up to the past .

'Em Abril, águas mil,' is the Portuguese proverb. On 25 April 1974, it poured with rain during the Carnation Revolution. Pouring rain also starts the directing début by Ivo Ferreira, that perversely questions an idealised heroic Portuguese past. Shot inventively and painstakingly edited, **April Showers** unravels an event that emerged from ideals that ran riot - and are universal. (GT)

PORTUGAL 2009

Director	Ivo M. Ferreira
Producer	Maria Joao Mayer
Scenario	Ivo M. Ferreira
Cast	Gonçalo Waddington Joana Seixas
Photography	Susana Gomes, Pedro