Guenny K. Pires



Biography

Guenny K. Pires was born in Mira-Mira, a humble village with fewer than ten houses, located on the island of Fogo, Cape Verde, West Africa. He is an award-winning Filmmaker, Cinematographer, Video Editor, and Digital Media Arts Instructor who has produced films throughout the USA, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. A humble and proud son of Cape Verde, Director Mr. Pires is dedicated to truthful, affecting and impactful storytelling on both sides of the lens. An up-and-coming independent filmmaker, he asks the audience to look at shared human stories in provocative and unaccustomed ways.

He is the first native-born Cape Verdean to write, direct, and produce documentary and narrative films about Cape Verde. He is dedicated to bringing the history and culture of his native country to the world's attention. In 2005, he moved to Los Angeles where he founded Txan Film Productions & Visual Arts, a four-member production company that produces documentaries, docudramas, fiction films, and educational materials.

His landmark indie film credits include work as the writer, producer, director, and cinematographer for the award-winning docudrama, *CONTRACT*, which premiered at the 2010 Pan African Film & Arts Festival and aired on international channels in 2012. He has also produced and directed several features, short films, and documentaries including *IN SEARCH OF MY IDENTITY; ROAD OF THE SEA*; and *THE JOURNEY OF CAPE VERDE* just to name few.

His broadcasting, producing, and directing credits include work for Television of Cape Verde; Television of Angola; Portuguese TV Radio; New York University; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Rhode College; Los Angeles City College; Los Angeles Valley College; Mount Saint Mary's University; Lusiadas University; Open University; Institute Camões; Sunset Gower Studios; Marshall Broadcasting Group, Inc.; Omni Entertainment, Inc.; Mendes Brothers, Inc.; One World Communication/Earth Films; and among others.

Over the last 20 years, Mr. Pires has successfully taught courses in media broadcasting and visual arts around the globe. Currently, his company Txan Film is finishing the post-production of his most recent narrative film *THE VOLCANO'S LAST WISH*, as well as docudramas *VOLCANO IS OUR DESTINY*; *THE HEART OF AMILCAR CABRAL*; and *ZOZIMO BULBUL THE BLACK FILMMAKER*, which will be premiering worldwide in 2020.

Mr. Pires has a Master's in Audiovisual and Communication Arts from Porto University in Portugal; a B.A. in Sociology/Anthropology from Lusophone University in Portugal; an A.A. in Cinema Production from Los Angeles City College; and an Master's in Fine Arts in Film, Television, and Photography from Mount Saint Mary's University.

He has lived in Los Angeles since 2005, where he works for Los Angeles Valley College and Sunset Gower Studios as a Filmmaker, Cinematographer, and Editor. Also, Mr. Pires works as a film director for Sunset Gower Studios, Los Angeles City College as a teacher for a class called Television Production 9, and Los Angeles Valley College for the course entitled Creative Video Editing.

HONORS & AWARDS

- President of the Republic of Cape Verde, Diploma of Merit, 2018
- Los Angeles City College, Certificate of Achievement, 2017
- Africa House Film Festival, Award for Best Filmmaking, 2016
- President of the Republic of Cape Verde, Diploma of Merit, 2015
- West 72 Film Festival**,** Best Screenwriting/Best Creativity, 2015
- Cape Verdean American Film Festival, Grand Jury Award for Best Film, 2014
- Cape Verde International Film Festival, Award for Best Filmmaking, 2013
- Roxbury International Film Festival, Award for Best Filmmaking, 2010
- Atlanta Film Festival, Atlanta, Award for Best Short Documentary, 2009
- Athens International Film & Video Festival, Award for Best Documentary 2005
- Pan African Film & Arts Festival, Diploma of Merit, 2005
- Imargens Film Festival, Cape Verde, Award for Best Documentary Filmmaking, 2005

MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

- BadWest, Los Angeles, CA
- Canadian Cinema Editors, Canada
- International Documentary Association, Los Angeles, CA
- Filmmakers from Africa, Brazil, Caribbean, and Diaspora
- Founder of the Praia International Film Festival, Cape Verde Islands
- Founder of the Production Company Txan Film Productions & Visual Arts, USA
- Luanda International Film Festival, Angola
- Pan African Film & Arts Festival, Los Angeles, CA
- Pan African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- President of the Jury Committee at the Praia International Film Festival, Cape Verde

DIRECTOR STATEMENT



It is humbling to tell the human story through film. The cameras are our brushes, the actors are our painters, and the director is the artist who bears the burden of veracity for all involved until the film is screened. My vision is pure – or at least as pure as possible for one who sees across a glass diffusely. I live to create a film that promotes the finding of truth. I live to create a film that dives its hook into the mire of human beings' appearances and brings forth a treasure of hope. This is my duty, my happiness, and my desire. It is what gives me the breath of life every day.

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