

written and directed by João Victor Silva and Matheus Malburg
produced by João Macedo, João Victor Silva, Júlia Faria, and Matheus Malburg

CHiCA



synopsis

Dadá, a 12-year-old girl, is tasked with delivering a chicken to a local restaurant. Annoyed, she sets off with her younger brother, Tato. Along the way, she discovers an unexpected bond between him and the chicken, leading her to reconsider the delivery.



A young boy with dark hair and glasses is looking through a telescope. He is in a room filled with various items, including a red and white striped banner or poster on the wall and a white sheet of paper on the right. The lighting is dim, creating a focused and intimate atmosphere.

technical information

format: short-film - fiction / 13'

country: Brazil

language: Portuguese (eng. sub)

tech: DCP / 5.1 / Color

year: 2025

cast & crew

directors & writers.....João Victor Silva e Matheus Malburg
producers.....João Macedo, João Victor Silva, Júlia Faria, Matheus Malburg
executive producers.....João Macedo, Júlia Faria
cast.....Marie Collins, Ryan Hallyson, David de Almeida, Erickson Almeida
cinematographer.....Luigi Parisi
production designer.....Bruna Veras
editor.....Anton Buzal
assistant director.....Larissa Murai
sound director.....Igor Yamawaki
colorist.....Isabela Moura
original score.....Güido Almeida, Lucas Anderson, Pedro Paulo Rocha, Pedro Zurma
costume designer.....Gabriel Canazzi
make up.....Margot Conti

director's note

Chica is a film born from the writers' desire to explore vegetarianism through a child's perspective. The first spark of the script came back in 2021, inspired by the irony of a child who doesn't connect the chicken on her plate with the hen she plays with every day. That innocence was the starting point for the story's first version.

But like any film, *Chica* evolved, and the narrative gained new layers and themes just as important as the original. The short film came to focus, above all, on the fantasy of a child's imagination. The idea that a chicken can fly wherever it wants sustains the story and invites the viewer to believe that anything is possible through a child's eyes.

The film also explores how violence is present in different aspects of human interaction – from the shooting game on Dadá's phone to the pretend gun games Tato plays with his fingers or a wooden stick. Here, violence isn't only about cruelty toward animals, but also how it's already present and naturalized in children's imaginary worlds.

Visually, the film relies on long, contemplative shots of the environment where the siblings live: the Serra da Mantiqueira mountain range. The narrative gives the audience space to breathe with nature – following not only the gazes and dashes of the hen that gives the film its name, but also the presence of the forest and fields surrounding the characters.

Chica invites reflection on how violence against animals – and its normalization in daily life – can (and should) be questioned. At the same time, it seeks to awaken in the viewer a sense of wonder, and the belief that the impossible can also come true.

We hope you enjoy it!
João Victor Silva & Matheus Malburg

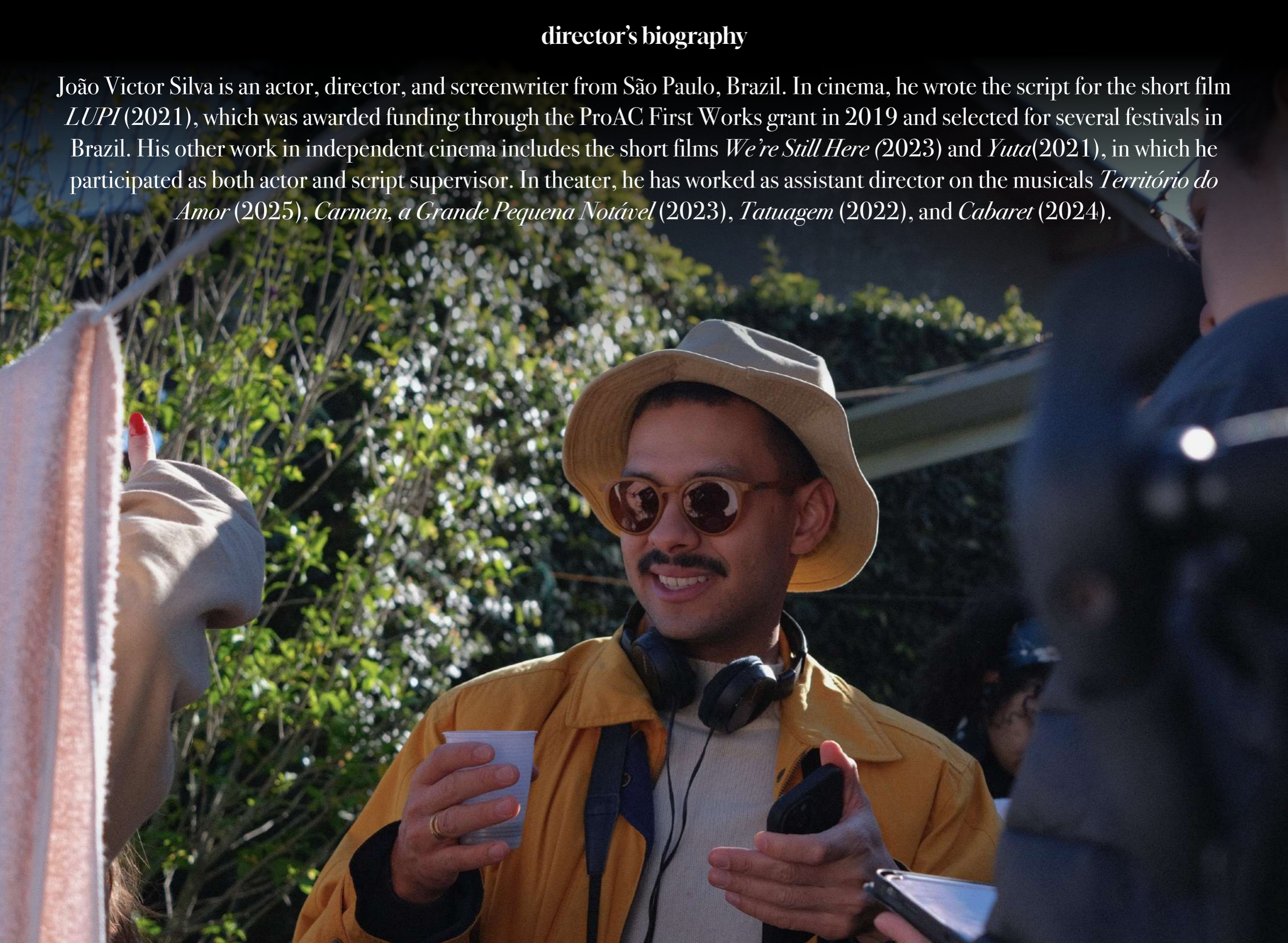
A young girl with long dark hair, wearing a red zip-up hoodie, and a young boy with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue patterned hoodie, are both pointing their right index fingers forward. They are in a kitchen setting with wooden walls and several large metal pots on a counter to the right. The lighting is natural, coming from a window in the background.

main actors

Ryan Hallyson and Marie Collins were cast as the leads in *Chica* after a long open casting process. Over 100 children between the ages of 7 and 12 auditioned. Ryan was born and raised in São Bento do Sapucaí, a small town in the countryside of São Paulo state where the film was shot. Before *Chica*, he had no prior acting experience. Marie, on the other hand, is from Santo André in the Greater São Paulo area and has performed in theater plays and made an appearance in the Netflix series *Luz*.

director's biography

João Victor Silva is an actor, director, and screenwriter from São Paulo, Brazil. In cinema, he wrote the script for the short film *LUPI* (2021), which was awarded funding through the ProAC First Works grant in 2019 and selected for several festivals in Brazil. His other work in independent cinema includes the short films *We're Still Here* (2023) and *Yuta* (2021), in which he participated as both actor and script supervisor. In theater, he has worked as assistant director on the musicals *Território do Amor* (2025), *Carmen, a Grande Pequena Notável* (2023), *Tatuagem* (2022), and *Cabaret* (2024).





director's biography

Matheus Malburg is a director and screenwriter. His most recent short film, *We're Still Here*, was selected for Bogoshorts and the EnergaCAMERIMAGE festival. During film school, he directed *Yuta*, which also stood out at EnergaCAMERIMAGE and was nominated for the Watersprite Film Festival. He began making films while still in school, with documentaries about football and society: *Bye, Bye Everyone* (2016) and *The Aways* (2019). Both were screened in several theaters in São Paulo, and the latter won Best Short Film at the Cinefoot Festival. After graduating, he directed another short with support from the PROAC fund. In parallel, he has worked on various other projects: he was part of the development team at the production company Hungry Man from 2019 to 2021, worked as an assistant director on the series *Senna*, and as creative assistant to director Esmir Filho on the feature film *Homem com H*.



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