



*Meet Michael and his amazing destiny: the young man  
who loses a bet and becomes...*

***The Man of the Year***

A Film by JOSÉ HENRIQUE FONSECA



Brazil • Original language: Portuguese • 116 minutes

**Public Relations Contact**

Ann Hinshaw  
The Film Movement Series  
375 West Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10012  
212-941-7744, ext 214  
212-941-7812 fax  
[ann@filmmovement.com](mailto:ann@filmmovement.com)

**Distributor Contact**

Andre Lee  
The Film Movement Series  
375 West Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10012  
212-941-7744, ext. 212  
212-941-7812, fax  
[andre@filmmovement.com](mailto:andre@filmmovement.com)

**Outside of Latin America:** Conspiração Filmes/Grupo Novo de Cinema  
“Brilliantly shot and filled with an iconoclastic sense of humor, Jose Henrique Fonseca’s “O Homem do Ano” is the first feature film by a very talented young Brazilian director. Following the story of a man who becomes a killer in the suburbs of Rio de Janeiro, “The Man of the Year” depicts, in a very original manner, a society in Convulsion.”

Walter Salles

**Murilo Benício • Claudia Abreu**

**O HOMEM DO ANO (*The Man of the Year*)**

Screenplay by	Rubem Fonseca
Based on the novel	“O Matador” by Patricia Melo
Director of Photography	Breno Silveira
Music by	Dado Villa-Lobos
Film Editor	Sérgio Mekler
Production Designer	Toni Vanzolini
Art Director	Kiti Duarte
Costume Designer	Claudia Kopke
Line Producer	Beto Bruno
Production Manager	Maria Clara Ferreira
Sound Recordist	Marcio Câmara
Sound Design	Tom Paul
Rerecording Mixer	Michael Semanick
Produced by	Flávio R Tambellini, Leonardo Monteiro de Barros & José Henrique Fonseca
Directed by	José Henrique Fonseca
Production Company	Conspiração Filmes, Rio de Janeiro
Co-Producers	Warner Bros. Pictures EstúdiosMega Megacolor Quanta Centro de Produções

*Young man loses a bet and becomes the hero of a whole town...*

Meet Maiquel (as Michael) in his incredible destiny: the unemployed car salesman turned assassin-for-hire who becomes the owner of a highly successful security firm. Based on the award-winning novel by **Patricia Melo** “O Matador” (Brazil 1995; translated and published in the US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and The Netherlands among other countries), “The Man of the Year” marks the feature film début of director **José Henrique Fonseca**.

The screenplay was written by the great Brazilian writer and scriptwriter **Rubem Fonseca**, the autor of “A Grande Arte” (“High Art”), “Bufo & Spallanzani” and “Vastas Emoções & Pensamentos Imperfeitos” (“Vast Emotions and Imperfect Thoughts”), among several other books.

“The Man of the Year” features Brazil’s film and TV superstars **Murilo Benício** (from Fina Torrez’s “Woman on Top”) and **Claudia Abreu** (from Bruno Barreto’s “4 Days in September”) in the roles of *Maiquel* and his wife *Cledir*. Original music composed by **Dado Villa-Lobos** (“Bufo & Spallanzani”).

“The Man of the Year” was produced by **Flavio R. Tambellini** and **Leonardo Monteiro de Barros**, the producers of Andrucha Waddington’s “Me You Them” (Official Selection Cannes 2000 – Un Certain Regard; and Winner, Best Film at the Karlovy Vary, Havana and Cartagena Festivals), distributed worldwide by Sony Pictures Classics.

“The Man of The Year” is a **Conspiração Filmes** production, shot on Super 35mm in Rio de Janeiro during July-August 2001. Co-Producers are Warner Bros. Pictures, EstúdioMega and Megacolor. Production budget was US\$ 1.8m. The film was produced using funds raised via Brazil’s Audiovisual and Cultural Laws: Federal Laws 8.685/93 and Law 8.313/91.

Conspiração Filmes is a leading production company in Brazil. The company produces motion pictures, documentaries, TV programmes, music videos, animation and commercials. Created in 1991 by 4 partners (including director José Henrique Fonseca), the company is today an association os 16 individuals and Brazil’s investment bank Icatu. Conspiração Filmes’ motion pictures have been distributed in Brazil and internationally by Sony Pictures Classics, Columbia TriStar and Warner Bros. Its TV productions have been exhibited in more than 30 countries.

Conspiração Filmes motion pictures include:

- “Traição” (“Betrayal”), 1998
- “Gêmeas” (“Twins”), 1999
- “Eu Tu Eles” (“Me You Them”), 2000
- “Surf Adventures”, 2001
- “Viva São João!” (“Viva St. John!”), 2002
- “O Homem do Ano” (“The Man of the Year”), 2003
- “Redentor” (“Redeemer”), 2003 (*in post-production*)
- “Casseta & Planeta”, 2003 (*in production*)

## THE CAST

Maiquel	Murilo Benício
Cledir	Claudia Abreu
Érica	Natália Lage
Dr. Carvalho	Jorge Dória
Silvio	José Wilker
Zilmar	Agildo Ribeiro

Seu Humberto	Paulo César Peréio
Galego	André Gonçalves
Enoque	Moska
Marcão	Lázaro Ramos
Robinson	Perfeito Fortuna
Delegado Santana	Carlo Mossy
Marlênio	André Barros
Suel	Wagner Moura
Gabriela	Mariana Ximenes
Gonzaga	Amyr Haddad
Cajú	José Henrique Fonseca
Tia Laura	Vic Militello
Mãe de Cledir	Marilu Bueno

The Book “O Matador” by Patricia Melo

Winner, Deutscher Krimi Preis 1998 (Germany)

Winner, Prix Deux Océans 1996 (France)

Nominee, Prix Femina 1996 (France)

*Une remarquable vocation littéraire....La lecture d’O Matador est une véritable thérapie (A remarkable literary vocation...The reading of O Matador is a true therapy) - Le Monde*

“O Matador” (“The Killer”) is Patricia Melo’s second novel. The book was originally published in Brazil in 1995 by Cia. das Letras. It has since been translated and published in:

- France (Albin Michel, 1996)
- Germany (Klett – Cotta, 1996 / Deutscher Taschenbusch, 1999)
- Italy (Feltrinelli, 1996)
- Spain (Ediciones B, 1997)
- Canada (The Ecco Press, 1997)
- UK (Bloomsbury Publishing, 1997)
- United States (The Ecco Press, 1997)
- The Netherlands (Wereldbibliotheek, 1997)
- Norway (Aschehoug, 1998)
- Portugal (Campo das Letras, 2001)

Other books by Patricia Melo include:

- “Acqua Toffana” (1994), published in Germany and Portugal;
- “Elogio da Mentira” (1998), published in the UK, Italy, US, Germany, China, Finland, The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and France;
- “Inferno” (2001), published in Portugal and France.

**JOSÉ HENRIQUE FONSECA**, Director

“What attracted me to Patrícia Melo’s book *The Killer* was the character Máiquel, a man torn between two paths: whether to marry, have a family and be poor and honest,

or to become more and more involved in the world of crime, where he is rewarded and respected.

I was seduced by the idea of making a film which shows a common man caught up in his own destiny. Máiquel doesn't know the influence of the environment which surrounds him. He believes that life, if you let it, will flow on alone, like a river, or you can take the reins and make life your horse. Or can everything change just by chance, because of some detail, like a simple bet?

The suburbs of the big city, so violent and oppressive, with their conflicts and injustices, are used as the film's backdrop. The character's external violence emerges almost involuntarily, in a banal way. That hardly matters, since the foreground is filled with his disturbed mind, his indecision, his impotence regarding his destiny. And the question persists: how much of his destiny was written, not simply by fate, like in Greek tragedy, but by the iniquitous and corrupt society in which he lives?

The men of the year are products of these societies." **José Henrique Fonseca**

José Henrique Fonseca (Rio de Janeiro, 1964) has worked as Hector Babenco's assistant in the film *At Play in the Fields of the Lord* and also as Walter Salles' assistant in the film *High Art*, with whom he directed a documentary for television *Caetano Veloso: 50 years*, distributed worldwide on home video by PolyGram and exhibited on TV in Brazil, France, Germany and Italy. He co-directed the TV miniseries *Agosto*, based on a novel by Rubem Fonseca and exhibited by TV Globo in Brazil. Mr. Fonseca directed MTV award-winning music videos for high-profile Brazilian artists such as Mrisa Momte and Chico Buarque and several commercial films. His film debut as a director was one of the 3 episodes of *Traição* (Betrayal, Brazil 1998, Winner of the Audience Award at Brasilia festival and Best Film award at the Huelva Festival, Spain in 1998). José Henrique Fonseca is one of the 4 founding partners who created *Conspiração Filmes* in 1991.

The Man of the Year is José Henrique Fonseca's first feature film.

#### **RUBEM FONSECA**, Scriptwriter

Rubem Fonseca is one of Brazil's most popular and distinguished novelist and scriptwriter. He has written many novels, including *High Art* (published in USA by Harper & Row, New York, 1986 and by Carrol and Graft, New York, 1987; and in the UK by Collins, London, 1987); *Bufo & Spallanzani* (published in USA by Dutton, New York, 1990) and *Vast Emotions and Imperfect Thoughts* (published in the US by Ecco Press, New York, 1998; and in the UK with the title *The Lost Manuscript* by Bloomsbury, London, 1997). Four of his books have been made into films. His work has been translated into English, German, French, Spanish and Italian, among other languages.

#### **PATRICIA MELO**, writer

Patricia Melo published her first novel **Acqua Toffana** in 1994, by Companhia das Letras, obtaining great recognition from critic and public.

**The Killer** (original title “*O Homem do Ano*”), her second novel, published in 1995, also by Companhia das Letras, not only established her position in modern Brazilian literature, but also in the international scene. The book was published in France (Albin Michel, 1996), Italy (Feltrinelli, 1996), England (Bloomsbury, 1997), Spain (Ediciones B, 1997), The Netherlands (Wereldbibliothek, 1997), and Norway (Aschenhoug, 1998), always with great acclaim.

**The Killer** conferred Patrícia Melo the indication, in 1996, for the Prix Femina (one of the most important literary prizes in France) and the prizes Deux Océans (France, 1996) and the Deutscher Krimi Preis (Germany, 1998). **The Killer** was listed in *World Literature Today* as one of the best novels published in the 90’s in Brazil.

Patrícia Melo was included among the fifty “Latin American Leaders for the New Millennium” in *Time Magazine* in 2000.

She is also a playwright, having adapted **Malady of Death** by Marguerite Duras, which received four indications for the Mambembe prize (Brazil, 1987). The author wrote the play **Two Women and a Cadaver**, which stayed on stage in 2000 and 2001 in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, with Fernanda Torres and Débora Bloch in the leading roles. The play was a great success of public and critic.

Patrícia Melo is also a TV and movie scriptwriter and was responsible for the adaptation of **O Caso Morel** and **Bufo & Spallanzani**, written by Rubem Fonseca and directed by Flávio Tambelini, which received the prize of best script at a movie festival in Miami in 2001. She was scriptwriter of **O Xangô de Baker Street**, written by Jô Soares and directed by Miguel Farias, and **Cachorro!**, inspired in the work of Nelson Rodrigues, directed by José Henrique Fonseca and produced by Conspiração Filmes.

The author published her third novel, **In Praise of Lies**, in May 1998 (Companhia das Letras). The book has been published in England (Bloomsbury), Germany (Klett-Cotta), United States (Bloomsbury/USA), Spain (Grijalbo Mondadori), the Netherlands (Wereldbibliothek), France (Actes Sud), Portugal (Campo das Letras), Italy (Fanucci), Finland (Albert Bonniers Forlag) and China (Choice), amongst other countries.

In September 2000, she published **Inferno** (Companhia das Letras), the saga of a druglord which received the Jabuti prize (Brazil, 2000). The novel has already been published in France and Portugal and will be published in Spain, Italy, Germany and England this year (2003). In October 2001, *Time Magazine* published the article “The Murder Business” written by Patrícia Melo.

The author lives in Rio de Janeiro and is presently working on her new novel.

## **ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT**

**Film Movement** is an innovative new film distribution company, created as a solution for millions of consumers across the nation whose access to outstanding film is

limited by geography, lifestyle or lack of information. Film Movement has members in over 50 states and 1800 cities. Film Movement acquires award winning independent films from the world's top festivals, which they then release each month of the year to members on DVD through a subscription service, and theatrically through The Film Movement Series. Participating filmmakers are able to reach under-served film fans everywhere through Film Movement.

**The Film Movement Series** is a new theatrical film series featuring some of the best in original world cinema. Created by the team that invented the groundbreaking Shooting Gallery Film Series, Film Movement will release its 12 films per year in leading independent cinemas in major US cities to help outstanding filmmakers find the audience they deserve. All films are available to members exclusively on DVD upon theatrical release so that they may participate regardless of where they live.

Film Movement has partnered with some of the leading independent theaters in the country to exhibit the Film Movement Series. The schedule includes the following films:

- Wiebke von Carolsfeld's *Marion Bridge*
- Eric Eason's *Manito*
- Scott Hamilton Kennedy's *OT: our town*
- Donovan Leitch & Rebecca Chaiklin's *The Party's Over*
- Tjebbo Penning's *Morlang*
- Mina Shum's *Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity*
- Vicente Amorim's *The Middle of the World*
- Jacques Doillon's *Raja*
- Tony McNamra's *The Rage in Placid Lake*
- Jose Henrique Fonseca's *Man of the Year*
- Shola Lynch's *Chisholm '72- Unbought & Unbossed*
- Rolf de Heer's *Alexandra's Project*