



IRACEMA (DE QUESTEMBERT)  
by Maria Thereza Alves

# IRACEMA (DE QUESTEMBERT)

A docudrama by  
Maria Thereza Alves  
2009, 27min

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

In her fictional docudrama *Iracema* (de Questembert), Maria Thereza Alves recounts the story of Iracema, a young indigenous woman from the isolated Brazilian village of Corubime who inherits her father's vast estate in France and founds the Questembert Institute for Art and Science.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

In the fictional docudrama, "Iracema" (de Questembert), specially made for the Lyon Biennale, Maria Thereza Alves recounts the story of Iracema, a young indigenous woman from the isolated Brazilian village of Corubime. Iracema makes the long journey from her village to São Paulo and then to France, where she learns that she has just inherited her father's estate.

Iracema is now the owner of a vast property which the local authorities would like to buy from her rather than see it in the hands of a "savage". Undaunted, Iracema fights to keep her property, where she later founds the Questembert Institute for Art and Science. She makes speeches at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre questioning the legality of French statehood and sets about meeting artists and thinkers such as Carla Accardi, Fabrice Hybert, Constantine Brancusi and Olivier Messiaen.



## BIO

Maria Thereza Alves, (1960) a Brazilian artist living in Europe, researches social and cultural phenomena working particularly with situations which question social circumstances about what we think we know and who we think we are and look instead at where and how we actually are at this time.

Alves will participate in Documenta 13 and has recently exhibited at the São Paulo Biennale; a solo exhibit with Michel Rein Galerie in Paris, the Guangzhou Triennale, Manifesta in Trento, the Prague Biennale. Tamayo Museum in Mexico City Fondazione Sandretto in Torino, Berlin Film Festival, Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol, Kunsthalle in Basel, San Francisco Art Institute, Ursula Walbröl Gallery in Düsseldorf, NBK in Berlin, Liverpool Biennale, and Palais Tokio in Paris.

Prix de l'artiste francophone at the Lyon Biennale X  
São Paulo Biennale, 2010

Close Encounters: The Next 500 Years, Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art, 2010  
imagineNATIVE festival, 2010

Panorama, Galerie Michel Rein, 2011



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**Third World Newsreel**  
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## CREDITS

Director, screenplay and editor:  
Maria Thereza Alves  
Produced by: Alves-Durham GbR  
With the support of:  
Biennale d'art contemporain de Lyon X

Cast:  
Iracema in the present: Shirley Krenak  
Iracema in the future: Michelle Coudray  
Principal lawyer: Michelangelo Dalisi  
Anthropologist: Dominique Pasqualini  
Second lawyer: Pascal Beausse  
Olivier Messiaen: Jimmie Durham  
Housekeeper: Dora Stiefelmeier  
Groundskeeper: Jimmie Durham  
Artist: Carla Accardi and Fabrice Hybert  
Journalist (voice): Michel Rein  
Truckdriver: Elessandro B. Raposo  
Third lawyer: Francesco Colombo  
Limo driver: Marco di Pietrantonio  
Hotel concierge: Yodit Teká  
Forum participants:  
Filomena Barone, Marilena Borriello, Valentina Brescia,  
Fabio Cafagna, Alessia Colasanti, Giulia Dezi, Giorgia  
Fileni, Alessandra Genero, Michele di Lascio, Fabrizio  
Manzari, Alessandra Marchese, Silvia Marsano, Emanuele  
Rinaldo Meschini, Luisa Miceli, Francesco Morelli, Giulio  
Morera, Valentina di Petta, Valerio Pizzardi, Silvia Pujia,  
Maria Elisa Sassu, Maurizio Serluca, Marialuna Storti and  
Saverio Verini  
Dog: Achille

Camera in Europe and Assistant Director: Cristian Man-  
zutto

Camera in Brazil: Fabricio de Souza  
Iracema's tattoo and jewelry: Tam Krenak  
Music: Jimmie Durham  
Simonetta Guerrieri - piano  
Shirley Krenak – flute and vocals  
Tam Krenak – flute and cavaquinho  
Douglas Krenak – flute  
Sabelli Ensemble:  
Maria Thereza Alves – rattles, whistle  
Jimmie Durham – cuica, drums, skillet, metal disk, shears,  
and cloth  
Sophie Moiroux – metal pipes and triangle  
Luis Sezões – berimbau, accordion, jew's harp and basse  
Elisa Strinna – percussion, bells, scissors

Translators: Emilie Courtel, Léna Monnier, Tam Krenak and  
Sophie Moiroux  
Production assistant: Luis Sezões  
Grip in Brazil: Wakétan Francis da Conceição  
Make-up in Brazil: Amanda Michelly Caldeira

Filmed on location:  
Sete Salões, Aldeia Krenak, Resplendor and Belo Horizon-  
te, Paris and Rome

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dérique Gautier, Valerio di Gravio, Hou Hanru, Antonietta  
D'Intino, Waldemar Krenak, Andrea di Marschiano, Anna  
Mattirolo, Galerie Michel Rein, Vittorio Moroni, Anne  
Palopoli, Francesca Picchi, Mario Pieroni, Cesare Pietrou-  
iti, Maria Inês Rodrigues, Gabi Scardi, Elisabeth and  
Nicolo Sprovieri, Dora Stiefelmeier and Caterina Vadame  
Palazzo delle Esposizioni  
Gianni, Origoni, Grippo and Partners  
Hotel Locarno  
Ristorante Open Colonna  
Marco di Pietrantonio and MDP Car Service  
Indiana Dog Training School

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