

TELEVISION

Series: João Tordo, Gisberta or people of African descent compete in Conecta Fiction

An important meeting welcomes four Portuguese projects and a Portuguese-Brazilian co-production to its market, where they can win awards or find new production partnerships.

Joana Amaral Cardoso
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Filming in Lisbon, at the Ler Devagar bookstore JOSÉ SARMENTO MATOS

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Four Portuguese projects and a Portuguese-Brazilian co-production are this year in the selection of Conecta Fiction, the meeting of audiovisual professionals in Toledo, Spain, which is increasingly playing a role in the Iberian market (and beyond), in search of partners for co-productions. In the CoPro Series section, for example, *Águas Passadas*, by João Tordo, in an adaptation by Caracol Studios, *Novas Narrativas de Caça - A Célula Dormecida*, by Luís Almeida for Galo Bravo, and *A Célula Dormecida*, by Nuno Nepomuceno and Miguel Sinal for SPI were selected. There are also Portuguese candidates in the Docudrama and musical section.

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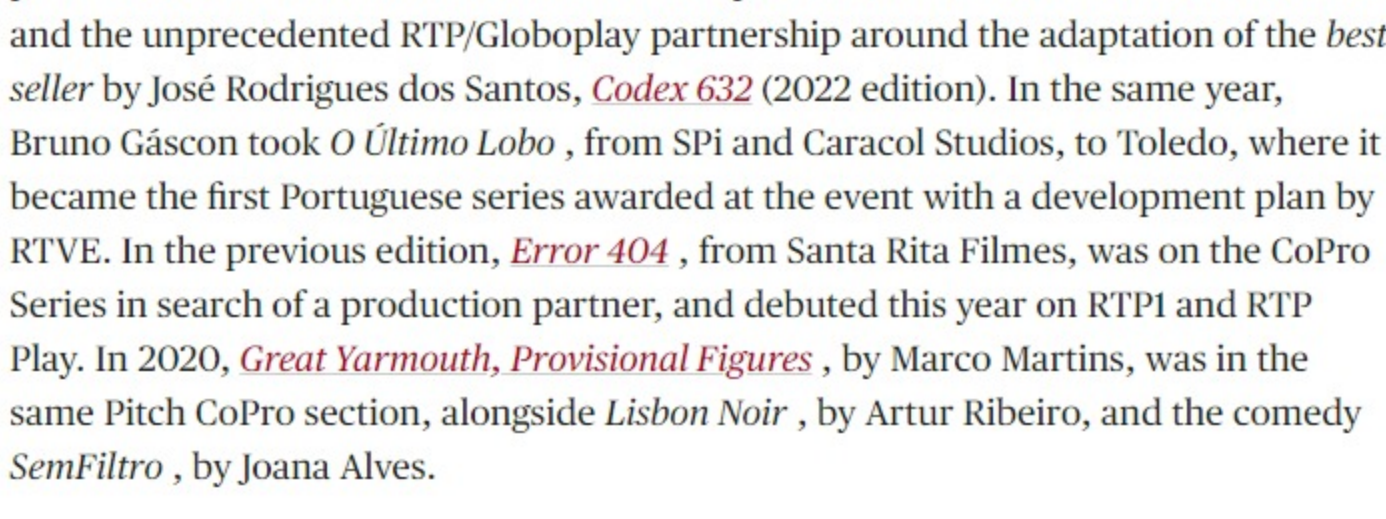
The market, which takes place between the 18th and 21st of June in Toledo, has precisely as its theme of the year Brazil and Portugal, the countries in focus that have the opportunity to explain their means of production, make their industry known and the titles they want promote. One of its most attractive platforms is Pitch, a showcase in which various titles compete for awards from institutions or companies, such as RTVE, the Spanish public broadcaster, but also for the attention of channels, platforms or producers interested in co-producing, and thus increase or fulfill the financial capacity of a series.

This year the Pitch space, which is divided into several sections, has five Portuguese participants. In the Pitch Docudrama Series, with four other candidates, *Gisberta - Life and Death of a Transwoman*, a Brazilian-Portuguese co-production. The series is by Rodrigo Reboças, the producers are Volf Entertainment and Ultravioleta and the story is well known to the Portuguese public. In the Music section, *Um Lugar ao Sol*, by Pedro Lopes (Glória), Catarina Bizarro, Manuel Mora Marques, Marina Pregaça Ribeiro and Marta Pais Lopes, brings together the SPI team in the footsteps of a singer who had a fleeting success and, at 35 years old, he is at an impasse in his career. There are also four competitors.

Arriving at the Pitch CoPro Series segment is Luís Almeida's project for a series of seven independent episodes about Portuguese people of African descent, *Novas Narrativas de Caça - A Célula Dormecida*, by Nuno Nepomuceno and Miguel Sinal, is another project from SPI (producer of the SP Televisão group, one of the largest Portuguese independent producers, focused on short-term fiction with internationalization potential) and is a thriller project about a moment of emergency: a terrorist alert, the death of a prime minister and a duo trying to stop a conspiracy that has links to the past of these benefactors.

Finally, but not last, writer João Tordo will have *Águas Passadas* in this competition between ten series. The project is still in the development phase and will have Joana Domingues as producer and Spanish Paloma Mora as co-producer, as Caracol said in a statement. The series will be directed by Bruno Gascon. The story is based on 13 days in January 2019, spent under an unstoppable flood over Lisbon, in which two teenage bodies appear mutilated. The investigation into their deaths is the theme of the novel that Tordo published in 2021.

At Conecta Fiction, projects such as *Sixth Sense High: Paramnesia*, by BeActive and premiered on SIC Radical and available on Opto/SIC (in the 2017 edition), were born and the unprecedented RTP/Globoplay partnership around the adaptation of the best seller by José Rodrigues dos Santos, *Codex 632* (2022 edition). In the same year, Bruno Gascon took *O Último Lobo*, from SPI and Caracol Studios, to Toledo, where it became the first Portuguese series awarded at the event with a development plan by RTVE. In the previous edition, *Error 404*, from Santa Rita Filmes, was on the CoPro Series in search of a production partner, and debuted this year on RTP1 and RTP Play. In 2020, *Great Yarmouth, Provisional Figures*, by Marco Martins, was in the same Pitch CoPro section, alongside *Lisbon Noir*, by Artur Ribeiro, and the comedy *Sem Filtro*, by Joana Alves.



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