

Brazilian & Portuguese

Films at Ames Public Library



In Portuguese with English captions, unless otherwise noted.

***Alice's House* (DVD FOREIGN ALI)** 92 min. 2007. Alice is a São Paulo manicurist, wife and mother of three sons who has a chance meeting with an old boyfriend. She is forced to re-examine her life and address her romantic dreams. In her quest for happiness, she must overcome the obstacles set by the male dominated world in which she feels herself trapped. Now she must navigate the dangerous terrain of her heart.

***Almost Brothers* (DVD FOREIGN ALM)** 102 min. 2004. View the class struggle of Brazil over four decades through the eyes of Miguel, a white middle-class rebel, and Jorge, his black childhood friend.

***Antônia* (DVD FOREIGN ANT)** 88 min. 2007. Four women living on the outskirts of Sao Paulo, Brazil, are determined to escape their poverty and learn that out of struggle comes strength and the courage to continue.

***Behind the Sun* (DVD FOREIGN BEH)** 92 min. 2001. In 1910, two families who grow sugar cane have been squabbling over land ownership for years. The disagreement has turned violent. The Breveses have suffered most, and a steady drop in sugar prices has left the family with little but their pride. When the Breves' eldest son is killed, his father orders his next-oldest son to kill one of the Ferreira boys. He questions the wisdom of this bloody rivalry, and he ponders his fate while spending time with his younger brother.

***Black Orpheus* (DVD FOREIGN BLA)** In Portuguese with English captions or dubbed in English. 107 min. 1959. Based on the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice set against the colorful background of the Rio de Janeiro carnival, the great color photography and lively soundtrack brought the bossa nova beat to the United States.

***Blood and Wine* (DVD FOREIGN BLO)** 100 min. 2006. A Brazilian family living during the political turmoil during the 1950s and the two decades that followed, from the suicide of the president to the establishment of martial law, tries to find hope in the tragedy of everyday life.

***Bus 174* (364.154 DVD BUS)** In Portuguese with English captions. 120 min. 2002. This award-winner examines the tragic events that followed a desperate bus hijacking in Rio de Janeiro in 2000 that turned deadly when a SWAT team took evasive action against the drug-addled hijacker.

***Carandiru* (DVD FOREIGN CAR)** 145 min. 2003. A doctor arrives at Sao Paulo's House of Detention to test patients for HIV. Seeing the disease, overcrowding, and circulation of drugs, he realizes the power structure among the prisoners. Narratives develop, including the attempted murder of Dagger, the solitary confinement of Chico, and the romance between Lady Di and Too Bad. The doctor sees the prisoners as survivors as violence breaks out: a reconstruction of the October 2, 1992, prison riot known as the Carandiru Massacre.

***Central Station* (DVD FOREIGN CEN)** 106 min. 1998. A young boy witnesses his mother's accidental death, and a lonely retired schoolteacher reluctantly takes the child under her wing.

***Chronically Unfeasible* (DVD FOREIGN CHR)** 101 min. 2000. Six people in modern-day Brazil serve as a microcosm of Brazil and its struggles.



AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.amespubliclibrary.org

***City of God* (DVD FOREIGN CIT)** In Portuguese with English or Chinese captions. 130 min. 2002. Two boys growing up in a violent neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro take different paths. One becomes a photographer, the other a drug dealer. Their stories are presented through the eyes of a singular narrator.

***City of Men* (DVD FOREIGN CIT)** 570 min. Originally broadcast on Brazilian television in 2003-2006. The City is a shantytown in a Rio de Janeiro mountain. The Men are two 13-year-olds, Laranjinha and Acerola. See the humor and reality of “favela” life of two best friends in one of the world’s most volatile communities.

***Eccentricities of a Blonde-Haired Girl* (DVD FOREIGN ECC)** 64 min. 2010. A young accountant falls helplessly in love with a mysterious blond woman he spies through his office window, and she proceeds to turn his life upside down.

***Favela Rising* (361.1 DVD FAV)** Chiefly in Portuguese with English captions. 82 min. 2005. Haunted by the murders of his family and many friends, former drug-trafficker Anderson Sa and the Grupo Cultural AfroReggae, now social revolutionaries, are working to unite a Rio slum, or favela, against a violent drug industry and police oppression.

***God is Brazilian* (DVD FOREIGN GOD)** 110 min. 2002. God decides to take a vacation - but first He has to find a saint to rule the universe while He's away. He goes to Brazil's northeast, where He believes there's a very good man for the job. During His mission, He becomes the friend of a very smart young man, Taoca.

***Hollow City* (DVD FOREIGN HOL)** 88 min. 2004. N'dala is an Angolan orphan from Bie province, a flashpoint in the rebellion that incited civil war. In 1991, N'dala is airlifted by missionaries to Luanda, Angola's capital. He slips away from the nuns, choosing the city streets, but he is not prepared to live by his wits. He takes shelter in a fisherman's shack, but he is haunted by nightmares of his family’s murder, and he disappears into the shanty-town neighborhoods. Each step into the dark city streets leads him farther from home.

***Hour of the Star* (DVD FOREIGN HOU)** 96 min. 1986. This adaptation of the novel by Clarice Lispector tracks the ordeals of Macabea during her first days in Sao Paulo after emigration from the impoverished north.

***The House of Sand* (DVD FOREIGN HOU)** In Portuguese, with English, French, or Portuguese captions. 103 min. 2005. A woman and her mother are sent to an island and spend almost 60 years trying to leave it. Follow three generations of the family as they try to find happiness on a lagoon surrounded by shifting dunes.

***The Man of the Year* (DVD FOREIGN MAN)** 106 min. 2003. Maiquel loses a bet and dyes his hair blonde. This triggers a collision with destiny in which Maiquel goes from nobody to hero to outlaw — in 24 hours.

***The Man Who Copied* (DVD FOREIGN MAN)** 123 min. 2003. Romance and intrigue await a poor copy machine operator who learns that counterfeiting and murder are a lethal combination in this Brazilian thriller that blends good-humored romanticism, poignant social observations, and exciting action.

***Manda Bala (Send a Bullet)* (364.154 DVD MAN)** In English or Portuguese with captions in English and Spanish. 85 min. 2007. The practice of kidnapping in Brazil, which has arisen from a climate of political and societal corruption, is examined.

***Mango Yellow* (DVD FOREIGN MAN)** 103 min. 2005. The lives of several shantytown citizens in Recife, Brazil intertwine as they search for meaning in life.

Middle of the World (DVD FOREIGN MID) 86 min. 2003. Based on a true story. A couple and their five children – ages ranging from 6 months to 14 years old – travel 3,200 km by bicycle to chase a dream. Romao, an illiterate and unemployed truck driver, and his wife Rose leave the State of Paraiba in Brazil, and over the course of six months, travel across five states to reach Rio de Janeiro in a quest for a job and a decent life.

Pixote (DVD FOREIGN PIX) 127 min. 1981. Ten-year-old Pixote (Portuguese slang for 'Peewee') is one of three million homeless children in Brazil. Hauled off to a detention center, Pixote witnesses rapes, beatings and other acts of violence by the guards and the inmates. With the transvestite Lilica and his lover Dito, Pixote escapes from the reform school where they hit the streets alone, embarking on a life of violence and crime.

Quilombo (DVD FOREIGN QUI) 114 min. 1984. The title refers to a legendary settlement of runaway slaves in 17th-century Brazil; and the film chronicles the settlement's fortunes as leadership passes from a wise ruler to a more militant one who goes to war against the government.

A Talking Picture (DVD FOREIGN TAL) In Portuguese, Greek, or French, with English captions. 93 min. 2003. Eight-year-old Maria and her history professor mother embark on an ocean cruise from Portugal to Bombay, India. As three mysterious and glamorous women board the ship, their picturesque journey begins to grow in tension and complexity.

Testamento (DVD FOREIGN TES) 112 min. 1998. Cape Verde's leading citizen leaves his fortune to the daughter no one knew he had. As part of her inheritance, Graca receives a set of audiocassettes containing her father's personal accounts of his wild, romantic, and often dubious exploits.

They Killed Sister Dorothy (303.484 DVD THE) In English or Portuguese, with English captions. 94 min. 2008. At the mouth of the Amazon River, a murder trial is taking place. The victim, Sister Dorothy Stang, a 73-year-old Catholic nun from Dayton, Ohio, was shot six times at point blank range. The events that led to her death, and the trials that follow, reveal the larger battle being fought for the future of the rainforest. This film follows the real-life drama at the trials of Dorothy's killers.

To the Left of the Father (DVD FOREIGN TO) 172 min. 2006. Torn by an unresolved incestuous past with his younger sister, Pedro has to choose between a life of utopian freedom, removed from all past connections, or re-engagement with strict patriarchal norms that would accompany a return to his religious family.

The Year My Parents Went on Vacation (DVD FOREIGN YEA) 99 min. 2007. Twelve-year-old Mauro is left to fend for himself when his parents go on vacation during the Communist regime in 1970s Brazil. The culturally diverse community of São Paulo unites to watch Péle lead his country to win soccer's World Cup.

Other Films on Brazilian/Portuguese Topics

***Families of Brazil* (J 306.85 DVD FAM)** 30 min. 2005. Witness a day in the lives of two young children and their families in Brazil.

***Maria Bethania: Tempo Tempo Tempo Tempo* (DVD CONCERT BET)** 122 min. 2006. In 2005, Brazilian superstar Maria Bethania, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of her career, presented her show throughout Brazil; Portugal; Spain and Argentina to sold-out audiences. Recorded live, in August 2005, at Cie Music Hall, in Sao Paulo.

***Maria Rita* (DVD CONCERT MAR)** 120 min. 2003. Maria Rita is the top new sensation in today's Brazilian music. This DVD is a historical documentary, an essential source for those who wish to understand the "magic" behind her enchanting singing talent.

***The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima* (DVD FAMILY MIR)** In English. 102 min. 2006. This film is based on actual 1917 events outside Fatima, Portugal, where three shepherd children reported visions of the Virgin Mary and confronted anticlerical government oppression in the process.

