



a family road movie into the past

Year: 2014

Genre: Documentary

Length: 55 minutes

Color and Black & White

Short Synopsis:

A Jewish family goes on a journey from Brazil to Moldova in search of a lost grave. What else might they find in a troubled foreign land?

Long Synopsis:

In 1931, Abram Tolpolar and his wife Rachel emigrated from Moldova to southern Brazil. Seventy seven years later, their only child, Mauro Tolpolar, made the trip back. Accompanied by his two kids, who never knew their grandparents, Mauro visited his parents birth-place and also found clues to an unrevealed past. Having as a starting point only one remaining photograph of a lost grave, the Tolpolars drove through ancient villages, walked in the bushes of abandoned cemeteries and met locals, looking for what happened to their relatives who disappeared during the Holocaust.

Screenings:

Mamaliga Blues has been screened at the Doc Shop in Canada, at the South East European Film Festival in Los Angeles, at the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Utah and it will be screened at the Miami Jewish Film Festival and at the Gramado Latin Film Festival in Brazil. Screenings in New York, Atlanta, New Jersey and in other Brazilian cities are being arranged.

The Director:

Cassio Tolpolar was born and raised in the south of Brazil. He worked for seven years as an Assistant Director on various documentaries, short films, TV shows and commercials. Cassio's debut as a Director and Writer, the short *Venus*, was screened in a number of film festivals around the world and won several awards, including Best Director and Best Cinematography. It led him to direct for television and, ultimately, to move to the USA and complete the MFA in Film at the San Francisco Art Institute. He has been affiliated with film institutions such as Sundance (Sundance/NHK Award and the Film Festival), Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival and San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. Upon his arrival in the US, he worked in a number of experimental short films, TV shows and documentaries. Cassio has recently returned to Brazil, where he is promoting *Mamaliga Blues* and developing *All the Other Planets*, a fiction feature film.

Production notes:

- The film took 9 years to be completed, and included 2 trips to Moldova, 1 to Brazil and 1 to New York, USA.
- It took 2 years to get a visa to Moldova
- The film is spoken in English, Russian, Romenian, Portuguese and Yiddish.
- *Mamaliga Blues* was financed through a successful Indie GoGo campaign, private donations and personal funds.

- It is a Brazil/US co-production
- Before the research for the film, the Jewish cemetery of Vadul Raskov was unclassified and not included in any listings.
- The shootings brought together Jews and non-Jews, locals and foreigners, in the search for the lost grave of Meyer and Ene Tolpolar

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQHS2c9-f9M>

Website: www.mamaligablues.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mamaligablues

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mamaligablues>

Blog: <http://moldovaimpressions.blogspot.com.br/>

Contact:
Cassio Tolpolar
tolpolar@yahoo.com

