

OPEN LETTER IN DEFENSE OF THE AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICAL CENTER (CTAv) AND THE CINEMATECA BRASILEIRA

On August 7, 2020, the Audiovisual Secretariat (SAv), linked to the Ministry of Tourism, received the keys to the Cinemateca Brasileira after the managing contract with the social organization ACERP - Associação de Comunicação Educativa Roquette Pinto was abruptly interrupted. Since then, even after meetings with associations and promises to resolve the administrative impasse, the institution's direction remains uncertain and the collection remains unprotected. On September 16, Edianne Paulo de Abreu was appointed to the General Coordination of Centro Técnico Audiovisual (CTAv), a federal entity also linked to the Audiovisual Secretariat. The two organizations belonging to the Ministry of Tourism and responsible for the preservation of the Brazilian audiovisual heritage have their management structures weakened. On the one hand, a film archive with no specialized command, nor resources to manage the largest audiovisual collection in the country; on the other, an institution that is led by a professional without specific technical knowledge and training to manage an organ with such complexity and importance.

CTAv was created in 1985 out of a technical cooperation agreement between Embrafilme and the National Film Board of Canada, with the mission of supporting, training, disseminating and preserving Brazilian audiovisual culture. Since then, CTAv has supported the production of films and series with the assignment of filming and finishing equipment in partnerships established through public notices. Its valuable audiovisual collection includes materials dating back to the 1930s and consists of around 6,000 titles and 30,000 reels of film, in addition to 20,000 photographic negatives and almost 2,000 posters. Among the works, most of the filmography of the pioneer Humberto Mauro and classics of Brazilian animation. The new technical reserve, launched in 2013, has the ideal climatic parameters for the conservation of films and has a capacity for 100 thousand reels. Its existence is fundamental for the audiovisual community and, due to its specific competences, the institution needs to be led by a professional with experience in the sector.

The associations here subscribed come to express enormous concern with the direction taken by the Audiovisual Secretariat in relation to the institutions responsible for the preservation of the Brazilian audiovisual heritage and for supporting independent production. Producers, filmmakers, artists, curators, researchers and film programmers depend on access to these collections and institutions for the continuity of their work. It is not only the audiovisual preservation that is weakened at this moment, but the entire chain of Brazilian audiovisual production is at risk. The absence of concrete actions to resolve the administrative vacuum of the Cinemateca Brasileira and the appointment of an inexperienced coordinator for the management of CTAv weaken the Brazilian audiovisual.

Public policies must be formulated with the productive sector and civil society - and never be in the wake of electoral interests. We therefore defend the importance of a fundamental principle of public management: the need for technical appointments for public bodies, with recognition of the technical, administrative and cultural characteristics of institutions linked to Brazilian audiovisual and the merit of specialized professionals in the area.

São Paulo, September 21st, 2020

ABPA - Brazilian Association of Audiovisual Preservation

ABRACI - Brazilian Association of Filmmakers
APAN - Association of Black Audiovisual Professionals
ABRACCINE - Brazilian Association of Film Critics
SOCINE - Brazilian Society of Cinema Studies
ABCA - Brazilian Animation Film Association
ANDAI - National Association of Independent Distributors
API - Association of Independent Brazilian Audiovisual Producers
ABD-SP - Brazilian Association of Documentary Filmmakers and Short Filmmakers of São Paulo
ABD-DF- Brazilian Association of Documentary Filmmakers and Short Filmmakers of the Federal District
ABD-GOIÁS - Brazilian Association of Documentary Filmmakers and Short Filmmakers from Goiás
APTC-RS - Professional Association of Cinematographic Technicians of RS
SOS Cinemateca-APACI - São Paulo Association of Filmmakers
ABCV - Brasília's Cinema and Video Association
STIC - Interstate Union of Workers in Cinematographic and Audiovisual - RJ
SINDCINE - Union of Workers in the Film and Audiovisual Industry of the States of São Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goiás, Tocantins and the Federal District
SIAESP - Union of the Audiovisual Industry of the State of São Paulo