

IFC Center NEWS

**An indie film guide to the 101 best ways to take shelter from the storm this winter**

Posted 01/11/2011 230 PM by Stephen Saito

### **MISTS**

Director: Ricardo Costa

Fest Cred: Venice

**The Gist:** It's been a number of years since Portuguese filmmaker Costa premiered "Mists" at the 2003 Venice Film Festival, but not nearly as long as the time he seeks to capture in this fiction/nonfiction hybrid about his reunion with the maid at his parents' home after 50 years away. What emerges is a history of her humble life in a fisherman's village near the sea.

<http://www.ifc.com/news/2011/01/winter-preview-2011.php?page=12>

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**MISTS: MEMORY AND MEANING IN PENICHE, PORTUGAL** (Village Voice, Mar 23 2011)

By Michelle Orange

"A city symphony composed in a Mediterranean tempo, Mists is also a personal look at the way certain memories imprint over time. (...) Costa turns from the meditative examination of old photos to a series of quotidian scenes so slow-moving, they could be tableaux. (...) Costa appears occasionally, a motif in his own memory, wearing dark sunglasses while he holds a boom mic above the rustling waves or watches Maria José's soccer-loving great-grandsons shift from shyness to swagger in a moment. There is little dialogue and no proper narrative; what Costa shows us about life in Peniche is elusive by definition and will be recognized intuitively by those who remember their own limitless yet securely circumscribed childhood afternoons".

ARTICLE : [http://www.villagevoice.com/2011-03-23/film/mists-memory-and-meaning-in-peniche-portugal/?\\_r=true](http://www.villagevoice.com/2011-03-23/film/mists-memory-and-meaning-in-peniche-portugal/?_r=true)

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**MISTS** (Film Journal, March 23, 2011)

By Eric Monder

“*Mists* tells the story of a people as much as a place in a nonlinear fashion that demands patience but is worth viewer effort. Ricardo Costa’s feature will remind some of the work of the great French New Wave documentarians, though it is less visually intriguing. Still, the concept works well enough. (...) documentarians, though it is less visually intriguing. Still, the concept works well enough. (...) Costa’s dialectical editing of the footage is what makes *Mists* a unique experience. (...) In any case, *Mists* is more concerned with the impact of past events on the present and how memory and storytelling could hold the key to ending a cycle of violence and suffering. By cutting from one character and story to another and invoking the past without the aid of archival materials, Costa creates more of a cinematic essay than a documentary per se, and that makes *Mists* a wise and thoughtful work. What it lacks in “art,” it makes up for in ideas and insight. Hopefully, audiences will appreciate that”.

ARTICLE: [http://www.filmjournal.com/filmjournal/content\\_display/reviews/specialty-releases/e3i26b29a3490ac459fa74a4267b7d67e57](http://www.filmjournal.com/filmjournal/content_display/reviews/specialty-releases/e3i26b29a3490ac459fa74a4267b7d67e57)

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**TIME, AND AGAIN, GLIMPSES OF YOUTH** (New York Times, March 24, 2011)

By Neil Genzlinger

“Ricardo Costa prefers realism of the rambling variety in “*Mists*,” a documentary-ish film that looks in on Peniche, the Portuguese fishing town where he spent his childhood. It starts out as if it’s going to be a simple story of reuniting with the now-graying housemaid who helped raise him, but it isn’t really about her. Instead it sketches an impressionistic portrait of a town simultaneously removed from the world and touched by it”.

ARTICLE : <http://movies.nytimes.com/2011/03/25/movies/time-and-again-glimpses-of-youth.html>

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**MISTS** (Slant Magazine, March 25, 2011)

by Diego Costa

“Portuguese filmmaker Ricardo Costa contemplates his hometown, Peniche, by re-encountering his former nanny (Maria José), 50 years later, in *Mists*. Akin to Pedro

Costa's meditations on affect and geography through the delicate probing of real people "doing real things, this is a lovely essay film/documentary about the ruthlessness of time and the soothing power of remembrance.

There is a gentle lack of artificial intrusions in the frame. People's stories are etched on their faces unabashedly, their photographs nailed to the wall on the corners until they disintegrate. With their toy guns, sharp knives, video games, and jumping off cliffs into the ocean, boys play in the same space where adults work".

ARTICLE : <http://slantmagazine.com/film/review/mists/5372>

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## **MISTS** (Gurubootcamp)

By Eric Monder

"Mists seems at first to be a travelogue of a segment (in this case, Peniche, Portugal), yet afterwards moves in another, reduction approaching direction. Director-producer-cinematographer-editor Ricardo Costa integrates reportage of his hometown encampment on a sea, shot in 2001, with Proustian narratives about his former nanny and parents' housekeeper, Maria José (now a great-grandmother), and a local figure, Dias Lourenco, a one-time restrained during a Salazar regime of a 1970s. History and existence accommodate during a filming as 9/11 shatters a now pacific existence of an area once marked by a possess tragedy following a Carnation Revolution of 1974".

ARTICLE: <http://gurubootcamp.net/movies/film-review-mists>

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