

In 1998, Kate Cunningham (producer/director) volunteered on the farm, COOPCAL. Learning first-hand the poignant difficulties associated with establishing a viable existence from raw land, she was moved by the farmers' dedication to the movement and to building their collective. While the MST battles their negative media portrayal, the COOPCAL community wants to share their struggle and has expressed their willingness and desire to participate in the production of this film.

With assistance from Projectile Arts, Inc., Kate was able to raise funds from private individuals for the initial pre-production trip. In January, 2003, she returned to Brazil with a small crew to reconnect with COOPCAL and establish relationships with crucial leaders and supporters of the MST.



Kate with kids at COOPCAL, 2003.

The crew attended the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre to make contacts and view the MST within the context of other progressive social movements from around the world. They then lived at COOPCAL for three weeks to strengthen their relationship with the cooperative and begin exploring the story of their struggle and development.

While in Porto Alegre, the crew interviewed Brazilian State Representative Luciana Genro of the Worker's Party; Miguel Stedile, MST activist and son of the founding father of the movement; and, Professor Noam Chomsky of MIT. Upon returning to the States, they did a follow up interview with Professor Chomsky to discuss the significance of social movements, the viability of a cooperative model, and the necessity for global social change.

Kate's vision for the film is to document the cooperative over time, enabling viewers to experience their daily life, their struggle, and their development. Current efforts have been focused on raising funds to enable the upcoming production trip back to Brazil, scheduled for January, 2004.

Terra Livre will be shot in 16 mm film, digital, and High-Definition video. The initial shoot was filmed in DVCam.



Producer/Director: Kate Cunningham
Cinematographer: Kelly Riley
Production Assistant/Translator: Sandra Lourenço

Co-Producer: Tiffany Kearney
Associate Producer: Nicole Jaquis

Terra Livre is a Projectile Arts production. Projectile Arts is a non-profit (501c3) organization dedicated to fostering dialogue between different cultures and communities through the arts, with an emphasis on experience rather than analysis. Productions focus on education through entertainment and creative expression, using art as a tool for communication and understanding in a variety of media. We collaborate with promising young artists and producers, often immersing them in unfamiliar worlds where they can gain new inspiration for their work and interact directly in the environment to share their experiences through their respective disciplines.

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