

THE JOURNEY OF AN AMERICAN MUSICIAN WHO CROSSED BORDERS
TO BECOME AN AMBASSADOR OF THE BRAZILIAN SOUL.

BRASILIANA

THE FILM

A FILM BY THIAGO S. BARBOSA
MATCH FRAME FILMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH FACULDADE SOUZA LIMA



ABOUT BRASILIANA

Brasiliana follows American guitarist and educator Mark Tonelli on a personal journey into Brazilian music. Drawn to the sounds of Brazilian legend Antônio Carlos Jobim since childhood, Mark sets out to experience Brazil firsthand. But what begins as curiosity becomes something far more transformative—the journey reshapes his artistic voice and leads him to become a powerful advocate for Brazilian culture, bringing its music to universities, concert halls, and audiences across the United States.

FORMAT

- Genre: Documentary
- Runtime: 50 minutes
- Status: Completed (2026)
- Language: English and Portuguese
- Subtitles: Portuguese (Brazil); English; Spanish

MARK TONELLI

Mark Tonelli is a guitarist, composer, and educator whose work lives at the intersection of jazz and Brazilian music. A two-time Fulbright Scholar, he has spent years immersed in Brazil's musical culture, an experience that continues to shape both his sound and his creative voice.

Over a 25-year career, Tonelli has performed internationally across the U.S., South America, Europe, and beyond. He is also the founder of Afolia, a St. Louis-based ensemble dedicated to Brazilian music. The group has been featured on KMOV Channel 4's Emmy-nominated program The Stage. Tonelli holds degrees from William Paterson University, the University of North Texas, and Columbia University, and currently serves as Associate Professor of Music and Coordinator of Guitar Studies at Millikin University.

His connection to Brazil runs deep. Over the course of just a few years, he traveled there more than a dozen times. His latest project, *Brasiliana*, brings those influences into focus, blending modern jazz with Brazilian rhythm, melody, and harmony. The album—and the story behind it—forms the basis of *Brasiliana — The Film*.





THIAGO S. BARBOSA

A director, editor, and musician based in São Paulo, Thiago brings over 15 years of experience in the audiovisual industry. He began his career in production on the Brazilian version of American Idol, before moving into post-production, where he worked with major companies including MTV, Endemol, Studio Lambert, and Fremantle Media.

For more than a decade, Thiago has edited and finalized projects for leading platforms such as Netflix, Universal, Discovery, and HBO. His credits include the series Adotada (International Emmy nominee, 2016) and the documentary De Castro, which earned Best Editing at the Cinema South Festival (Israel, 2022) and was selected for both the MIRA – Latin America Independent Film Festival and the Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival in the United States.

With Brasiliana, Thiago makes his directorial debut—bringing together his musical sensibility and editorial craft to tell a story that bridges cultures. The film explores the connection between Brazil and the United States through the journey of an American musician drawn deeply into Brazilian music.

ORIGINAL MUSIC

Unlike a traditional biographical documentary, the soundtrack for Brasiliana springs from the very soul of its protagonist. Mark Tonelli does not merely narrate his journey—he translates it into music.

The original tracks, recorded in Brazil and mixed in the United States, capture American jazz sensibilities that give way to Brazilian syncopation and lyricism.

SONGS

Praça Jardim Finotti

Four Sided Circle

Minha Felicidade é Estar Com Você

Bloco 3M

End Of An era



MUSICIANS



RAPHAEL FERREIRA

A Brazilian saxophonist, Raphael Ferreira has performed around the world, and has recorded dozens of albums. A Latin Grammy Award winner and former member of Hermeto Pascoal's band, he holds a doctorate in music and is a university professor.



GUILHERME RIBEIRO

A pianist, accordionist, composer, and arranger, Guilherme Ribeiro has firmly established himself in the Brazilian instrumental music scene, collaborating with leading artists and performing at festivals in many countries.



RICHARD METAIRON

Richard Metairon is a Brazilian bassist who graduated from the Centre de Musique Didier Lockwood in Paris. He has performed at major national and international festivals such as the Jazz sous les Pommiers Festival, Jazz a Couches Festival, and Montreux Jazz Festival.



RODRIGO 'DIGÃO' BRAZ

Rodrigo 'Digão' Braz is a Brazilian drummer and composer. His career includes works with renowned artists such as Hermeto Pascoal, Amaro Freitas, and Alec Orea. Digão is also a music educator and judge in the percussion category at the Rio de Janeiro Carnival.

HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

The narrative of *Brasiliana* is driven by a transformative musical dialogue. The film weaves original compositions with historical archive footage used as primary source material to trace Mark Tonelli's personal and educational journey.

These excerpts are not merely a soundtrack— they are critical artifacts that illustrate the pedagogical and political evolution of Brazilian music, serving as the essential foundation for the protagonist's mission as a cultural ambassador in the United States.

- Original Music Rights: All original tracks composed and performed by Mark Tonelli.
- Archive Usage: Selected historical clips used under "Fair Use" and "Right of Quotation" guidelines for biographical and educational purposes.
- Incidental Music: Additional atmospheric tracks licensed via Artlist.



CANVA STORIES

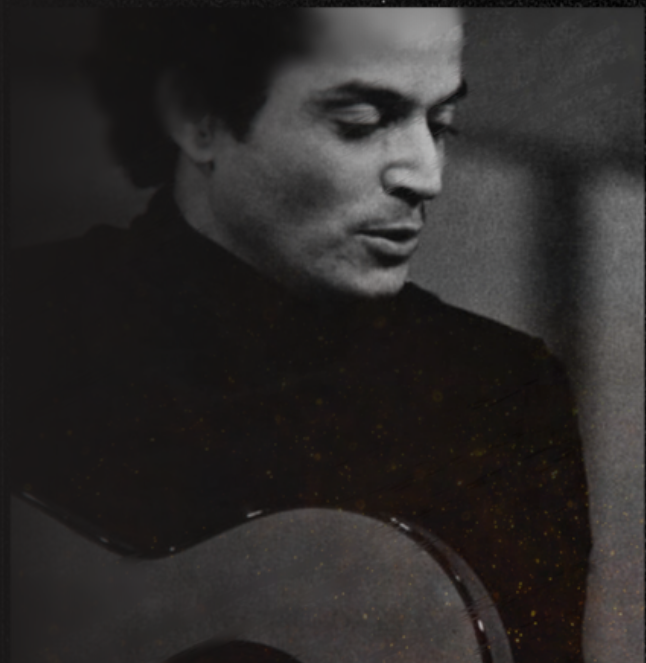
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CANVA STORIES



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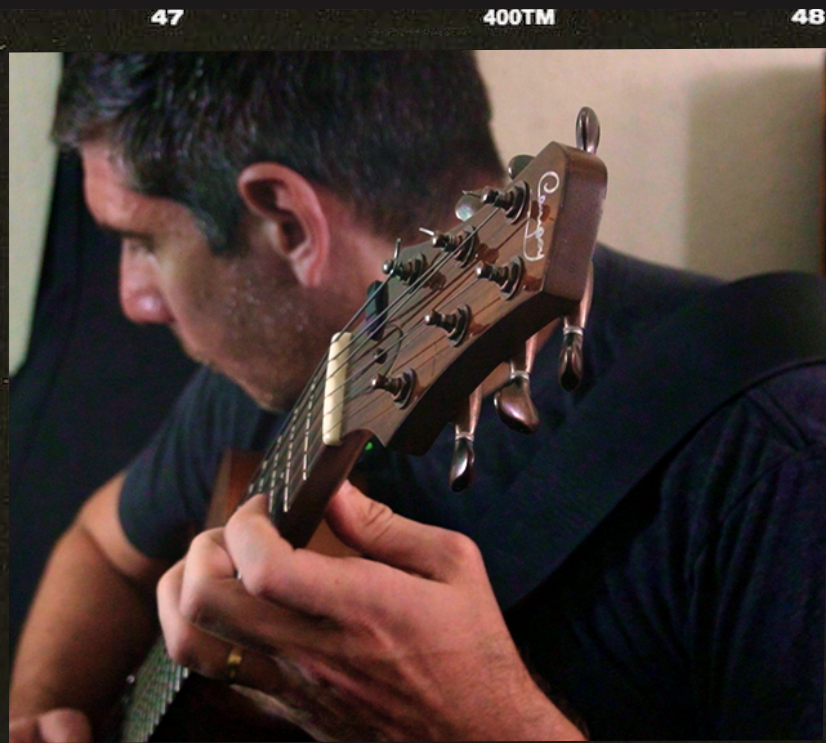
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F20



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CANVA STORIES F20



MATCH·FRAME
FILMS



BRASILIANA

- Directed and Edited by: Thiago S. Barbosa
- Original Music and Performance by: Mark Tonelli
- Executive Production: Mark Tonelli
- Sound & Mix: Giuliano Polacco and Kevin Garnieri
- Location: Brazil (Minas Gerais / São Paulo) and USA (Illinois / New Jersey / Missouri)
- Running Time: 50 minutes | Format: FHD | Aspect Ratio: 16:9

