



presents

PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY

A film by Daniel Augusto



In Portuguese and Spanish with English subtitles

Unrated | 112 min. | Brazil, Spain | 2014

Press Materials: <http://www.musicboxfilms.com/paulocoelho-press>

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TECHNICAL INFO

Title: Paulo Coelho's Best Story
Original title: Não Pare na Pista - A Melhor História de Paulo Coelho
Genre: Biopic
Length: 112 min.
Languages: Portuguese, Spanish

Shooting period: May & June 2013
Shooting locations: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Galicia, Spain

Final format: DCP (digital cinema format)
Completion: Fall 2014
Production: Dama Filmes Babel Films G5|Evercore

Cast

Paulo Coelho	Júlio Andrade
Young Paulo Coelho	Ravel Andrade
Jay	Nancho Novo
Christina Oiticicca	Fabiana Gugli Ana Letícia Colin
Lygia Souza	Fabíula Nascimento
Pedro Souza	Enrique Díaz
Raul Seixas	Lucci Ferreira
Luiza	Paz Vega

Crew

Director:	Daniel Augusto
Screenplay:	Carolina Kotscho
Producers:	Iôna de Macêdo, Carolina Kotscho, Angélica Huete
Cinematographer:	Jacob Solitrenick
Editors:	Leticia Giffoni, Daniel Augusto
Production design:	Antxón Gómez
Costumes:	Ana Avelar
Music:	Pascal Gaigne
Sound:	Martin Grignaschi

SYNOPSIS

Global phenomenon Paulo Coelho was not always the best-selling inspirational author he is today. For decades he searched for his calling, just like the allegorical heroes in spiritual classics *The Alchemist* and *The Pilgrimage*. Growing up in Sao Paulo as a misunderstood young rebel, Coelho alternately flirted with death, escaped madness, experimented with drugs, survived torture, fell in and out of love, and made rock history in Brazil...all the while never giving up on his biggest dream: to triumph as a writer.

A wild ride through a lifetime of stranger-than-fiction adventures, this profoundly moving film goes straight to the heart of the most beloved literary guru of our time, an everyman whose simple wish started small and grew to encompass the world. Tracing his journey from humble roots to eventual emergence as the prolific author of 30 books that have sold over 165 million copies, PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY reveals the most unbelievable wonder of all: the man behind the masterpieces.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Global phenomenon Paulo Coelho was not always the best-selling inspirational author he is today. For decades he searched for his calling, just like the allegorical heroes in spiritual classics *The Alchemist* and *The Pilgrimage*. Tracing his journey from humble roots to eventual emergence as the prolific author of 30 books that have sold over 165 million copies, PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY reveals the most unbelievable wonder of all: the man behind the masterpieces.

LOGLINE

PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY traces the journey of the prolific author of *The Alchemist* from his humble roots to his triumph as a literary guru to millions, revealing the most unbelievable wonder of all: the man behind the masterpieces.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

To direct a film about Paulo Coelho's life is a gift to any filmmaker. Also, to make a movie written by Carolina Kotscho is something I have wanted to do for years. I have always admired her work.

A director's contribution to a film is proportional to the scope of his duties. In a humorous account, Elia Kazan said that the director is a sort of 'man with the answers'. From the time he gets out of bed to go to the set, to the end of a day of shooting, the director is the person who answers to a 'mercilessly long list of questions.'

Quoting Kazan to describe a director's contribution to a film, however, is not enough in my case. **PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY** has also been a great gift. I am in my 40s now and, ever since I was a child, my dream was to be a feature film director.

However, my career took me to different paths and I directed a number of short films, documentaries and TV programs; in other words, works that did not fully challenge my skills, what I had really prepared myself to do. Today, I stand as an unlikely combination of "beginner" (as it is my first feature film) and a "veteran" (a 20-year directing career) and am finally able to put the most essential part of my training to practice. Those who are familiar with my work, like the short *PornKaraoke*, will certainly recognize in **PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY** a preference for non-linear narrative, a particular way of framing and using lenses, a certain pace in the editing, a search for aesthetics that are characteristic of what I have done so far.

The opportunity to bring all the elements I nurtured through the years into a feature film is a gift to me: the wonderful contribution to **PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY**.

-Daniel Augusto, 2015

PRODUCERS' STATEMENTS

Paulo Coelho's personal experience is unique, but his relentless and obstinate search for the sense of life is universal. While searching for his place in the world, the writer found answers to common afflictions, managed to translate them into words, and to share with his readers the encouragement of discovering what seems obvious to him today: only the present counts, only love matters.

At first sight, Paulo is what can be expected from "The Magus" as he is known: a strong, mysterious, unique and intangible figure. Little by little, he reveals himself as a very cultivated and intelligent man, provocative and funny. And deep down inside, I realize that the distrustful and rebellious boy, a man in love with his wife like a teenager and a man with extraordinarily common conflicts live within him. There, I find the pilgrim. And I realize that Paulo Coelho's true history is even better than all the stories he has made up and that are so successful throughout the world. Above all, it becomes clear to me that the secret to Paulo's success lies in the frankness, courage and generosity with which he shares his stories with his readers: for better, for worse, in sickness and in health.

In film, we say that a character is not what he says, but what he does. This is also true for life: we know a person through his or her actions, not through words. After researching his life through the years, I can say that he is one of these rare persons whose words are absolutely consistent with his acts. I can state that when he says "try again" in a song, or "those who don't give up on pursuing their dream will ultimately win" in a book, he knows exactly what he is talking about.

It is always a big challenge to tell a life story in two hours. Quite beyond the challenge, to tell the story of a great storyteller like Paulo Coelho is a great pleasure. I can only thank him for his trust and tell him that I am honored to help telling his history in **PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY**. An amazing story; an example to us all.

-Carolina Kotscho, 2015

Producing a film is a small miracle. So many elements have to come together for a project to come out of the paper, and the combination of these elements often seems to be imponderable.

Producing **PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY** has been a fabulous experience. All the elements that were added to the project along the years shared the original view that Carolina and I had as producers when we joined forces to make the film. Starting with Renato Klarnet, our financial partner and "angel", the G5|Evercore team, and going through our director Daniel Augusto, our amazing cast headed by the brothers Júlio and Ravel Andrade, and an enviable technical team, all embraced the project with the same passion that we shared about such a powerful story as is Paulo Coelho's.

The fact that the film was a co-production with Spain has also afforded us unique moments of blending of cultures. It is wonderful to see the result of the work of talents such as Antxón Gómez, our Production Designer, and the Brazilian Art Department. Antxón landed in Brazil with the hard task of creating the sets of three different periods in a country where he had never worked.

We also counted on the impressive work of DDT's team to create Júlio Andrade's special effects make-up as Paulo Coelho in present times. But "the mask" could have been a burden were it not for the tremendous patience of our lead actor who endured several hours of make-up in the hands of the brilliant Stephen Murphy. Likewise, there was such chemistry between Paz Vega and Júlio that the actress felt at home as she worked for the first time in Brazil and in Portuguese.

The moment when Daniel Augusto said the last "cut" in Santiago de Compostela is a memory that I will carry with me forever – the tears and smiles stamped on the faces of our team who did not want the experience to end. These are the very special moments that I take from **PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY**; the feeling of having built a family of alchemists who have operated a small miracle.

- Iôna de Macêdo, 2015

Ever since I have embarked on the adventure of co-producing **PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY**, I was sure that we were making a great film. I am very thankful to Iôna de Macêdo and Carolina Kotscho for inviting me to be a part of the project.

Making films in Spain is no easy task these days. In this context, taking part in a co-production with international visibility is a great privilege. I am delighted by the final result. Daniel Augusto has a very special style as a director and the pulse to tell this challenging story.

Babel Films contributed to the project by bringing the Spanish team to the mix. We coordinated the Spanish shoot ensuring that, together and in spite cultural differences, we would speak the international language of cinema. We walked "the Way" and arrived at Santiago de Compostela at the end of the shoot knowing that we had been part of a great experience and that, what seemed to be the end, was nothing but a new beginning.

- Angélica Huete, 2015

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

DANIEL AUGUSTO, DIRECTOR

Daniel Augusto was born in São Paulo, Brazil in 1972. For 19 years, the filmmaker's restless mind has questioned the world through images and words. In 2014, Augusto completed his first feature film, **PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY**, bringing a sizable amount of experience in documentaries, short films and video clips to the project.

To his credit, Daniel signs a collection of over 300 hours of audiovisual content, covering various topics and audiences, especially young viewers, always with a striking aesthetic and a keen and sharp eye.

His short film *PornKaraoke* was considered "one of the best and most intriguing Brazilian films of today" by renowned Brazilian critic Luis Carlos Merten (Estado de S. Paulo, 29/08/2012). The film was screened in Venice (Circuit Off Venice), Switzerland (Shnit Shortfilmfestival, Bern), Mexico (FIC Monterrey), France (Fest'AFilm, Montpellier) and the International Short Film Festival of São Paulo, to name a few.

CAROLINA KOTSCHO, SCREENWRITER AND PRODUCER

Carolina Kotscho is a writer and film and television producer. Throughout her career, she coordinated the development, wrote, produced or directed over 60 TV series, films, and documentaries. She made her screenwriting debut with *THE 2 SONS OF FRANCISCO* (2005), directed by Breno Silveira, one of the biggest Brazilian box office successes of all times which brought more than 5.4 million people to the theatres. Over the past years, Carolina has been involved in ten new film projects as a screenwriter, working with some of the most respected directors in the country.

In 2009, she created Dama Filmes with Iôna de Macêdo and was president of AC (Brazil's foremost screenwriters' association). Since 2011, she has been a part of Rede Globo's prestigious pool of screenwriters where she created the one-hour drama series *A Teia* [The Web] in partnership with Bráulio Mantovani. Carolina signs the screenplay and the production of **THE PAULO COELHO STORY**.

IONA DE MACEDO, PRODUCER

A native of Brazil and educated in the USA and France, Iôna has been an active member of the international audiovisual industry since 1989, when she began as a sales agent at Pandora, France. She then worked in TV programming and acquisitions at TVI/ Portugal.

Between 1997 and 2007, Iôna occupied several positions at Sony Pictures Entertainment both in Latin America and Europe – the last being SVP of European Productions for Columbia Pictures. During her tenure at the studio, she oversaw the productions of titles such as CASTELO RA-TIM-BUM, ME YOU THEM, CARANDIRÚ, and BOSSA NOVA to name a few Brazilian features. In Europe, she was responsible for the production of such commercial successes as DI QUE SI, starring Paz Vega, in Spain, and MELISSA P. in Italy, among others. Since her departure from Sony in 2008, Iôna has produced the Feature Documentary UN INSTANTE PRECISO about the work of Uruguayan Musician Jorge Drexler and has executive produced Andrucha Waddington's LOPE. In 2009, Iôna partnered with Carolina Kotscho to create Dama Filmes.

ANGELICA HUETE, CO-PRODUCER

Angélica Huete, an experienced director of production and producer of Spanish films with relevant international careers, founded Babel Films in 1996. In 2013, Angélica Huete received her fourth nomination for the prestigious Goya Award for Best Production Supervision for her work in THE ARTIST AND THE MODEL by Fernando Trueba, a director she has collaborated with for over twenty years. In 1998, Angélica won the Goya for her work in Trueba's feature film THE GIRL OF YOUR DREAMS. She was nominated on two other occasions, once for DON'T TEMPT ME by Agustín Díaz Yanes, and once for LA CELESTINA by Gerardo Vera.

Her first collaboration with Trueba, BELLE ÉPOQUE, won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 1993. The film was nominated for seventeen Goya Awards and won thirteen, including Best Picture. THE GIRL OF YOUR DREAMS and CHICO & RITA, both featuring the Trueba/Huete duo were also nominated for an Oscar.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

JÚLIO ANDRADE (PAULO COELHO)

In addition to the actor's striking resemblance to Paulo Coelho, Júlio Andrade is known for his chameleonic talent. He has portrayed some of Brazilian culture's emblematic characters, such as Raul Seixas in the series *Por Toda A Minha Vida* (Rede Globo) and Gonzaguinha in the feature *GONZAGA: DE PAI PARA FILHO* (2012) by Breno Silveira, for which he was awarded the Best Actor Prize in Brazilian Film's Cinema Awards (Grande Prêmio do Cinema Brasileiro).

He also starred in *SERRA PELADA* by Heitor Dhalia (2013), *HOTEL ATLÂNTICO* by Suzana Amaral (2009), *CÃO SEM DONO* by Beto Brant (2007) and *O HOMEM QUE COPIAVA* by Jorge Furtado (2003). Júlio is currently one of the leading stars of the small screen in Rede Globo's prime time series *O Rebu*.

Testimonials on the film:

"Telling the history of an icon of worldwide literature is a great responsibility. Approaching the character, his yearnings, conflicts, and story, was a huge challenge to me."

"Getting to know Carolina, Daniel, Iôna and the master Eduardo (Milewicz/ actor's coach) was an awesome experience. There was a lot of devotion and love in the way they approached their work."

"The greatest gift for me was the confirmation that my younger brother, Ravel, was cast to play young Paulo Coelho in the film. After living apart for 18 years, we were reunited by the film. Today, he lives with me in São Paulo, and we are looking for our place in the world. A dream dreamt together comes true."

"In a meeting with Paulo, he told me: 'I am what people imagine me to be'. Then, I played Paulo the way I imagined him to be."

"My characterization in the film was divided into three periods. Each detail in the set, costumes and make up helped me create my character. It was like working in time capsules. It was more natural and familiar to work the first period of the film, the 70's, as I already had a connection with Raul Seixas. In the 80's, I worked with memories of people who had an impact on my life as a teenager – it was almost a trip with no return.

For the last period of the film in Spain, DDT's special effects make up team was brilliant. Their professionalism does justice to their success and reputation. In this portion of the film, I play Paulo at the age of 66; that is, in 2014. For eight days, I wore latex prosthetics that covered my entire face, weighed five kilos and required five hours of application and make-up. The greatest difficulty in that experience was to integrate my facial expressions to the mask. Like a chameleon, I had to camouflage myself looking for mimicry in nature. The mask drove me to the brink of exhaustion. I found I had to work twice as hard to convey truth, emotion and vitality in a scene. The resources and tools filmmaking offers to an actor are absolutely fascinating. I never thought I would 'wear' another face this way."

RAVEL ANDRADE (YOUNG PAULO COELHO)

At only 21, Ravel Andrade, Júlio Andrade's brother, earned the admiration and respect of the Southern Brazilian stage scene through his performances in "Corações a mil" and "Pop Apocalypse", both by Zé Adão Barbosa. He has also acted in short films, television series and made his first appearance in a feature film in CÃO SEM DONO by acclaimed director Beto Brant.

Since his starring role debut in a feature film with **PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY**, Ravel was cast in a leading role in the third season of the Brazilian remake of "In Therapy" and in Rede Globo's prime-time soap-opera "Império."

Testimonials on the film:

"My character is a young man ahead of his time, who confronts his father in the pursuit of his dream."

"The greatest challenge for me was to understand my place as an actor within a huge crew, and also to play the part of this tormented boy who was to become part of Brazil's music scene and an icon of world literature."

"The film had a huge production structure, a very happy crew and brilliant actors. Being among people like them was a great learning experience. I have immense admiration for each and every one of them. This was a life-changing experience."

"The time spent with the person responsible for my awakening into the arts, my brother Júlio, was the most beautiful gift I could ever have received."

NANCHO NOVO (JAY)

Actor, singer, songwriter, rock guitarist and Spanish comedian Nancho Novo is an icon of Spanish culture. The lead actor of such international successes of the 90s as THE RED SQUIRREL, LOVERS OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE and EARTH by acclaimed director Julio Medem was also part of the cast of THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET by Pedro Almodóvar. Since 2009, Nancho has directed and starred in the Broadway monologue "El Cavernícola" ("Caveman"). The play has already attracted over 200.000 theatre goers during its season in Madrid – a record breaking number in Spain.

Testimonials on the film:

"The most curious aspect about my character is that we don't know whether he really exists. He is not an esoteric, odd character, but an accessible man, with his head on his shoulders. To work on my character, I looked for inspiration in Petrus, a character from Paulo Coelho's 'The Pilgrimage', who was not at all a 'saintly' character, but a man full of weaknesses."

“The connection with the team was incredible. From Dani, the director, who in our first interview told me that he wanted to make a ‘rock’n’roll film’ (and won me over with that line), to the actors (Julinho and I became best friends) and to the rest of the team that made the shoot be a fantastic experience. In February, we had our first child and called him Paulo, in part as a tribute to this experience.”

PAZ VEGA (LUIZA)

In her native Spain, Paz Vega portrayed some of her country’s most emblematic female characters, such as Carmen and Saint Teresa of Ávila. The movie SEX AND LUCIA by Julio Medem launched her international career. Today, the actress is considered an international movie star.

Since starring in SPANGLISH, directed by Academy Award Winner James L. Brooks, Paz has worked with some of the industry’s greatest names, such as Frank Miller, Danis Tanovic, Oliver Parker, Michelle Plácido and the Taviani Brothers. The actress has also shared the screen with such fellow actors as Scarlett Johansson, Andie McDowell, Eva Mendes, Nicole Kidman, Colin Farrell, Adam Sandler, Christopher Lee and Morgan Freeman. She was last seen in the role of Maria Callas playing opposite Nicole Kidman in Olivier Dahan’s GRACE OF MONACO.

Testimonials on the film:

“I accepted the role of Luiza for a number of reasons: First of all, I loved the script as I did my character. Making a movie about Paulo Coelho’s life was also an enticing proposition. The opportunity to work in Brazil for the first time, a country that fascinates me, influenced my decision as well. Shooting in Rio de Janeiro was wonderful. Rio is a lively city, and people are incredibly generous.”

“Acting opposite a star of the caliber of Júlio Andrade was a revelation to me; very inspiring. Júlio is an actor with overwhelming passion and talent. He spreads light and energy on the entire team. It was a true pleasure to work with him, and I am sure that Paulo will recognize himself in his performance.”

“In a way, Luiza represents many women that came across Paulo’s life before he met the woman who would be his lifetime partner: Christina. This is the first time I work in Portuguese, but since Luiza is a foreigner, I could speak with an accent and was quite at ease with the language.”

“Daniel Augusto is an incredibly talented director, with a very special sense of aesthetics and rhythm. In fact, I think the final result is quite special – as special as Paulo’s life. Daniel was able to capture the essence of Paulo Coelho.”

FABIANA GUGLI (CHRISTINA OITICICA)

With vast stage experience in Brazil, Fabiana always receives excellent reviews for her performances. In 2006, she was nominated for the Shell Award for Best Actress for “Terra em Transito”, by Gerald Thomas, a commercial success in São Paulo, where it was staged for over one year.

In film, she was part of the main cast of award-winning DRAINED by Heitor Dhalia starring Selton Mello. She was also a part of the cast of OS NORMAIS by Jose

Alvarenga and BLINDNESS by Fernando Meirelles.

In television, she worked with Meirelles, appearing in the mini series “Som e Fúria”. Fabiana was also cast on big hits, such as “A Grande Família” and “Tapas e Beijos”, by Globo Network. Both series have been widely praised for the high quality of their cast.

LETÍCIA COLIN (ANA)

Ever since she was a child, Leticia has been part of kids shows such as “Malhação” and “TV Globinho” at Rede Globo. As a teen, she was cast for a small role in the first season of the teen hit series “Floribella” at Rede Bandeirantes and came back for the second season in a major role, as DJ Maria.

She has recently starred in the film adaptation of the classic Brazilian play BONITINHA MAS ORDINÁRIA by veteran director Moacyr Góes, opposite acclaimed actor João Miguel. Her beautiful singing voice has also landed Leticia roles such as Jeannie in a Brazilian adaptation of “Hair”.

FABÍULA NASCIMENTO (LYGIA)

Beloved by the Brazilian audiences and critics, Fabíula played Olenka in “Avenida Brasil”, a *telenovela* that mobilized the screens of 75% of Brazilian homes during its last episode and that is having a successful international career. Fabíula was also cast in very popular series in Brazil such as “Grande Família” and “Tapas e Beijos”, to name a few.

In film, her performance in local hit LITTLE SURFER GIRL earned her the Prêmio Contigo Cinema and a nomination for the Grande Prêmio do Cinema Brasileiro in the Best Supporting Actress category. In 2008, she also won the Contigo Cinema Award in the same category for her feature film debut in the award winning ESTOMAGO: A GASTRONOMIC STORY by Marcos Jorge. Most recently, Fabíula has starred in such local successes such as “O Lobo Atrás Da Porta” and “S.O.S Mulheres ao Mar”.

ENRIQUE DÍAZ (PEDRO)

Enrique Díaz is a film, television and theatre actor, recognized and respected for the quality of his work. His filmography includes, among many other titles, *CARANDIRU* by Hector Babenco, and *HOUSE OF SAND* by Andrucha Waddington, films which went on to have international careers. Enrique is also a stage director. In 1990, he created Cia. dos Atores, a respected group in the Brazilian Theatre Scene. Kike, as he is known, also starred in the acclaimed HBO series “Filhos do Carnaval” by Cao Hamburger. Most recently, he co-starred in the local comedy *MATO SEM CACHORRO* by Pedro Amorim.

LUCCI FERREIRA (RAUL SEIXAS)

The talented theatre, television and musical actor Lucci Ferreira left his native Bahia and a prestigious career on the stages of the Teatro Castro Alves in Salvador to seek new horizons in Rio de Janeiro. Much like Raul Seixas, Lucci's dream has come true, since he was cast as Antenor in Rede Globo's mini-series “JK”. Since then Lucci has been conquering the hearts of Brazilian audiences on television. In Rio, his beautiful voice and impeccable acting skills in the musical “Gota d'Água” by Chico Buarque and Paulo Pontes also caught the critics' and the public's attention. Lucci has recently co-starred in Rede Globo's mini-series “A Teia”.

FURTHER MEMBERS OF THE TEAM

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: ANTÓN GOMEZ

This is the first time that celebrated Production Designer Antón Gomez works in Brazil. A veteran of European film, Antón has created the visual universes of such directors as Bigas Luna, Steven Soderbergh and Pedro Almodóvar.

Testimonial on the film:

“Working in Brazil was a wonderful challenge to me. I had no idea what to expect when I decided to join the team. As always, we had to go through an adjustment of pace with the team, but I quickly adapted to the great crew.”

“We had to research quite a few different periods for the film, but this is very common in our profession. I knew that the props and objects would be rather different in Brazil, but that wasn’t really a barrier for the work. I just had to be more thorough in the references, as I was working in unfamiliar ground...”

SPECIAL EFFECTS: MAKE UP

The mask applied to actor Júlio Andrade to play 66-year-old Paulo Coelho in this phase of his life was created by Montse Ribé and David Martí of the Barcelona based **DDT Efectos Especiales**, winners of the Academy Award for Best Make-Up for PAN’S LABYRINTH (2007).

During the shoot, the mask was applied by **Stephen Murphy**, who was responsible, among other films, for the HARRY POTTER series. Murphy said about **PAULO COELHO’S BEST STORY**:

“The first make-up test took about five hours, which was the estimated time. After applying it a few times, it always becomes faster. I believe that, in the end, we managed to get it down to a little over three hours. It seemed faster than it actually was because Júlio is a really funny chap to work with. Working on **PAULO COELHO’S BEST STORY** was quite a fun experience”

The project was carried out with the support of the Government of the State of São Paulo, Department for Culture, Cultural Action Program 2013.

ABOUT MUSIC BOX FILMS

Founded in 2007, Music Box Films is a leading North American distributor of acclaimed international, American independent and documentary features along with the best in international television.

Recent releases include Pawel Pawlikowski's *IDA*, the 2015 Academy Award®-winner for Best Foreign Language Film, the acclaimed French TV series "Maison Close," and the Golden Globe-nominated Israeli film *GETT: THE TRIAL OF VIVIANE AMSALEM*.

Upcoming releases include *PAULO COELHO'S BEST STORY*, the biographical drama about one of the world's best-selling authors, and *MERU*, the winner of the U.S. Documentary Audience Award at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival.

Music Box Films is independently owned and operated by the Southport Music Box Corporation, which also owns and operates The Music Box Theatre, Chicago's premiere venue for independent and foreign films.