

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

BLACK GOD AND WHITE DEVIL (DEUS E O DIABO NA TERRA DO SOL) - Brazil, 1964

Directed, produced and written by Glauber Rocha

Art Direction: Glauber Rocha

Photography: Valdemar Rocha

Music: Villa Lobos; Folk tune: Sergio Ricardo; Lyrics: Glauber Rocha

Cast: Geraldo Del Ray, Yona Magalhães, Othon Bastos, Lidio Silva, Mauricio do Vale,
Sonia dos Humildes

English subtitles

Black and white

Running time: 100 minutes

BLACK GOD AND WHITE DEVIL is a fictional account of the history of the Sertão, the barren hinterlands of northeastern Brazil, where religious superstition has been preserved through generations. Though Catholic, the illiterate people of the region divide their spiritual allegiance between Catholic priests and popular lay religious leaders. Disciples of these self-proclaimed "prophets" believe their spiritual leader can predict the future and solve their problems. Often the "prophet" preaches a doctrine combining spiritual and political principles in an effort to meet the problems arising from the economic underdevelopment of the region.

At the end of the 19th century, one of these "prophets," Anthony the Counsellor, preached a doctrine of hate against the Republic. This religious doctrine was derived from the ideas of Sebastianism, which had been inherited from the Portuguese colonizers of Brazil. According to the doctrine the world would end in 1900 and St. Sebastian would appear with his army and save the faithful.

Many of Anthony's followers were experts in the technique of guerrilla warfare, but the inhabitants of the Sertão thought the holy man's divine powers were responsible for his victories. Although he was finally killed in 1897 by a strong army detachment, his legend was kept alive for years.

Director Glauber Rocha, who is known as one of the theorists of the Brazilian "cinema novo," was born in Vitoria de Conquista, in the Sertão of the State of Bahia, Brazil, in 1938. As a movie critic, he has written "Revisão Critica do Cinema Brasileiro," a study of the development of the cinematographic art in Brazil, published by Editória Civilização Brasileira in 1963. His first feature film was **BARRAVENTO** (1961), awarded the prize "Opera Prima" in the Karlovy Vary International Festival, Czechoslovakia, 1962, and shown in New York in 1963 at the First New York Film Festival at Lincoln Center. **BLACK GOD AND WHITE DEVIL**, his second film, was awarded the "Gold Naiad," first prize, in the International Free Film Festival in Porreta Terme, Italy, 1964.