

The 8th Menorca Doc Fest pays tribute to Menorcan filmmaker Joan Allès

- We interview filmmaker Macià Florit, who has digitised Joan Allès's earliest films shot on Super 8. They will be screened in two sessions on 6 and 8 October at Cinemes Moix Negre.

The Menorcan filmmaker **Joan Allès** (Ciutadella de Menorca, 1954–2022) left behind an extensive filmography which, with a poetic gaze attentive to the landscape, distils a deeply personal testimony of our culture. **Macià Florit** and **Elsabeth Produccions**, with the support of the Cinescan laboratory, have digitised all the analogue films from Joan's first period as a filmmaker, shot on Super 8 between 1980 and 1986.

Four years after his death, the 8th Menorca Doc Fest, the island's documentary film and photography festival, is presenting *Terra de Menorca* and *La ciutat vella* at **Cinemes Moix Negre in Ciutadella**: two sessions where these restored pieces can be seen on the big screen, paying tribute to this much-loved filmmaker.

The first session, *Terra de Menorca*, will take place on **Tuesday 6 October at 8 pm**, and will feature 5 short films with a total running time of 91 minutes: *Enyorança*, *Passeig pel nord de Ciutadella*, *Terra Menorca*, *Comunitats vegetals* and *L'utopia i el sud*. The second session, *La ciutat vella*, will take place on **Thursday 8 October at 8 pm**, and will feature 6 short films with a total running time of 83 minutes: *Lluna misteriosa*, *El camp*, *Cotxes vells* 83, *Expansió de la ciutat*, *Mediterrani. Com un vell cetaci malferit* and *La ciutat vella*.

With the [cinema pass](#) or a ticket.

Interview with Macià Florit

—What did you discover about Joan Allès during the process of digitising his screenings?

The story behind the digitisation of his films is very moving. Joan was a very good friend of mine. From the moment I started picking up a camera to film in the streets of Ciutadella and to accompany bands such as Sinevara or Delèn, he acted as a mentor. From our very first conversation, all those that followed were a constant learning experience and a passionate, enriching dialogue between two generations.

—Why was it important to recover them now?

In early 2022 Joan passed away, leaving behind a long filmography of great heritage and documentary value. A few months later, his wife Magdalena phoned me to say that Joan had told her he was leaving all his film material in my care, so that I could manage it as I saw fit. It is hard to explain the emotion and the conflicting feelings, above all from the point of view of the responsibility towards a body of work left to you by a mentor, as well as the difficulty of handling such a large volume of material.

—What is this material?

13 films on Super 8, his first works, made in collaboration with Antoni Salvador, and more than 120 hours on Mini-DV tapes, the format he used the most throughout his life, which holds all the raw camera footage for the films of Enyorança Vídeos, the production company he founded with Juan Elorduy.

—What has the digitisation and restoration process involved?

As part of the process of recovering, cataloguing and transferring the digitised films to the Menorca Image and Sound Archive, the first phase has consisted of 2K scanning, at the Cinescan laboratory in Barcelona, of all of Joan Allès's Super 8 films. The films we will see at Cinemes Moix Negre are a selection of these early works by Joan, made between 1980 and 1986.

—Why did you decide to screen them in a cinema before depositing them in the Archive?

It is an excellent opportunity for researchers or lovers of cinema and the history of our island to consult them freely. It is a way of paying tribute to this filmmaker from Ciutadella, who cultivated a poetic and very personal gaze on Menorca's landscape, people and culture; a hymn to the island's ecological richness; and a warning about the threats of tourism, made a decade before the declaration of the Biosphere Reserve and with a message more relevant than ever, 46 years later.

—What will today's audience find in these restored films?

There are unreleased titles and others that haven't been seen since they premiered in the 1980s. There are three types of cinema that Joan cultivated in the 80s, which already pointed to the paths he would later follow: experimental cinema, more accessible cultural documentary, and camera reels in which, for example, we will see raw footage of the Sant Joan festivities of 1980, or of a walk along Ciutadella's north coast in the manner of a Romantic painter.

—Which view of Menorca and of Joan Allès's cinema is still valid forty years later?

Joan Allès's poetic gaze permeates all of these early films and gives them a timeless value. These works give us the portrait of a Menorca that has already disappeared and that, seen from today's perspective, still struggles to stay alive and rooted in its landscape. This is the power of cinema, especially in the hands of observant craftsmen like him: the power to capture time. With the digitisation of these films, we have the chance to relive this Menorca

of the 1980s, now restored. The screenings at Cinemes Moix Negre, as part of the Menorca Doc Fest and the Cineclub de Ciutadella, are the best way to thank Joan for devoting his time to setting up the camera and having the patience to observe the world, which passes by and doesn't wait for us, and to capture it forever.

About the filmmakers

Macià Florit Campins (Ciutadella, 1990) is a Menorcan filmmaker who works between Barcelona and his native island. Since 2015 he has worked with Elisabeth, an independent production company based in Solsona, where he develops all kinds of audiovisual projects together with his partner Xavier Puig. His professional experience includes producing cultural programmes for television, music videos and documentaries. After directing several short films, he completed his debut feature *Pedra pàtria* (2021, 75'). The film premiered at Doclisboa, was nominated for the Doc Alliance Award, and was selected at Visions du Réel, DOK Leipzig and Alcances, where it won the award for best film. Following the path of Menorcan geology and the roots of identity, Macià Florit has presented two new works: *Tòtem* (2024, 17'), which premiered at Sheffield DocFest, and *Souvenir* (2026, 15'), which premiered at the D'A Film Festival Barcelona.

Self-taught, **Joan Allès** was introduced to cinema at a very young age, as his father was the projectionist at the OAR cinema in Ciutadella. During the 1970s and 80s he took an active part in the Cine-Club sessions, and in 1980 his first documentary, *Terra Menorca*, came out. Years later, together with Juan Elorduy, he founded the association Enyorança Vídeos, a project that championed the value of memory and documentary from a humanist and poetic view of Menorcan reality. Notable films in this collection include *Ciutadella. Ciutat, festes i rissagues*; *Ciutat vella. Passeig per Ciutadella* (1984); *Mediterrani. Com a vell cetaci malferit* (1982); *Passeig per la costa nord de Ciutadella*; *Enyorança*; *Lluna misteriosa*; *Comunitats vegetals* (1986); *Expansió de la ciutat* (1984); and *Jaleo de Ciutadella*. He donated all his Super 8 films to the Menorca Image and Sound Archive, where they are kept today.

Menorca Doc Fest is an initiative of FAR Cultural, sponsored by the FFTM, and the Institut d'Estudis Baleàrics and the Consell Insular de Menorca.

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