

INSPIRATION for Dela
From the Director

DELA is based on real facts that occurred when Nelson Mandela visited Bahia, in the Northeast of Brazil, in 1991, shortly after his release from prison. Bahia has the largest Afro-Brazilian population but has been mostly run by white people ever since its foundation almost five hundred years ago. We thought it would be interesting to use Mandela's historical visit to address this contradiction. It also happens that upon the abolition of slavery, all of the archives associated with slavery were burnt and therefore, most Afro-Brazilians have no way to research their real African origins as all the slaves were renamed and christened upon reaching the shores of Brazil. This change of identity usually took place not on the continent, but on one of the islands of the Bay of All Saints. Finally, we discovered that a deep source of suffering for Mandela during his prison years, was the lack of interaction with children. We then resolved to make our protagonist a little girl.