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**Maria José Baião**

**portuguese** nationality | height **1.59cm**

**brown** eyes | **brown** hair

[Maria José Baião](#), born on 20 August 1948, is an actress and a prominent figure in Portuguese culture. She holds a degree in Romance Philology from the Faculty of Arts of the University of Lisbon and completed the curricular component of a Master's in Advanced Theatre Studies in 2005. Enriching her academic background further, she attended courses at the Universities of Barcelona and Geneva, and completed the Theatre course at the National Conservatory.

Throughout her career, she distinguished herself as a journalist, announcer and radio programme producer, having worked at Antena 1 between 1976 and 2002. Before that, she collaborated with Rádio Renascença, Rádio Clube Português and Rádio Clube de Moçambique. Between 1990 and 1999, she served in Macau as a cultural adviser during the final years of Portuguese administration.

In theatre, she worked with major figures of the national stage, such as Couto Viana, Orlando Vitorino, Blanco Gil, Luzia Maria Martins and Filipe La Féria. Since 2014, she has been part of Companhia Maior, taking part in various productions including Um de Nós (2014), Força (2015), Sonho de uma Noite de Verão (2016), Humor Maligno (2017), Mapa Mundi (2018), Cordéis Minimalistas (2019) and O Lugar do Canto Está Vazio (2019).

On television, she has established herself with striking performances in several telenovelas and series. Her notable roles include Mulheres (2014), Água de Mar (2014), in which she played Tia Cuca, Os Nossos Dias (2015), Poderosas (2015), Rainha das Flores (2016), Alguém Perdeu (2019) and, more recently, Cacau (2024).

In cinema, she appeared in the film Variações (2019), further reinforcing her multifaceted path in the performing arts.

Alongside her work as an actress, Maria José Baião also has a literary career. In 2023, she published Teatro em Portugal: Uma Abordagem Cronológica, a work offering an accessible and comprehensive overview of the history of theatre in Portugal, from its origins to the present day. With more than five decades of activity, Maria José Baião is an essential figure in Portuguese culture, whose versatility and dedication continue to enrich both stage and screen.

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