



VEINS OF THE AMAZON

a documentary by

TERJE TOOMISTU, ALVARO SARMIENTO and DIEGO SARMIENTO



DOX Leipzig
International
Competition
2021

HDPERU and DESFASE FILMS presents "VEINS OF THE AMAZON"

Protagonists

LUIS GIL, YULIANA JURADO, PIERO REATEGUI, DANIEL RAMIREZ, SAULO PEÑA, LUIS DAVID

Directed by TERJE TOOMISTU, ALVARO SARMIENTO and DIEGO SARMIENTO

Screenplay TERJE TOOMISTU and ALVARO SARMIENTO

Executive Producers ALVARO SARMIENTO and DIEGO SARMIENTO

Cinematographers TERJE TOOMISTU and DIEGO SARMIENTO Sound ALEX CRUZ and DIEGO SARMIENTO

Edition ALEX CRUZ, FABRICIO DEZA, ALVARO SARMIENTO and DIEGO SARMIENTO

Color Grading JOHAN CARRASCO Sound Design and Mix CESAR CENTENO Illustration GRACIELA ARIAS





SYNOPSIS

In the Peruvian Amazon, the main means of transport for goods and people since the times of the rubber boom and the infamous adventures of Fitzcarraldo are the ferries navigating the majestic Amazon River.

In its crude harbors, porters work their fingers to the bone carrying tons of onions, sugar, oil, sodas, motorbikes, and building materials on their wet bodies to fill another ferry for the journey into the depths of the Amazon rain forest. The ferries bear products from the global market place in exchange with the exotic goods from the jungle.

Yet the ferries also form a distinct space of transition for the travellers taking journeys that can last for weeks, for the crew who strip their sexual identities as well as for the indigenous people living on the edges of the Amazon. The Amazon floats in its timeless horizon of lush woods, too vast and too wild for human imagination to embrace this inaccessible world with care that it deserves.

The observational documentary bears witness to the controversies in the axes of accelerating modernism and the hybrid states of local experiential realities on the world's largest river. The film follows the life cycle of one of the Amazon journeys, catering to the felt sense of the Amazon experience, at once disturbing yet stunningly beautiful.



TERJE TOOMISTU

CO DIRECTOR

Terje Toomistu is an anthropologist and a documentary filmmaker from Estonia, currently employed as a Research Fellow at the University of Tartu, Institute of Cultural Research, holding a Noor-Eesti Grant awarded by the Postimees Fund. She received her PhD in Ethnology as well as two MA degrees in Ethnology and in Communication Studies from University of Tartu.

Terje is profoundly inspired by anthropology's intersections with artistic practice and film. Since 2011, she has been running a multimedia project focusing on late Soviet youth counter-culture, specifically the Soviet hippie movement. The project includes the production of a documentary film, an internationally traveling exhibition, a soundtrack release on vinyl, and a forthcoming book.

Her filmography includes *WARIAZONE* (2011), *ARCHAEOLOGY OF AYAHUASCA* (2016) and most recently the award-winning *SOVIET HIPPIES* (2017).



ALVARO SARMIENTO

CO DIRECTOR

Alvaro Sarmiento is a Quechua descendant documentarist, founder of HDPERU, a non-profit organization engaged in the production of films in defense of native peoples' rights and environmental conservation in the Andes and the Amazon of Peru.

During his career, Alvaro has been the recipient of several awards and fellowships, including the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, Locarno Documentary Summer School, Berlinale Doc Station, IBERMEDIA Script Development Fund and the Carolina Foundation Residency for screenwriters.

MOTHERS OF THE LAND (2019), his second feature documentary was premiered at the 69 Berlin Film Festival.

GREEN RIVER. THE TIME OF THE YAKURUNAS (2017) his feature debut premiered at the 67 Berlin Film Festival and the MoMA Doc Fortnight.

Alvaro studied Media, Communications Science and Film at the Universidad de Lima in Peru, Estacio de Sa University in Brazil and attended a MFA in Filmmaking at Ohio University in the USA.



DIEGO SARMIENTO

CO DIRECTOR

In 2020, Diego won the Berlinale Talents Footprints - Mastercard Enablement Programme award, having Wim Wenders as president of the jury, with "The Seed Project" where he will take the film *MOTHERS OF THE LAND* (2019) to schools in rural communities in the Peruvian Andes. This film is his second feature documentary and was premiered at the 69 Berlin Film Festival.

Diego Sarmiento's feature debut as director and producer, *GREEN RIVER. THE TIME OF THE YAKURUNAS* was premiered at the Berlinale Forum 2017 and the MoMA Doc Fortnight 2018.

Diego directed several short films, two of which premiered at the Berlinale: *EARTH'S CHILDREN* (Generation K-Plus 2014) and *SONIA'S DREAM* (Culinary Cinema 2015).

Diego studied Media Production at the Universidad Catolica in Peru and a Documentary Filmmaking Master at EICTV in Cuba.



PERU | 2021 | 72 MIN | DCP | COLOR | 16:9 | 5.1

PRODUCED BY

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