

A production of



DAUGHTER *of the* LAKE

"Hija de la laguna"



PERÚ

Ministerio de Cultura



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LAS SEGVIAS

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DAUGHTER *of the* LAKE

“Hija de la laguna”

A FILM BY ERNESTO CABELLOS DAMIÁN



“URGENT AND NECESSARY”
Postproduction Award 2013
Ministry of Culture of Peru



“MUST BE SEEN”
Distribution Award 2014
Ministry of Culture of Peru

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Guarango Films
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www.guarango.org

TECHNICAL DETAILS:

Genre: Documentary

Original language: Spanish (with some English)

Available subtitles: English and French

Original format: Full HD 16:9 Color

Screening format: DCP and Blu-ray

Sound: 5.1

Length: 87 minutes (52 minutes TV version available)

Country of production: Peru

Filmed in Peru, Bolivia and The Netherlands

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LOGLINE

At the height of the Peruvian gold rush, an Andean woman able to communicate with water spirits uses her powers to prevent a mining corporation from destroying the lake she considers to be her mother.

SYNOPSIS

Nelida is an Andean woman able to communicate with nature's spirits. She feels she is the daughter of the lakes that provide water to her village.

But just beneath her lakes, Yanacocha, Latin America's largest gold mine, has discovered a deposit valued at billions of dollars. They have the Peruvian government's support to mine it, even though it means drying out the lakes.

Farmers who live downstream oppose the project, because they fear running out of water. It's a life and death struggle. The police have killed five men during the protests and the farmers not only have to confront the political and economic powers, but also the people in their communities who now depend on the small jobs the mine has given them.

When Nelida joins the march from her homeland to Lima, the country's capital, over a thousand kilometers away, she realizes she's not alone. There are thousands of people who want to protect the Andean water sources.

Nelida's story has parallels in Bolivia too, where a group of women live on dried out land. Their water disappeared after years of incessant mining. Then there is Bibi, a Dutch jeweler who exhibits her pieces on spectacular catwalks in Europe and who decides to visit Peru to discover the origin of the gold she uses.

Back in Peru, again, there is retaliation against the protesters. Marco, an ex-priest and Nelida's mentor, is brutally detained by police whilst sitting in a public square, demonstrating peacefully.

The conflict goes on. We see how, in front of 150 policemen about to evict a peaceful protest at the lakes, Nelida grabs a phone and communicates with journalists in the city of Cajamarca. Her determination prevents a brutal attack. But her participation in these demonstrations has consequences: Nelida's father, who works for the mine, loses his job.

But this doesn't change her determination. She goes back to the lakes and prays to the water spirits. She makes them an offering of flowers and the photos of the five farmers killed during this seemingly endless conflict. Finally, Nelida asks her mother for the strength to keep going in her struggle for justice.

THE PROTAGONIST

Nélida Ayay Chilón

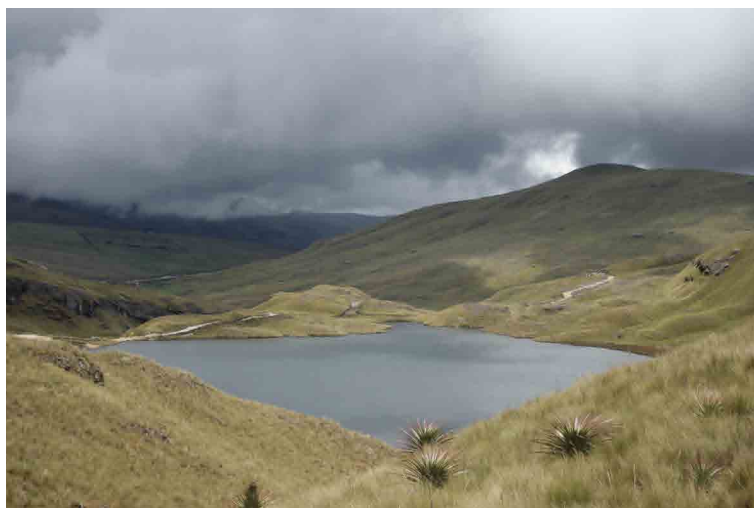
Nélida, 31, is from the community of Porcón (Cajamarca, Peru). She is a farmer and now an environmental leader too, in a land where mining companies have been working since 1992. Although she loves living in the countryside and taking care of her animals and crops, she had to move to the city of Cajamarca in order to go to university. She's currently studying law to defend herself and her community from the abuses caused by mining activity.

Nélida is a surprisingly tough woman, who is determined to defend Mother Earth and Mother Water. Like other indigenous citizens in the Andes, her relationship with nature is sacred and respectful.



CREDITS

A documentary film by **ERNESTO CABELLOS DAMIÁN** with the participation of **NÉLIDA AYAY CHILÓN**, **BIBI VAN DER VELDEN**, **MÁXIMA ACUÑA DE CHAUPE** and **SABINA GUTIÉRREZ RAMOS**. Produced by **NÚRIA FRIGOLA TORRENT**. Executive producers **ERNESTO** and **RICARDO CABELLOS DAMIÁN**. Edited by **ANTOLÍN PRIETO**. Cinematography **CARLOS SÁNCHEZ GIRALDO**, **JESSICA STEINER** and **MIGUEL HILARI SÖLLE**. Sound design **JOSÉ BALADO DÍAZ**. Graphic design **JAVIER PIRAGAUTA MORA**. Music by **MARTÍN CHOY-YIN**. Postproduction **RICARDO CABELLOS DAMIÁN** and **JORGE SABANA PADILLA**. Associated producer. **STEFAN KASPAR**. Written and directed by **ERNESTO CABELLOS DAMIÁN**.



BIOFILMOGRAPHY OF THE DIRECTOR

Ernesto Cabellos Damián was born in Lima, Peru in 1968. In 1994, he founded Guarango, a documentary filmmakers association.

Ernesto has produced and directed the feature documentary feature films "Choropampa" (2002), and "Tambogrande" (2007), in collaboration with Canadian director Stephanie Boyd. He also produced "The Devil Operation" (2010) with Boyd. These award-winning films chronicle over 10 years of conflict between communities and mining companies in Peru. In 2009 Ernesto made "Cooking up Dreams", a portrait of Peruvian society shown through its gastronomy. Ernesto's documentaries have been selected in more than 150 international film festivals, obtaining 35 awards and distinctions, and broadcast on international television channels.



BIOFILMOGRAPHY OF THE EDITOR

Antolín Prieto was born in Peru in 1980. He has a degree in Audiovisual Communication and has worked in a dozen feature productions, both fiction and documentaries, as assistant director and editor, including films like "Dioses" (2008) and "Chicama" (2012). He edited "Cooking up dreams" (2010), Cabellos' former work. Antolin has also directed three short films, including "Fin del mundo" (2014). He took part in Berlinale Talents in 2014 and Guadalajara Doculab in 2014. He is currently working on his first feature film. Antolín also has broad experience as a trainer in grass-root audiovisual workshops organized by DocuPeru, a Peruvian organization dedicated to spreading documentary production to rural communities.



BIOFILMOGRAPHY OF THE PRODUCER

Núria Frigola Torrent was born in 1981. She is Peruvian and Spanish. Before joining Guarango in 2012, Nuria worked on human rights campaigns in Amnesty International for several years. She's produced the TV commissioned documentaries "Amazonía Nuestra" and "Purus-Manu", both directed by Héctor Gálvez. She also has experience as a television scriptwriter and produced her first short film as a director in 2014. "Daughter of the lake" is her first feature-length production. In 2012 Núria founded a theater company, Diquesí, with two partners and she produces and acts in improvisation and stand up comedy shows.



PRODUCTION COMPANY: GUARANGO FILMS

Guarango is an association of award-winning Peruvian documentary filmmakers based in Lima. It has 21 years of experience shooting in Peru and the Andean region, in challenging situations.

Guarango's documentaries have been broadcast around the world on the Sundance Channel, TeleSUR, RT and Televisió de Catalunya (TV3), among other global networks.

www.guarango.org



FILM QUOTES



Nérida Ayay Chilón, protagonist

"Mother Earth, you have gold inside you. Do you know why they take your gold out of you? To have reserves of ingots in their banks. You can't drink gold. You can't eat gold. Now, blood is being spilt for this gold. If it is so useful to the big and powerful, make them take it out of their reserves and recycle it, but don't let them destroy you anymore. If we take good care of you, you can feed us forever."



Máxima Acuña de Chaupe

A Peruvian subsistence farmer who lives beside Nérida's lake.

"It's this greed for gold that makes them want to take my land away from me no matter what, even using force."

"Well basically, they came into my territory with their guns, fully armed. Right after they had called me to tell me they were going to kill me. We want to denounce this and to ask for protection, because they won't let us live here peacefully."



Bibi van der Velden

Dutch jeweler looking for "clean" gold.

"To a certain extent, we all have blood hanging on our fingers, and wrists and necks."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This documentary depicts the war over water taking place between small communities and large scale mining companies. The main story happens in the Conga Lakes in northern Peru, where Yanacocha- the biggest gold mining company in Latin America- wants to extend its reach to a territory considered sacred by the farmers. The company plans to drain two lakes in order to extract the gold hidden beneath them. Then it wants to use a third lake as a dumping ground for toxic waste. The company has closed off the roads leading to the area- even though water resources are public- and has started to build a man-made cement reservoir which, it assures, will function the same as a natural lake.

The farmers, already sick of the pollution that the company has caused over the last twenty years, are not buying the company's promises and refuse to allow this project to go ahead. They want the water to irrigate their crops and nourish their cows. "What use is gold to us if you can't drink it!" they say.

Until now, five people have been killed in protests against the US-financed Conga mine, Peru's largest foreign investment project (worth an estimated \$4.8 billion). Many others have been wounded, tortured or prosecuted with unfounded charges.

Although there has been a lot of uncertainty over the future since the beginning of the world economic crisis in 2008, the price of gold has nonetheless increased enormously, making it a very profitable investment.

The Conga project is owned by Minera Yanacocha S.R.L. (MYSRL). Controlling interest is held by the Newmont Mining Corporation of Colorado (51,35%), with minority shares held by the Peruvian Compañía de Minas Buenaventura (43,65%) and the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank (5%).

Yanacocha initially expected the Conga Project to offset dwindling reserves from a nearby gold mine that the company has operated since 1993. However, since making the investment, the company has faced strong social rejection, that has paralyzed the works.

Almost 50 percent of Cajamarca, Nelida's region, has been given in concession to mining companies, including many major headwaters and river sources. Seventy-eight percent of Cajamarca's population is dependent on livestock and agriculture.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"This film was born in July 2012. I was on a family trip to Spain, when I learned about the brutal detention of my friend and one of my previous film's protagonists, Father Marco Arana. He was in his hometown of Cajamarca, sitting in the main square with a poster, peacefully protesting against a gold mine project that was threatening the region's water sources. In front of everyone, the police beat him up and arrested him.

I was shocked. I wanted to help, but I was too far away.

That night, watching videos on YouTube that people had shot with their cell phones, I found one that really impressed me. In that video, a woman approached a policeman asking why they were arresting Marco and using violence against peaceful demonstrators. The policeman, looking at the camera, shouted: "Because you're fucking dogs! That's why."



That's why I felt compelled to make this film. Those "fucking dogs" are my friends and allies and I think they have a vision of the world that needs to be portrayed with respect. We all can learn a lot from them.

Then Marco led me to Nelida, the main character of the film..."

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THIS FILM WAS POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



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“They want to dry out her lakes to mine gold.
She will use all her powers to avoid it.”

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