



SWIFT FEET (PIES LIGEROS)

A FILM BY JUAN CARLOS NUÑEZ

76 mins / Color / 2016 / Spanish, English, Raramuri, English and Spanish Subtitles / Mexico



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FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

AWARDS

Winner of Audience Award and Special Jury Award – 2016 Zanate Mexican Documentary Film Festival, Colima Mexico

Winner of Best Documentary in the Lak Ech Section – 2016 FICMY, Festival Internacional de Cine de Mérida y Yucatán, Yucatán, Mexico

FESTIVALS

2017 Ulju Mountain Film Festival, Ulju, South Korea

2017 Reto Docs Puebla, Puebla, Mexico

2017 Trento Film Festival, Trento, Italy

2017 DOK.fest – International Documentary Film Festival Munich

2017 Ambulante Documentary Film Festival

2017 Cinema Planeta, International Environmental Film Festival of Mexico, Cuernavaca, Mexico

2016 DocsMX | Festival Internacional de Cine Documental de la Ciudad de México

2016 Rodando Film Festival, San Luis Potosí, Mexico

2016 FICG Guadalajara International Film Festival

2016 Zanate Mexican Documentary Film Festival, Colima Mexico

2016 FICMY, Festival Internacional de Cine de Mérida y Yucatán, Yucatán, Mexico

SWIFT FEET (Pies Ligeros)

SYNOPSIS

The Tarahumara—one of the largest indigenous cultures in North America—live in the rugged canyons of northwestern Mexico. For them, running is not only the best way to get from one place to another, it is an important cultural tradition. They regularly compete in races that can last days and stretch well beyond a hundred miles. During the 1990s, Tarahumara runners Victoriano Churo and Cirildo Chacarito received international attention for their running abilities after they competed in several ultramarathons in the United States. Running in long, colorful shirts and sandals made out of rubber tires, they captivated the world with their strength and endurance.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As I traveled over the past few years, to several indigenous communities in Mexico, my understanding of a reality different from my own was challenged, I realize that there is much misinformation about my country due to the great cultural and geographic distances that separate it, and in some cases, generate more conflict than unity.

This is why I believe that cinema can be a great tool for consciousness and transformation. It can help us learn, accept and understand the complexity of life that exists around the globe. Art allows us to learn from our past so we can change our present and future. It can help us address and change our society's problems and complexities.

Swift Feet challenges notions of fame, success, and identity. It aims to frame a way of life that is simple and precarious and where the social norms that the Raramuri have followed historically are still alive. It is also a call to observe freedom, the importance of the natural environment and detachment from material possessions.

Previous documentation approached Raramuri culture predominately through a scientific gaze. Pies Ligeros attempts to break this Western tradition by approaching the study of another culture in a much more personal and intimate way. The characters tell us their own stories and provide us with a richer context from which to draw our own conclusions. Their daily activities and dreams are the main elements that allow us to understand their culture that continues today.

The main goal of my work is to pay tribute to these two great runners, who 25 years ago opened the doors for younger generations and achieved the title of the greatest endurance athletes in the world.

Juan Carlos Nuñez

FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Juan Carlos Núñez – Director: Juan studied Communication, Audiovisual Languages and Photography. Juan has directed several experimental documentaries and worked as a as photographer and editor. He works with the Oftalmica International Independent Film Festival, The Ambulante” Documentary Film Festival and the Luis Film Buñuel School Buñuel” in Xalapa Veracruz. Swift Feet is Juan’s first feature length documentary. Swift Feet was awarded fellowships by the Mexican Institute of Cinematography and the Mexican National Fund for Culture and Arts.



Henry L’Esperance – Producer: Henry has produced and/or directed several documentaries including **Yo Soy Teresa Castro**, **The American Tapes**, **Pomba Branca: Dove** and **Tlacuitapa: Realities Behind a Migrant-Sending Community**. **Swift Feet** is his first collaboration with Juan Carlos Núñez. Henry is a Professor, of Multicultural Studies at Palomar College. He is currently working on his dissertation for his Ph.D. in Cultural Studies/Political Science at Claremont Graduate University. Henry has a BA in Philosophy and an MA in Latin American Studies from UC San Diego. His interests include documentaries, ethnographic films and experimental films.



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director and Writer – Juan Carlos Núñez

Producers - Juan Carlos Núñez & Henry L'Esperance

Directors of Photography – Ignacio Chávez, Henry L'Esperance, Juan Carlos Núñez
& Roberto Morales

Production Sound – Gabriel Villegas & Alejandro Hernandez

Editors – Arturo Jara, Ignacio Chávez & Juan Carlos Núñez

Music Composer – Carlos Diaz

Production Company – Ojo de Venado Cinema

Co-Production Company: Grifo de Luz