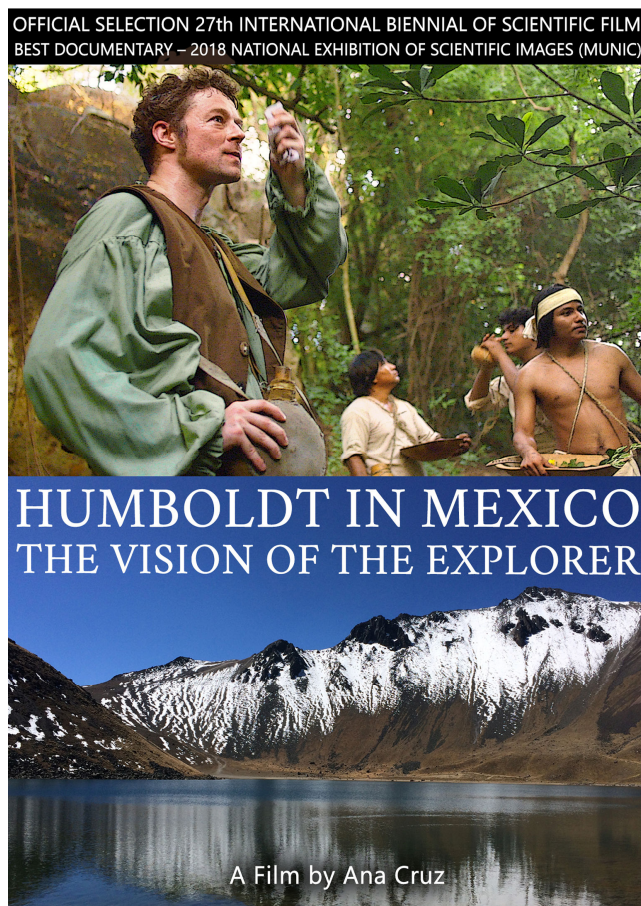


HUMBOLDT IN MEXICO: THE VISION OF THE EXPLORER



A FILM BY ANA CRUZ

83 mins / Color / 2017 / Spanish, English Subtitles / Mexico



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FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

Awards

2018 Winner Best Documentary – National Festival of Scientific Images MUIC

2018 Winner Humboldt Pride Medal – Alexander von Humboldt German School Students Association

Festivals

Guadalajara International Film Festival FICG Special screening

Lima International Film Festival. Special Screening, Peru

International Berlin Film Festival – European Film Market Screening Martin-Gropius-Bau (MGB)

Guanajuato International film Festival. Official Selection GIFF

Morelia International film Festival. Official Selection FICM

Berlinale Market, Germany



SYNOPSIS

Humboldt in Mexico: The Vision of the Explorer reveals the amazing story of the greatest explorer of the Americas and Cuba. At the turn of the 19th century, Alexander von Humboldt began a 5-year scientific expedition in the New World. Traveling through dangerous waters and dry deserts, and over treacherous mountains and unforgiving terrain, Humboldt documented the environment, geography and cultures of the continents of North and South America. The most famous scientist of his age, Humboldt changed our understanding of nature. He was also the first person to write about human-induced climate change. This fascinating documentary takes us on Humboldt's amazing adventure of discovery and exploration throughout New Spain, an area that includes present-day Mexico.



DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

I have admired the figure of Alexander von Humboldt since my days as a student. In biology classes at the German School Alexander von Humboldt, in Mexico City, I discovered Humboldt's books on Mexican flowers and plants, and he impressed me since then. His decision to invest his entire fortune and enthusiasm on an expedition that would lead him to a new vision of the world captured my deepest admiration. Besides his contributions to biology, botany, mineralogy, geology, astronomy, modern geography and other areas, I was astonished to learn how Humboldt's mind succeeded in finding another way of looking at America – from a 19th century European perspective. Over time, my curiosity for Humboldt grew; besides his talent as an explorer and scientist, his drawing skill and love of beauty enabled him to leave a collection of illustrations of plants, animals, maps and nautical charts of extraordinary precision. It is one of his great legacies. My interest in popularizing science and in great, historical figures, made Alexander von Humboldt a fascinating character. With this documentary I started a voyage through 19th century Mexican history from a scientific, philosophic and social perspective. Humboldt's principal concern was inequality, the disequilibrium between natural abundance and social misery, the exploitation of man by man and poverty. Today, this concern is still alive in our country. Science has to bring prosperity and happiness to a nation and to all the inhabitants on the planet.

Ana Cruz



DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Ana Cruz has a degree in Communication Sciences and Techniques from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, Film Studies from the University of Southern California (USC), and a specialization of documentary direction from the B.B.C. of London. She also has postgraduate degrees in Scientific Cinema from the French Society of Audiovisual Production (SFP) in Paris and at the National Museum of Natural History in France.

Her professional experience includes more than 30 years as a scriptwriter, director and producer in the film, television and radio industry in Mexican Public Media as well as CEO of the independent production company AC Art and Culture in Motion. She has collaborated on various film projects and national and international film festivals as a filmmaker and a member of film festival juries.

Ana Cruz has won recognition and many several awards including: The National Prize of Journalism in Cultural Promotion (1992), The Silver Microphone for Best Radio Series of Cultural Tourism Promotion in 2001. Her documentary The Suffragists has won The Audience Award, at the International Festival of Indigenous Film of Puebla (2012), The Casa de la Culture Prize at Lisbon, Portugal (2015), and Special Mention at the Human Rights International Film Festival at Bilbao, Spain (2014). The Suffragists also won The Screen Glass Award in Mexico for the Best Documentary Film Research (2013). The film was screened all over Mexico including Mexico City, Morelia, Guanajuato, Monterrey, Puebla, Durango, Oaxaca and at international film festivals in Spain, Portugal, Germany and the United States.

Ana Cruz has held the following positions in the Mexican Public Media: Director of Production of The Mexican Radio Institute (IMER), Director of the Cultural News Program of Channel Eleven, Programming Director of the Mexican Film Archives and Vice-president of Channel 22.

She was consultant for the Minister of Culture in Mexico from 2015-2016. She is currently the General Director of her company AC Art and Culture in Motion. Her most recent film, Humboldt in Mexico: The Vision of the Explorer, premiered at the International Film Festival of Guanajuato GIFF in 2017.



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director – Ana Cruz

/Producer – Ana Cruz

Screenplay – Ana Cruz

Cinematography – Luis Montalvo

Editor – Ana Cruz, Oscar Hernández

Sound – Alejandro de Icaza

Music – Amado Lopez Moralesb

Art direction – Shantal Franceschi

