

GUAÑUNA



A FILM BY
DAVID LASSO

74 mins / 2022 / Spanish, English Subtitles / Ecuador



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FILM FESTIVALS

ENCUENTROS DEL OTRO CINE (QUITO): NATIONAL PREMIERE; AUDIENCE AWARD
FESTIVAL DE CINE ETNOGRÁFICO DE ECUADOR (FLACSO): “MEMORIAS VIVAS” SECTION
FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE CINE DE CUENCA: OFFICIAL SELECTION
XII FESTIVAL DE CINE KUNTURÑAWI (RIOBAMBA): AWARDS FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY
FEATURE, BEST DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH, AND BEST DOCUMENTARY EDITING
CINECLUB DEL CASAL CATALÀ DE QUITO: SPECIAL SCREENING WITH DIRECTOR Q&A
FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE CINE INDEPENDIENTE DE JALISCO (MEXICO): AUDIENCE
AWARD AND BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE
FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE CINE DE DERECHOS HUMANOS (FICDH) (ARGENTINA):
OFFICIAL SELECTION IN THE LATIN AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY FILMS OFFICIAL
COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CINE DE DERECHOS HUMANOS (BOLIVIA): OFFICIAL SELECTION
CONCURSO FRANCO ANDINO DOCUMENTA (VENEZUELA): OPERA PRIMA AWARD
KINOLATINO (BELGIUM): AUDIENCE AWARD
BARCELONA INDIE AWARDS (SPAIN): OFFICIAL SELECTION
XXXVIII FESTIVAL DEL CINEMA IBERO LATINO AMERICANO (TRIESTE, ITALY): OFFICIAL
SELECTION
XI SEMANA DEL CINE ECUATORIANO EN PARÍS (FRANCE): OFFICIAL SELECTION
CINE LATINO FILM FESTIVAL (MINNEAPOLIS, USA): U.S. PREMIERE WITH DIRECTOR
AND PRODUCER IN ATTENDANCE
MOVIES THAT MATTER FESTIVAL (NETHERLANDS): RECIPIENT OF THE #DOCSCONNECT
TASKOVSKI MENTORING AWARD, RECOGNIZING IMPACTFUL DOCUMENTARY
PROJECTS

SYNOPSIS

On Saturday, January 6, 2007, Paúl Guañuna asked his parents for permission to go out with his friends to a hip-hop concert in Quito. When Paul and two other friends were walking back home, they stopped at a wall and wrote the word *mapa*, a diminutive of *mapahuiras* (dirty butter in Kichwa). A neighbor thought they were tagging and called the police who arrested the teenagers. The next day Paul's lifeless body was found at the bottom of a ravine by his father. Since then, he led an intense social struggle to seek justice, which brought together hundreds of young people from the city's urban tribes, achieving a 20-year prison sentence for the three police officers involved. However, after three years in jail they were released. Brave and pertinent as ever, Guañuna poignantly directed by David Lasso, portrays the tireless struggle of a father, thousands of young people, and a wounded community, to expose racism, authoritarianism, and the entrenched impunity that persists in Ecuadorian society.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"This case moved me for several reasons. First, because the murdered young man and I studied at the same school. We live in the same universe, even though we are 20 years apart. However, during the research I learned that my grandmother also had the same indigenous surname "Guañuna", I understood that if this story moved me it was because I felt the same exclusion in which I grew up. The film I wanted to make portrayed that visual and symbolic atmosphere.

However, I also wanted to talk about the disciplinary society we live in, where each one of us has internalized a police look that assumes the difference of the other as a potential social danger, as an internal enemy. And where young people from popular sectors are seduced by the uniform and martiality. As the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire would say: the oppressed wants to liberate himself by becoming the oppressor.

It took me 14 years to make the film, because I wanted not only to tell another case of police abuse, but to make an audiovisual essay on self-discipline. And to question the punitive gaze that we all demand from justice. There is a phrase in the documentary that says: "if they killed him for scratching, by scratching we will remember him". Making this film is a way to graffiti history at a time when panic about crime justifies police excesses.

I start the film quoting the genesis: "Cain, where is your brother?" and I end it by saying that "in the Andean cosmovision, a son is the son of the whole community". I seek to reflect with the viewers on the social pact, so necessary to live in the identity differences."

David Lasso

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director / Dirigida
Human Rights Research /
Investigación de Derechos Humanos
Editing / Montaje

Location Sound / Sonido Directo

Assistant Editor / Asistencia de Edición
Field Production / Producción de Campo
Graphic Design / Diseño Gráfico
Photography / Fotografía
Sound Editing and Mixing /
Edición de Sonido y Mezcla
Foley Artist / Artista de Foley
Dialogue Editor / Edición de Diálogos
Assistant Sound Editor /
Asistente de Edición de Sonido
Archive Footage / Archivo

Original Music / Música Original
With the Participation of /
Con la Participación de

Song / Canción
Writer / Autor
Editing Advisor / Asesoría en Montaje

David Lasso

Paulina Ponce
David Lasso
Iván Mora Manzano
Felipe Álvarez
Andrés Galarza
Estefanía Luna
Nancy Burneo
Amanda Cifuentes
David Lasso

Juan José Luzuriaga
Mauricio Acosta
Felipe Álvarez

Juan Manuel Arregui
Nancy Burneo Ecuador TV RTU El
Comercio Últimas Noticias Diario Hoy
Nelson García / CAIMAN Musik

Walter Carrillo - Andean Instruments
Andrés Benavides - Percussion
Curi Cachimuel - Andean Instruments
Nicolás Dávila - Programming and Beats
Juan Ernesto Guerrero - Guitars
Mauricio Vicencio - Andean Instruments
HOMENAJE A PAUL GUAÑUNA
GEO 2 feat B Mayk
Manolo Sarmiento