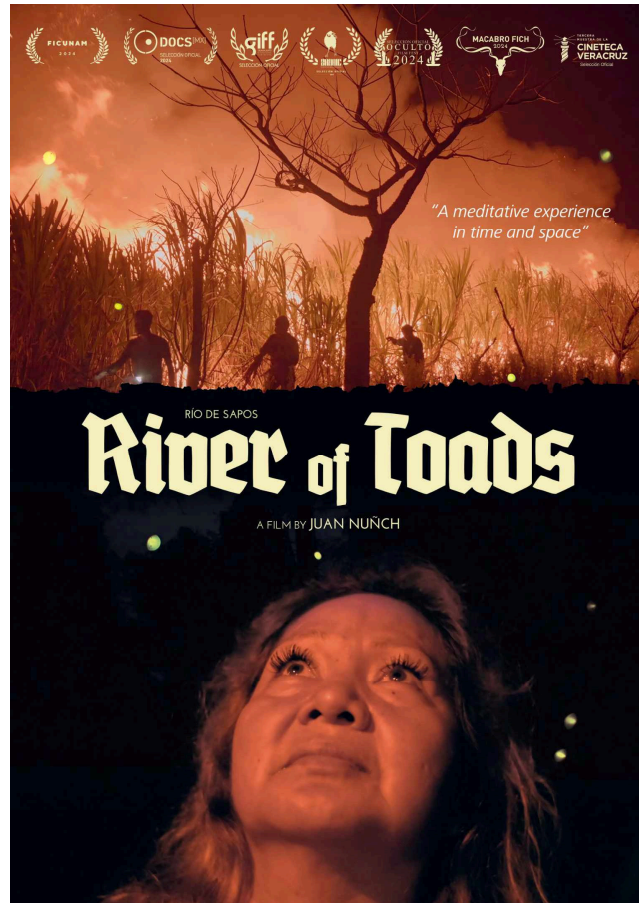


RIVER OF TOADS / RÍO DE SAPOS



A FILM BY
JUAN NUÑCH

76 mins / 2024 / Spanish, English Subtitles / Mexico



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FILM FESTIVALS

**HONORABLE MENTION MIRADAS SIN TIEMPO – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY (INAH)
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (FICUNAM), MEXICO
GUANAJUATO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (GIFF), MEXICO
MACABRO FILM FESTIVAL – MEXICO CITY INT’L HORROR FILM FESTIVAL
OCULTO FILM FESTIVAL, MEXICO
WINNER OF THE DOCTUBRE AWARD – DOCSMX MEXICO CITY
DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL
LIBRE CINEMA FESTIVAL, MEXICO
VERACRUZ SHORT FILM FESTIVAL, MEXICO
INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE AT CINETECA VERACRUZ, MEXICO
ZANATE MEXICAN DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL, MEXICO
ORIZABA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, MEXICO**

SYNOPSIS

Healer Francisca Hernández comes from a long lineage of midwives, bone setters, and exorcists who have dedicated their lives to healing communities in Veracruz. The film focuses on an annual ritual honoring Death, where spiritual traditions merge and evolve. It explores how different religious and cultural beliefs blend to form new practices, while also examining the transformation that occurs when traditions interact and reshape one another. Through a deep connection to nature and the lingering presence of mysticism, their faith becomes a living, sensory experience.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"River of Toads offers a meditative experience in time and space. It doesn't aim for the viewer to understand something specific but rather to synchronize with the sounds and images. We seek sensitivity, attention to the landscape, empathy with what is observed, letting time flow through each frame.

Filmed in the Tuxtlas Veracruz, Mexico, the last tropical rainforest in North America. It explores a remote territory, with people and communities preserving unique traditions and ways of life, deeply connected with nature.

The film adopts a sensorial narrative, showcasing individual portraits that generate a collective experience around the spiritual syncretism of the region. The camera is constantly looking for people's faces, trying to read the unique story carried by each."

Juan Nuñch

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Juan Nuñch studied communication, audiovisual languages, and photography. He has been invited to participate in international documentary film labs such as IDFA Academy, QUMRA, Conecta Chile, Bolivia Lab, Doculab, Docslab, among others. He has been coordinator of the Ambulante Documentary Tour and Independent Film Festival Oftalmica. Additionally, he is a Teacher at the Luis Buñuel Veracruz Film School, workshop leader for IMCINE, jury-tutor of PECDA, collaborator for the German television ARDtv, he is redactor for educational materials in collaboration with Artistic Mediation Network, and founder of the open-air KILTRO CINEMA forum in Coatepec, Veracruz. He's been a fellow of the Doha Film Institute, Ford Foundation, IMCINE, FONCA, PECDA, among others. As a director, his debut film "Swift Feet" was showcased in more than 30 festivals in 15 countries and was awarded 5 international distinctions. He is currently in the development stage of his third feature-length documentary, "Moon".

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Dirección / Director	Juan Nuñch
Producción / Producers	Dalia Reyes, Juan Nuñch
Guión / Story	Juan Nuñch
Fotografía / Director of Photography	Ignacio Camacho
Fotografía Adicional / Additional Photography	Karim Manzanilla
Sonido / Sound	Pedro Peña
Edición / Editing	Arturo Silva, Adolfo Gurrola, Juan Nuñch
Música / Music	Concepción Huerta
Música Adicional / Additional Music	Erik Trujillo
Coordinadora de Producción / Production Coordinator	Adriana Vázquez
Producción Local / Local Production	Nataly Perusquía
Diseñador de Sonido / Sound Design	Gerardo Villarreal
Mezcla 5.1 / Mix 5.1	Mauricio López, Ricardo Lavalle
Colorista / Colorist	David Sanchez
Diseño Gráfico / Graphic Design	Antonia Issacson, Isabel Ruiz
Casas Productoras / Production Companies	Chulada Films, Ojo de Venado Cinema
Locaciones / Filming Locations	Catemaco, Zapoapan de Cabañas, Cuatotolapan, Sochiapan, Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, México