


AT HER FINGERTIPS

A FILM BY ERICA NGUYEN

A woman with dark hair in two braids, wearing a dark jacket over a dark shirt and a wide brown belt, is sitting and weaving a basket. She is holding a bundle of white, fibrous material (likely cotton or wool) in her hands. In front of her is a yellow plastic bucket filled with water, and a corn cob is partially submerged in it. The background is a rustic, weathered wall with peeling paint and some hanging wires.

MAKE CONTACT
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SYNOPSIS

IN THE ANDES, ONE'S HAT SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF ITS OWNER- BUT WHAT OF THE SILENCED VOICES OF ITS MAKERS?

THE STORY

CELENDÍN IS A SMALL PUEBLO THAT BELONGS TO THE REGION OF CAJAMARCA, PERÚ- KNOWN FOR ITS ELEGANT STRAW HATS AND DETERMINED PEOPLE. THE HAT MAKING PROCESS BEGINS IN THE HIGH JUNGLE AMAZONIAN PLANTATIONS AND FILTERS ITS WAY THROUGH MANY DIFFERENT HANDS UNTIL IT LANDS WITH THE WEAVERS. THE WOMEN OF CELENDÍN HAVE TYPICALLY BEEN THE PRIMARY ARTISANS, OFTEN LABORING OVER A SINGLE HAT FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK OR MORE, WHILE BUYERS SET THE MARKET PRICE LOWER AND LOWER. THIS SHORT STORY BRINGS AWARENESS TO THE TALENTED WOMEN WHO ARE SEEKING EQUITY FOR THE FUTURE OF THEIR CRAFT.

CONTEXT

PERUVIAN STRAW IS A SYMBOLIC HEIRLOOM, WHICH TRANSCENDS THE MATERIAL. TRADITIONAL WEAVERS PRESS THE WEIGHT OF THEIR HEART AGAINST A BLOCK UNTIL A HAT EMERGES. VILLAGES FLASH THEIR COAT OF ARMS THROUGH SUBTLE CUES ATOP THEIR HEAD, LEGIBLE ONLY TO THOSE WHO CAN INTERPRET THIS UNIQUE DIALECT.



WHERE DID THIS STORY COME FROM?

WHERE WE ARE HEADED IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE. THIS SHORT DOCUMENTARY IS A MERE SLIVER OF WHAT WE HAVE CAPTURED SINCE THE PRODUCTION BEGAN GROWING REAL LEGS IN 2016. "AT HER FINGERTIPS" IS A SAMPLING OF THE DYNAMISM COMING WITH THE FEATURE FORMAT- FOR WHICH WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING FINISHING FUNDS TO DO THE PROJECT AND OUR COLLABORATORS JUSTICE. STRAW IS JUST ONE OF THE SACRED RAW MATERIALS FROM THE 20+ COMMUNITIES AND LANDSCAPES THAT WE INVESTIGATED TO MAKE "TEJIENDO SOMBRAS" OR "IDENTITIES OF THE PERUVIAN HAT" (FEATURE TITLE) VISIBLE. MAY THIS SHORT INTRIGUE YOU TO ASK MORE QUESTIONS AND ANTICIPATE SOME OF THE RESPONSES TO COME!



BIO

WE ARE A TRULY INDEPENDENT AND GRASSROOTS ENSEMBLE OF FEMALE FILMMAKERS, WHOSE DETERMINATION TO TELL THIS STORY HAS BEEN MARKED BY PERSONAL INITIATIVE AND SACRIFICE. TOGETHER WE IMPROVISED TO REALIZE THIS INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP, KNOCKING ON MANY DOORS WITHOUT APPOINTMENT AND BUILDING ALLIANCES ALONG THE WAY.

DIRECTOR/ PRODUCER/ EDITOR

ERICA NGUYEN

WEBSITE: [HTTP://ERYKAHNGUYEN.WIXSITE.COM/MYSITE](http://erykahnguyen.wixsite.com/mysite)

EDUCATION:

- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY

BA IN INTERDISCIPLINARY FIELD STUDIES (SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY, ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM, SOCIOLINGUISTICS). MINOR IN APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

- UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA ESPAÑA

ANTHROPOLOGY, ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM AND FIELD STUDIES, GENDER

ETHNICITY: VIETNAMESE AMERICAN

HAS BEEN ORGANIZING, CURATING AND DEVELOPING AUDIOVISUAL ART PROGRAMS SINCE 2012. SHE COLLABORATED WITH PERUVIAN DOCUMENTARY ASSOCIATIONS SINCE 2014. HER BACKGROUND IN CONTEMPORARY ART SPACES CULTIVATED AN URGENCY TO WORK WITH DIVERSE COMMUNITIES, FROM OUTSIDER ARTISTS TO INDIGENOUS GROUPS.

- DOCUMENTAL PERUANO, LIMA, PERU ([HTTP://DOCUPERU.TUMBLR.COM/](http://docuperu.tumblr.com/))
WORKSHOP FACILITATOR (DOCUMENTARY FILM, PHOTOGRAPHY, ZINES, MURAL PAINTING), CONTENT TRANSLATION/ SUBTITLING

PROJECTS: LA CARAVANA DOCUMENTAL, U.S. PREMIERE OF DOCUPERU SHORT DOCS & PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE SAN FRANCISCO MISSION CULTURAL CENTER FOR LATINO ARTS 2015. CO-DIRECTOR OF "GRIS" AWARDED BEST FILM AT 2017 NMWIF FIESTA FESTIVAL.

FIELD PRODUCER

MARÍA BERNARDITA LIRA GAETE

EDUCATION:

- PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE

BACHELOR IN AUDIOVISUAL DIRECTION AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

- UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA ESPAÑA

AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION STUDIES

ETHNICITY: CHILEAN

HAS BEEN DOING INDEPENDENT VIDEO PRODUCTION SINCE 2012, OCCUPYING THE ROLES OF PRODUCER, DIRECTOR AND EDITOR FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- 2013-14 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR RESEARCHER AND PRODUCER FOR "YO NO SOY DE AQUÍ" BY MAITE ALBERDI. SHOWCASED AT THE DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL IN DENMARK. 2016 WINNER AT VISIONS DU REEL FESTIVAL, SWITZERLAND.

- 2013 AUDIOVISUAL DIRECTION ASSISTANT IN DOCUMENTARY WORKSHOP RAMO BY DOCUMENTARY CREW MAITE ALBERDI AND PAOLA CASTILLO

- 2011-13 PRODUCTION ASSISTANT IN DOCUMENTARY LA ONCE BY MAITE ALBERDI



FIELD PRODUCER/ EDITOR

LUCIA SANCHEZ RODRIGUEZ

WEBSITE: [HTTP://LUXNIEVE.COM/](http://luxnieve.com/)

EDUCATION:

- NATIONAL PUPPET THEATRE IN BUDAPEST

- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY

PRACTICE OF ART, HONOR'S STUDIO

- UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID

BACHELOR IN FINE ARTS

- MUSIC CONSERVATORY ARTURO SORIA, MADRID

PROFESSIONAL DEGREE IN PIANO AND COMPOSITION

ETHNICITY: SPANISH

WORKS IN VISUAL ARTS AND PERFORMANCE COLLECTIVES SUCH AS EHT*, NMU AND CÁSCARA ROTA. DEVELOPED STAGE PROJECTS, RESEARCH AND VIDEOGRAPHY:

- 2017 DIRECTOR AND SCENOGRAPHER. EL AUMENTO WITH ICMAT

- 2016 DP AND EDITOR FOR "THE DESIGNER DESIGNED BY HUMANS" BY ESTUDIOHERREROS (ISTANBUL DESIGN BIENNALE)

- 2016 LIGHT DESIGN FOR CARNAZA (LUMINARIA FESTIVAL)

- 2012 DIRECTED ALMACÉN WITH CAÍN TEATRO

- NMU SCULPTURE AND HUMAN DOCUMENTARY. CARGOCOLLECTIVE.COM/NMU

"THE WIRE PEOPLE" SF AWESOME FOUNDATION AWARD

- CÁSCARA ROTA VISUAL THEATRE, OBJECTS AND FINE ARTS.





COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

WE BELIEVE OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS IS NOT RESIGNED TO FILMING AND FLEEING WITH THE FOOTAGE. SO WE PROPOSED TO GIVE BACK TO OUR SUBJECT COMMUNITIES BY FACILITATING MINI AUDIO-VISUAL WORKSHOPS, NAMELY PODCAST AND ZINE WORKSHOPS. AS WE INVESTIGATED THIS TOPIC, PLAY BECAME AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD THAT WE AIMED TO PORTRAY.

"AT HER FINGERTIPS" INTEGRATES SOUNDSCAPES FROM THE RADIO WORKSHOP IN CELENDÍN. WE HOPE OUR VIEWERS SAVOR THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS ON SCREEN AND THE COMMUNITY'S ONGOING BATTLE AGAINST BIG MINING CORPORATIONS. 6 VOLUMES OF ZINES HAVE ALSO BEEN SELF PRODUCED AND PARTICIPATED IN ZINE FESTS.



Protestas y propuestas

Alternativas al extractivismo
y herbario de plantas medicinales
FANZINE COMUNITARIO CELENDINO



CREDITS

PRESENTED BY: FILMMAKERS WITHOUT BORDERS

WITH SUPPORT FROM: NM WOMEN IN FILM & NM FILM FOUNDATION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH: DOCUMENTAL PERUANO

POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR: CLAYTON P. MARTIN

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: CHRIS BREDENBERG

RADIO SOUND DESIGN: KIRA GREENE

PRODUCTION ALLIES:

JOSÉ BALADO, ANDREA FLORES, PLATAFORMA INTERINSTITUCIONAL CELENDINA (PIC): MILTON SÁNCHEZ, PALUJO, EDWIN, MARLE LIVAQUE, LUIS SALAZAR VÁSQUEZ, JUDITH ARACELI CHÁVEZ, JUAN ORCO, RAMIRO SILVA Y YOVANA MEDINA, JUAN JESÚS ORTIZ MUÑOZ, ELENA

SANCHEZ (MESA), RED DE BIBLIOTECAS RURALES CAJAMARCA, LINO GÁLVEZ Y FAMILIA, OFICINA DE TURISMO MUNICIPAL DE BAMBAMARCA, RESTAURANTE SAN ANTONIO, EL GATO VERDE, MUSEO TOÉ

PARTICIPANTS:

RIOJA

PEDRO MAS, MAGDALENA GOLAG DE RAMÍREZ, MELITZA PEREA GOLAG, FLORITA, JUANA RUIZ VASQUEZ

CELENDIN

ROSA ELVIRA INFANTE MENDOZA, MARÍA FRANCISCA ORTIZ, MARÍA RODRÍGUEZ, JORGE WILSON IZQUIERDO, JOSÉ SANTOS GIL RODRIGUEZ, FLOR ISABEL TORRES CORTEZ , YOVANA MEDINA

SUCRE

PEDRO CHAVEZ ROJAS, ROSA CHAVEZ ALIAGA

LANCHECUCHO

ANATOLIA VERÓNICA SÁNCHEZ CHAVEZ

CAJAMARCA

ALFREDO MIRES

MARIA SOFÍA MEJIA VASQUEZ

BAMBAMARCA

LINO GÁLVEZ , SANTOS APOLINAR CRUZADO IDRAGO, MANUEL BENAVIDES VASQUEZ , LUZ AMELIA CARRANZA, JOSÉ CONCEPCIÓN SILVA ESTRADA , MARIA SOFÍA MEJIA VASQUEZ

NON-DIEGETICS:

RADIO FROM PODCAST WORKSHOP "PROPUESTAS TRAS LA PROTESTA

GUEST SPEAKERS- HIPÓLITO CHÁVEZ GLADIS Y MARILU CHILÓN GUTIÉRREZ

HOST- CLAVITEX

SOUND DESIGN- KIRA GREENE

CLOSING SONG "CANCIÓN A LAS PLANTAS MEDICINALES"

VOZ- ANATOLIA VERÓNICA SÁNCHEZ CHAVEZ

