



MENTION SPÉCIALE
BIARRITZ 2021
 Festival du cinéma latino-américain



MEJOR
LARGOMETRAJE
 PROGRAMA CHIMAL: Selección Nacional
DOCUMENTA
 FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE CINE
 Y NARRATIVAS DE NO FICCIÓN 2022



Best Native American Film
 VAYCHILETIK
LANAFF Latino &
 Native American
 Film Festival

2024



41st JEAN ROUCH
 INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
**LIVING
 HERITAGE
 PRIZE**
 International Competition 2022



FICM
 SPECIAL MENTION FOR
 MEXICAN FEATURE-LENGTH
 DOCUMENTARY
 2021

VAYCHILETIK

a film by Juan Javier Pérez

Synopsis

Through his dreams, José received a gift given by the gods. A gift that brings consequences. Now that he is at a mature age in life, José would like to rest, but he is not allowed. Vaychiletik explores this fierce yet beautiful reality, forged from the dreams of the Mayan people of Mexico.







Credits

Written & directed: **Juan Javier Pérez**
Starring: **José Pérez López, Elvia Pérez Suárez, Esteban Pérez Pérez**
Produced by: **Daniela Contreras, Nicolas Défossé**
Cinematography: **Ángel López Gómez**
Sound recording: **Juan Javier Pérez**
Film editing: **Nicolas Défossé**
Sound Design: **Martin de Torcy**
Sound mix: **Carlos Cortés Navarrete**
Colourist: **Néstor A. Jiménez Díaz**
Graphic Design: **Adolfo López Magaña**

Production Company: **Terra Nostra Films**
With the support of: **Documentary Film School of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, IMCINE (Mexican Film Institute), EGM (Estímulo Gabriel García Márquez para la Creación Cinematográfica en México y Centroamérica), Splendor Omnia.**



Director's Statement

VAYCHILETIK means dreams in the Mayan language of Tsotsil, and is dedicated to the men and women guardians who give their lives to fight, resist and dream for the flourishing of our original cultures.

This is a story that I have known since my childhood. When a community festival was coming, I knew I needed to make sure my traditional clothing, my pok'uil (embroidered cotton over shirt) was ready. In the evenings I would accompany my father to watch him play music for the ceremonies, even though they were long and we would stay up very late. I needed to stay awake and take care of my father, because the effects of pox (the ceremonial liquor) would make him feel festive and sometimes stubborn. The sounds of the harp, the guitar, the violin, the reed flute, and the drum, together with the smell of copal, lulled me to sleep and I would dream.

This film is a fragment of my father's life. Through his dreams, he was given a gift, a gift that couldn't be refused for fear that the gods would punish him. My mother has given refuge to his dreams and nightmares, and with this film I wish to honor them both. Through this film, this history will remain forever in our memory, and this cultural construction can be shared, this way of life guided by a world both fierce and beautiful, the Tsotsil culture of Chiapas, Mexico.





Director's Biography

Juan Javier Pérez was born in 1989 in Chiapas, Mexico, in the Maya Tsotsil village of Zinacantán. Since he was a child, he has participated in ceremonies of his community as a companion of his father, a renowned traditional musician. Alongside with cousins and friends, he began an exploration of sounds typical of Zinacantán culture and he is the drummer of the tsotsil rock band "Yibel". He studied a degree in Intercultural Communication at the UNICH and then Documentary at the Documentary Film School of San Cristóbal de las Casas. "Vaychiletik" is his first documentary feature film.







Press

"Vaychiletik is a quietly poignant portrait of a community whose existence is a form of resistance. [...] This is a terrific example of a story that showcases minimal action in favour of deep meditation".

Justine Kraemer, Pages and Pictures, Canada

"...a journey through time and history, where the intimate and the universal brush up against each other and question the relationship with the world".

Yessica Morales, Chiapas Paralelo, Mexico

"It's a film that speaks of memory, but also attempts to defend and safeguard all that ancestral knowledge".

Cuarto Poder, Mexico

"While the images are magnificent and the film reveals a Mayan language still very alive, all the folklore is removed by the director's focus on the construction of a well-defined story".

Cédric Lépine, Le Club de Mediapart, France

"...Vaychiletik responsibly takes on the task of portraying an unknown and fascinating way of life [...] while constructing a piercing reflection on the attachment to tradition as a valuable sign of civic commitment, but also as a heavy vital burden".

Manu Yáñez, Los Otros Cines Europa

"...the film functions as testimony of the dilemma of a man who, every day, has to decide between his plans and those the gods have set for him".

Javier Espinoza, Odioso Crítico, Mexico

"Watching José really embrace his humanity in this cosmic way makes him all the more relatable".

Justine Kraemer, Pages and Pictures, Canada

"The film deploys a tragicomic tone, rare in the documentary genre. Half dismayed, half amused, we discover the trials and tribulations of this peasant, enlisted as a musician in his dreams, by the gods".

Festival Biarritz Amérique Latine, France

"Vaychiletik [...] subtly presents the weight of this universe of dreams that cannot be revealed. Cinema then takes on the role of psychoanalytic revelation in what it shows us and in the dream it offers to share".

Cédric Lépine, Le Club de Mediapart, France







Awards

- Living Heritage Prize (XLI Jean Rouch International Film Festival, Paris, France)
- Special Jury Award, Mexican Documentary Feature Film (XIX Morelia International Film Festival, Mexico)
- Special Jury Award, Documentary Feature Film (XXX Festival Biarritz Amérique Latine, France)
- Jury Award for Best Mexican Documentary Feature Film (X Documenta International Festival of Cinema and Narratives of No Fiction, Mexico)
- Award for Best Native American Film (XIV Latino & Native American Film Festival, Connecticut, USA)

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BIARRITZ 2021
Festival du cinéma latino-américain

VIVA MEXICO
Sélection Officielle

FICM
MENCION ESPECIAL
A LARGOMETRAJE
DOCUMENTAL MEXICANO
2021

ZANAI
Festival de cine documental mexicano
SELECCIÓN OFICIAL
2021

Reflets du
cinéma ibérique et
latino-américain
SÉLECTION
OFFICIELLE
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Y NARRATIVAS DE NO FICCIÓN 2022

AMBULANTE
Film Festival

official
selection
trinidad + tobago
film festival
2022

LIFY
expresate!
OFFICIAL SELECTION
2022

**CONTRA EL SILENCIO
TODAS LAS VOCES**
Selección oficial
2022

2022 OFFICIAL SELECTION
VIRGINIA
FILM FESTIVAL

SELECCIÓN OFICIAL
MICMX
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2023

SMITHSONIAN
**MOTHER TONGUE
FILM FESTIVAL**
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2023

SELECCIÓN OFICIAL
IV FESTIVAL DE CINE
LATINOAMERICANO
LENGUAS ORIGINARIAS

SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE
FIFEQ
FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL
DU FILM ETHNOGRAPHIQUE
DU QUÉBEC - MONTRÉAL
2023

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
LASA
FILM FESTIVAL
2023

TWELFTH ANNUAL
**PHILADELPHIA
LATINO FILM
FESTIVAL**
OFFICIAL SELECTION
2023

OFFICIAL SELECTION
ILINDEN DAYS
INTERNATIONAL
ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM
FESTIVAL
2023

OFFICIAL SELECTION
POCAHONTAS REFRAMED
FILM FESTIVAL
2022

17^a
**MUESTRA
CINE+VIDEO
INDÍGENA**
SELECCIÓN OFICIAL 2023
- CHILE -

2023
**»imagine
NATIVE**
OFFICIAL
SELECTION

LOS ANGELES
**TOMORROW'S
FILMMAKERS
TODAY**
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2023

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2024

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**German International
Ethnographic Film
Festival**
2024

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contacto@terranostrafilms.com




FOPROCINE

GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ PARA LA CREACIÓN CINEMATOGRAFICA EN MEXICO Y CENTROAMERICA
Cinemi

SPLENDOR OMNIA
POSTPRODUCTION STUDIOS

 *Kibeltik*
nuestras raíces

 TERRA NOSTRA FILMS