



BRIGHT FUTURE COMPETITION
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM
2020

A FILM BY ANA ELENA TEJERA

PANQUIACO



TECHNICAL DETAILS

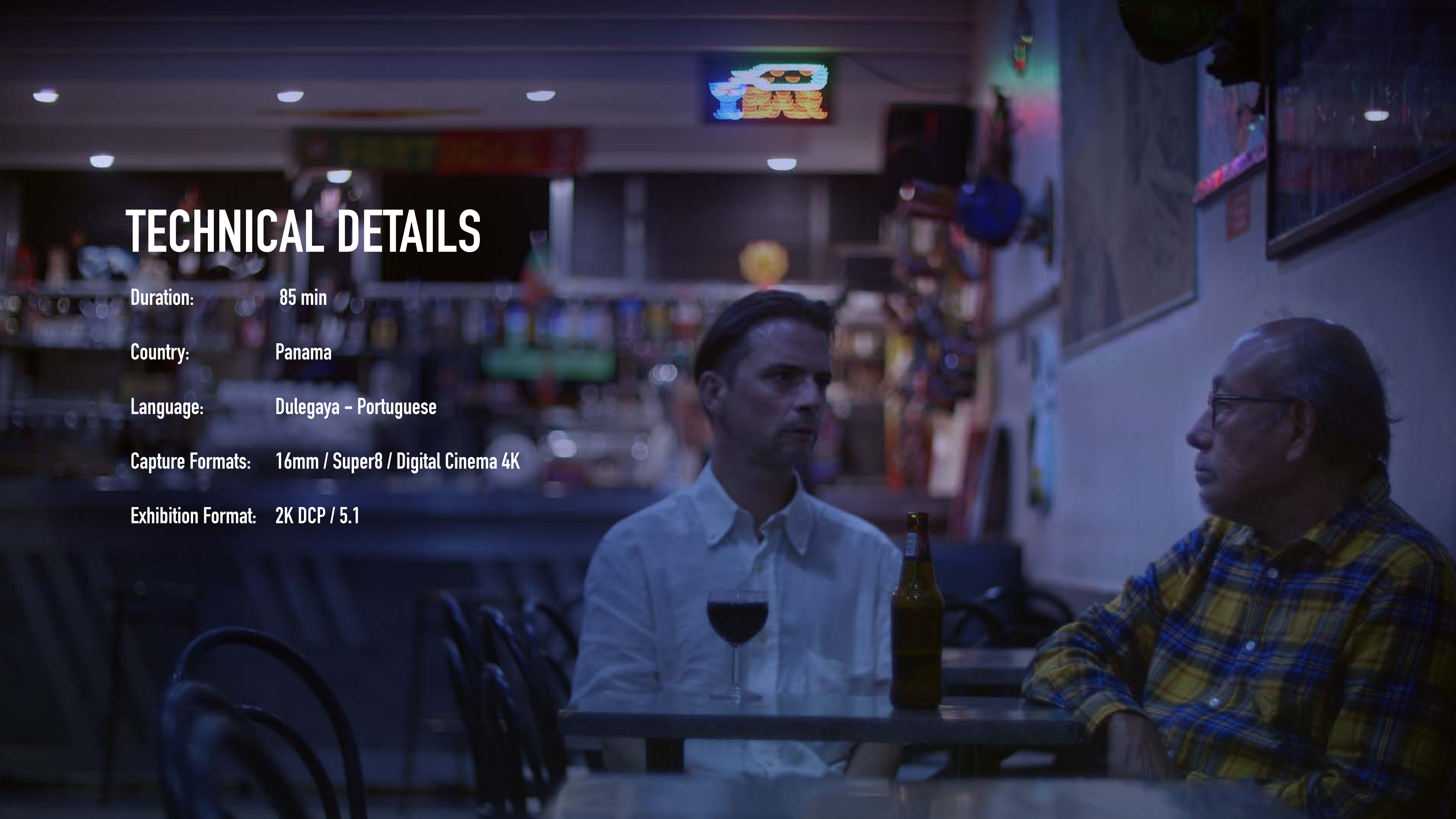
Duration: 85 min

Country: Panama

Language: Dulegaya – Portuguese

Capture Formats: 16mm / Super8 / Digital Cinema 4K

Exhibition Format: 2K DCP / 5.1





FESTIVALS, FUNDS, LABS & MARKETS

WORLD PREMIERE

International Film Festival Rotterdam IFFR 2020

FUNDS

Development – Panama 500 Fund / May 2017

Documentary – Panama Film Fund / October 2017

Post production Fund – Primera Mirada IFF Panama / April 2019

LABS & MARKETS

Nuevas Miradas Lab / December 2017 (Winner)

TFI Network x Tribeca Film Institute 2018 (Winner)

Docs MX 2018

Márgenes Madrid 2018

Chiledocs Conecta 2018 (Winner)

Primer Corte – Ventana Sur 2018

Primera Mirada – IFF Panamá (Winner)

MAIN CREDITS

Director & Script: Ana Elena Tejera

Producer: María Isabel Burnes

Executive Producers: Ana Elena Tejera
María Isabel Burnes
Tomás Cortés Rosselot
Christian Bradford

Associated Producer: Leo Wiznitzer

Director of Photography: Mateo Guzmán Sánchez

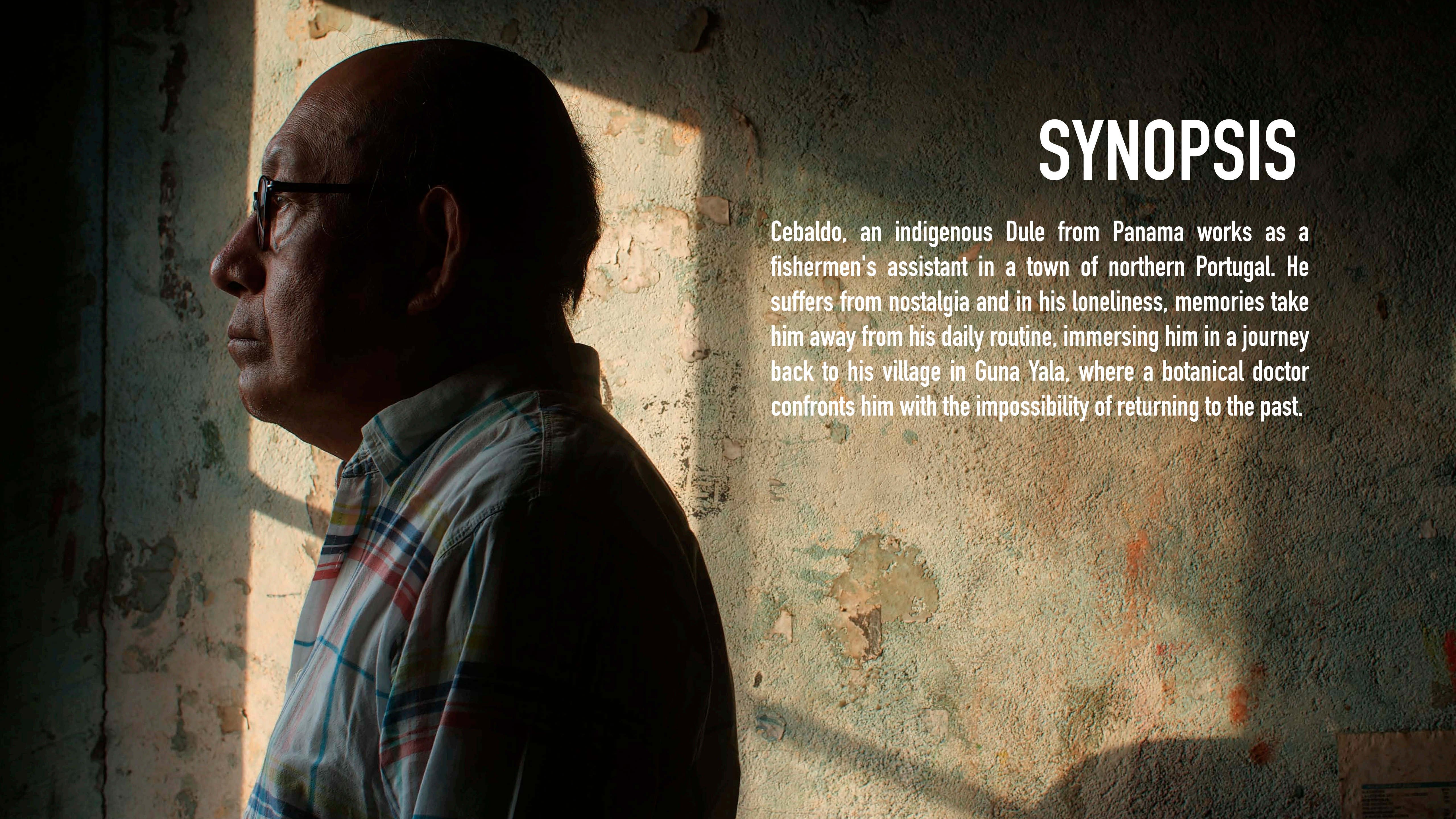
Sound Director: Juan Camilo Martínez Idárraga

Editors: Lorenzo Mora
Ariadna Ribas Surís (AMMAC)
Ana Elena Tejera

Cast: Cebaldo De León Smith
Fernando Fernández

MESTIZO
CINEMA





SYNOPSIS

Cebaldo, an indigenous Dule from Panama works as a fishermen's assistant in a town of northern Portugal. He suffers from nostalgia and in his loneliness, memories take him away from his daily routine, immersing him in a journey back to his village in Guna Yala, where a botanical doctor confronts him with the impossibility of returning to the past.



ANA ELENA TEJERA

Director and Screenwriter

Ana Elena Tejera is a Panamanian film director and actress. She studied psychology, performing arts and documentary filmmaking and is an artist resident at Le Fresnoy. She has participated in workshops with Pedro Costa, Jose Luis Guerin, Patricio Guzman, Nicholas Philibert and Victor Erice and has specialized in screenwriting, found footage and film restoration at the School of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Madrid. She later worked on the restoration of part of Panama's film archive at the Filmoteca de Catalunya. She is also the creator and artistic director of "Memory Festival" an artistic piece of performance and installations in urban spaces recontextualized with images from political archives and part of the theater company Chroma Teatre in Barcelona. She has also worked mixing audiovisuals formats and performance, her last work is "Aula de Clases- Bla Bla Bla": an audio visual installation, accompanied by a performance created for the 30 years of the Invasion of Panama by the United States, presented at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Panama. Tejera premieres her first feature film, "Panquiaco" (2020), at the Rotterdam International Film Festival in the official Bright Future competition.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Panama is a small piece of land surrounded by sea, it is the only place in the world where two seas can be seen from a mountain. The mythological sense of the sea has changed since colonization and Panama has suffered a conflict of identity as a commercial transit route. One of the precedents in this change was the so-called "Discovery of the South Sea". In 1513 when Vasco Núñez de Balboa arrived at the Isthmus of Panama in search of gold, he spoke with Panquiaco, an indigenous man who took him through the Darién jungle until reaching the Pacific Ocean. This tour immortalized Balboa, in Western history, as "The Discoverer of the South Sea" and made him a symbol of Panamanian identity: currency, avenues, national awards, among other references that proudly bear his name.

Panquiaco is that conflict, it is the soul that wanders between the two seas that suffers from sadness for having given the news to Balboa. Panquiaco symbolizes the other way of living with the sea, an animistic form, where the sea is memory and thought. Panquiaco is reincarnated in Cebaldo, a character that I encountered while researching, an indigenous exiled in the western world with a great nostalgia for his past, a soul that carries a historical and mythological weight. The weight of the romanticism of the past, of a childhood between two seas that will not return. An unfinished character, who does not seem to be neither here nor there, a character with the need to heal, to decolonize and surrender to his land in a journey of memories that goes from the individual to the collective.

The film opens the question on how a geographic position can affect identity and portrays an incomplete, confused, unstable character, uncomfortable with himself feeling that something is missing. Cebaldo can be Panquiaco, or Balboa, or sometimes both at the same time or none, because he is also a ghost of himself that wanders between real and dream worlds. This lack of definition has a lot to do with the technical, aesthetic and narrative proposal of the film: a proposal that does not marry any genre, any format, resulting in a film that can be called a "Hybrid".

Through this film I seek to initiate a thought on the conflict of identity in my country, a difficult conflict to describe or to even hypothesize, nevertheless, a subject little talked about in our region.

CONTACTS

INTERNATIONAL SALES AND FESTIVALS

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A FILM BY ANA ELENA TEJERA

PRODUCTION TEAM

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PANQUIACO

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