



Technical Information

Working Title: Tell them not to Kill me
Director: Santiago Lozano Álvarez
Screenplay: Santiago Lozano Álvarez
Nationality: Colombian
Genre: Fiction
Format: HD 2K
Length: 90 min
Shooting location: Medio San Juan, Chocó, Colombia
Production Company: Contravía Films, Barbara Films, Angela Trejos Collazos
Partners: Universidad Autónoma de Occidente

Director's Filmography and Biography

Santiago Lozano (Colombia, 1978) has a degree in Social Communications from Universidad del Valle. In 2007 he won the Carolina Foundation scholarship to study MA Film and Television Script at Universidad Carlos III Madrid (Spain). His first film, **Siembra**, co-directed with Angela Osorio, had its world premiere at the Locarno International Film Festival 2015 (Independent Critics Boccalino Award for Best Direction). The film has participated in several film festivals, Cartagena's 56th International Film Festival 2016 (Jury's Special Award), Cinélatino, Rencontres de Toulouse 2016 (Best Film), Tarragona International Film Festival 2015 (Besty Film), novos cinemas. Pontevedra International Film Festival 2016 (Audience Award), Cali International Film Festival 2016 (Best Film). He is currently professor at Cinema and Digital Communication program of Universidad Autónoma de Occidente.

Tell them not to Kill me

a film by Santiago Lozano Álvarez



cinéfondation
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Santiago Lozano Álvarez

E-mail: barbarafilms@gmail.com
Mob.: + 57 300 20 09 421

Festival de Cannes

5, rue Charlot, F-75003 Paris
Tel. 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 20
Fax 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 24
E-mail:
residence@festival-cannes.fr
www.festival-cannes.org

Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.



With the support of HP. Printed on an HP Indigo Digital Press.

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Synopsis

Guajiro (55) lives in the Chocó Jungle, in western Colombia. From an early age, he learned the arts of the mortuary rituals inherited from his ancestors, who were African slaves. He accompanies the dead on their way to eternal rest, dressing their tombs, embalming their bodies, praying and singing.

Every day, Guajiro prays to the souls of the purgatory, who in return protect him, guide him and also torment him. One night the souls announce his death, telling him that it will soon arrive in Holy Time, but they warn him not to die near the church, not near the cemetery, or in his house.

Guajiro embarks on a journey into the jungle

to meet his death. Defying the curfew imposed by the armed groups that dispute the territory, he will have to survive the conflict so that his soul can rest in peace and it does not add itself to the souls of the purgatory.

In this tour he meets the dead who roam the jungle, the dead left by decades of violence and war. Little by little, Guajiro will help these souls to rest in peace, while fulfilling their life cycle.

Statement of Intent

This film represents my desire to immerse myself in a journey towards the world of the dead. It is a descent into the jungle, which is actually a climb up the mountain for my character to meet his death.

In this jungle, the dead wander, lost. Here in my country, Colombia, he embarks on a trip to the world of the dead, to meet with the disappeared and the silenced as well as the dismembered, those thrown into the river, and the buried in mass graves.

This trip is a paradox. The impulse of a man who must confront his death, but also must flee from it and to go to his meeting in the way it is written in his destiny. This paradox can only be possible, in the logic of local narratives, in the collective memory of Afro-descendant culture, which mixes beliefs, rituals, and deities as a form of resistance from the time of slavery to the present war and peace.

Synopsis

Guajiro (55 ans) vit dans la jungle de Chocó, dans la région occidentale de la Colombie. Dès son plus jeune âge, il apprend les arts des rituels funéraires hérités de ses ancêtres, anciens esclaves africains. Il accompagne les morts sur leur chemin vers le repos éternel, préparant leurs tombes, embaumant leurs corps, priant et chantant.

Chaque jour, Guajiro prie les âmes du purgatoire, qui en retour le protègent, le guident et le tourmentent lui aussi. Une nuit, les âmes annoncent sa mort, lui disant qu'elle arrivera bientôt au Temps Sacré, mais elles l'avertissent de ne mourir ni près de l'église, ni près du cimetière, ni dans sa maison.

Guajiro part en voyage dans la jungle pour

trouver le rendez-vous avec sa mort. Défiant le couvre-feu imposé par les groupes armés qui se disputent le territoire, il devra survivre aux armes pour que son âme puisse reposer en paix et ne s'ajoute pas aux âmes du purgatoire.

Dans ce périple, il rencontre les morts qui errent dans la jungle, les morts laissés par des décennies de violence et de guerre. Petit à petit, Guajiro aidera ces âmes à reposer en paix, tout en accomplissant leur cycle de vie.

Note d'intention

Ce film représente mon désir de me plonger dans un voyage vers le monde des morts. Une descente dans la jungle, qui est en fait une montée vers la montagne qui conduit au rendez-vous de mon personnage avec sa mort.

Dans cette jungle, les morts errent, perdus.

Dans mon pays, la Colombie. S'embarquer pour un voyage dans le monde des morts, c'est partir à la rencontre des disparus, des silencieux, des démembrés, de ceux jetés à la rivière, enterrés dans des fosses communes.

Ce voyage est un paradoxe. L'élan d'un homme qui doit aller à la rencontre de sa mort, mais doit la fuir, pour aller à son rendez-vous comme il est écrit dans son destin. Ce paradoxe ne peut être possible, dans la logique des récits locaux, que dans la mémoire collective de la culture afro-descendante, qui mélange les croyances, les rituels et les divinités comme une forme de résistance depuis l'esclavage jusqu'à la guerre et la paix d'aujourd'hui.