

## Technical Information

**Working Title:** The Rust  
**Director:** Juan Sebastián Mesa  
**Screenplay:** Juan Sebastián Mesa  
**Nationality:** Colombia  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Format:** 4K  
**Length:** 90 min  
**Shooting location:** Colombia

**Production Company in Colombia:**  
Monociclo Cine ([www.monociclocine.com](http://www.monociclocine.com))  
**Producer:** Jose Manuel Duque  
**Email:** [josema@monociclocine.com](mailto:josema@monociclocine.com)  
**Mobile:** +057 - 32 15 65 95 58  
**Producer:** Alexander Arbelaez  
**Email:** [Alexander@monociclocine.com](mailto:Alexander@monociclocine.com)  
**Mobile:** +057 - 30 14 71 78 88

## Director's Biography

Juan Sebastián Mesa was born in Medellín, Colombia 1989. Photographer and co-founder of *Monociclo Cine*, he holds a degree in audiovisual communications with studies in scriptwriting and contemporary narrative. He has directed several music and experimental videos. His short film *Kalashnikov* (2013) was selected to be part of numerous film festivals. His first feature film *The Nobodies* won the audience award at the *31<sup>st</sup> Settimana Internazionale della Critica Venice* (2016) and was the opening film of the *Cartagena de Indias International Film Festival* (FICCI 56). His most recent short film *Tierra Mojada* was part of the *Orizzonti Competition Venice 2017* and *Sundance Official Selection 2018*. He's currently working on his second feature film *The Rust*.

# LA ROYA

a film by Juan Sebastián Mesa



cinéfondation  
LA RÉSIDENCE

## Juan Sebastián Mesa

**E-mail:** [juans@monociclocine.com](mailto:juans@monociclocine.com)  
**Mob.:** + 057 - 31 37 50 82 88 (Colombia)  
+ 33 7 67 21 18 22 (France)

## 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](mailto:residence@festival-cannes.fr)  
[www.festival-cannes.org](http://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.

# LA ROYA

(The Rust)

a film by Juan Sebastián Mesa



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



cinéfondation  
LA RÉSIDENCE



## Synopsis

---

Jorge (27), a young coffee farmer, sees his farm's harvest threatened by a terrible plague and heavy rains.

The annual Virgin del Carmen festivities are near, bringing along a massive arrival of his old school friends who now live in the city. After ten years of separation, Jorge has to face his past. The yearning for recovering his childhood love vanishes when he discovers that everything they had in common has faded away. After a chaotic, frantic weekend, Jorge realizes that the plague not only lives in his coffee crops, but also dwells in the streets of the village and in the minds of many of those who visit it.

## Statement of Intent

---

I spent the first years of my life in a small coffee-producing town in the Andean mountains. My constant escapades to the coffee plantations of my aunt's farm left a profound mark on me. Years after I had moved to the city, I decided to return, only to realize how my city life had started generating a sort of estrangement with my cousins. The way we perceived and understand the world became increasingly different. I was pleased to revisit a part of my past but this was also a rather discouraging experience that, in a way, is at the heart of this story.

This project is a return to my childhood years and to the village I left. It aims to capture the struggle of a rural area that refuses to disappear, as well as the loss of ancestral customs, reflected in the aggressive arrival of coffee rust, a plague that slowly erodes the hopes of the few who still believe in what they have.

## Synopsis

---

Jorge (27 ans), cultivateur de café, voit la récolte de sa ferme menacée par une terrible épidémie et de fortes pluies.

Les festivités annuelles prochaines de la Vierge du Carmen amènent l'arrivée massive de ses anciens camarades d'école qui vivent maintenant dans la ville. Après dix années de séparation, Jorge doit faire face à son passé. Le désir de retrouver son amour d'enfance disparaît quand il découvre que tout ce qu'ils partageaient s'est évanoui. Après un week-end chaotique et frénétique, Jorge se rend compte que le fléau touche non seulement ses récoltes de café, mais aussi les rues du village et l'esprit de beaucoup de ceux qui le visitent.

## Note d'intention

---

J'ai passé les premières années de ma vie dans une petite ville des Andes productrice de café. Mes escapades constantes dans les plantations de ma tante m'ont profondément marquées. Après plusieurs années de vie en ville, j'ai décidé d'y revenir, pour me rendre compte que ma vie citadine commençait à générer une sorte d'éloignement avec mes cousins. La façon dont nous avons perçu et compris le monde est devenue de plus en plus différente. J'ai été heureux de retrouver une partie de mon passé, mais c'était aussi une expérience plutôt décourageante qui, en quelque sorte, est au cœur de cette histoire.

Ce projet est un retour aux années de mon enfance et au village que j'ai quitté. Il vise à saisir la lutte d'une zone rurale qui refuse de disparaître, ainsi que la perte des coutumes ancestrales, reflétée dans l'arrivée agressive de la rouille du café, un fléau qui érode lentement les espoirs de ceux qui croient encore en ce qu'ils ont.