



# Snake Oil Song

DEEP IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE, A MYSTERIOUS MAN SPENDS HIS DAYS HUNTING THE ANACONDA THAT ATE HIS DOG...



PLAY  
LAB

A film by Micah Van Hove  
**Introducing** Guillermo Subauste  
**Executive Producer** Jim Cummings  
**Executive Producer** Benjamin Wiessner  
**Co-Producer** Estephania Bonnett Alonso  
**Co-Producer** Brett Pedersen  
**Co-Producer** Juan Pablo Caballero  
**DoP** Angello Faccini  
**Production Designer** César Montoya  
**Screenplay** Jeffrey Reeser





THIS IS **CHINO**.

A TRANSPORTER (AN "ANT") FOR AN ILLEGAL GOLD MINING ORGANIZATION.

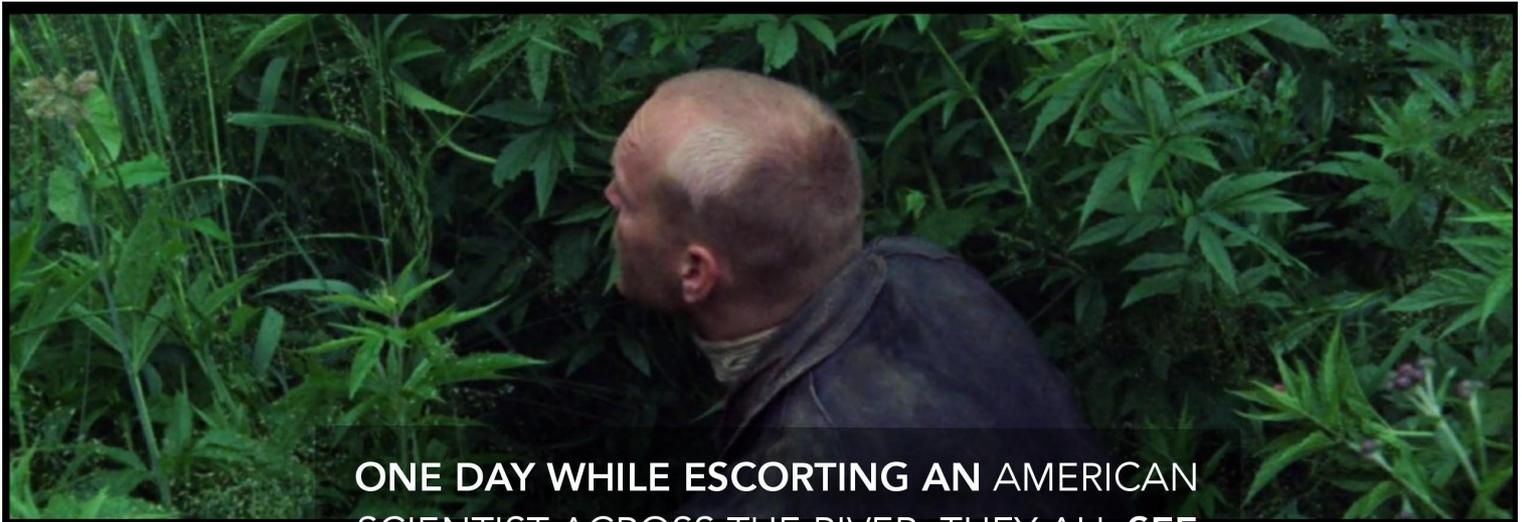
HE IS CONSUMED BY ONE THING: **FINDING THE SNAKE THAT KILLED HIS DOG.**



TOGETHER WITH HIS DIM-WITTED PARTNER **POÁLO**, CHINO SETS TRAPS FOR THE BASTARD SNAKE ALONG THE RIVERBANKS.



**FOR EXTRA MONEY**, THEY ESCORT TRAVELERS ACROSS THE RIVER.



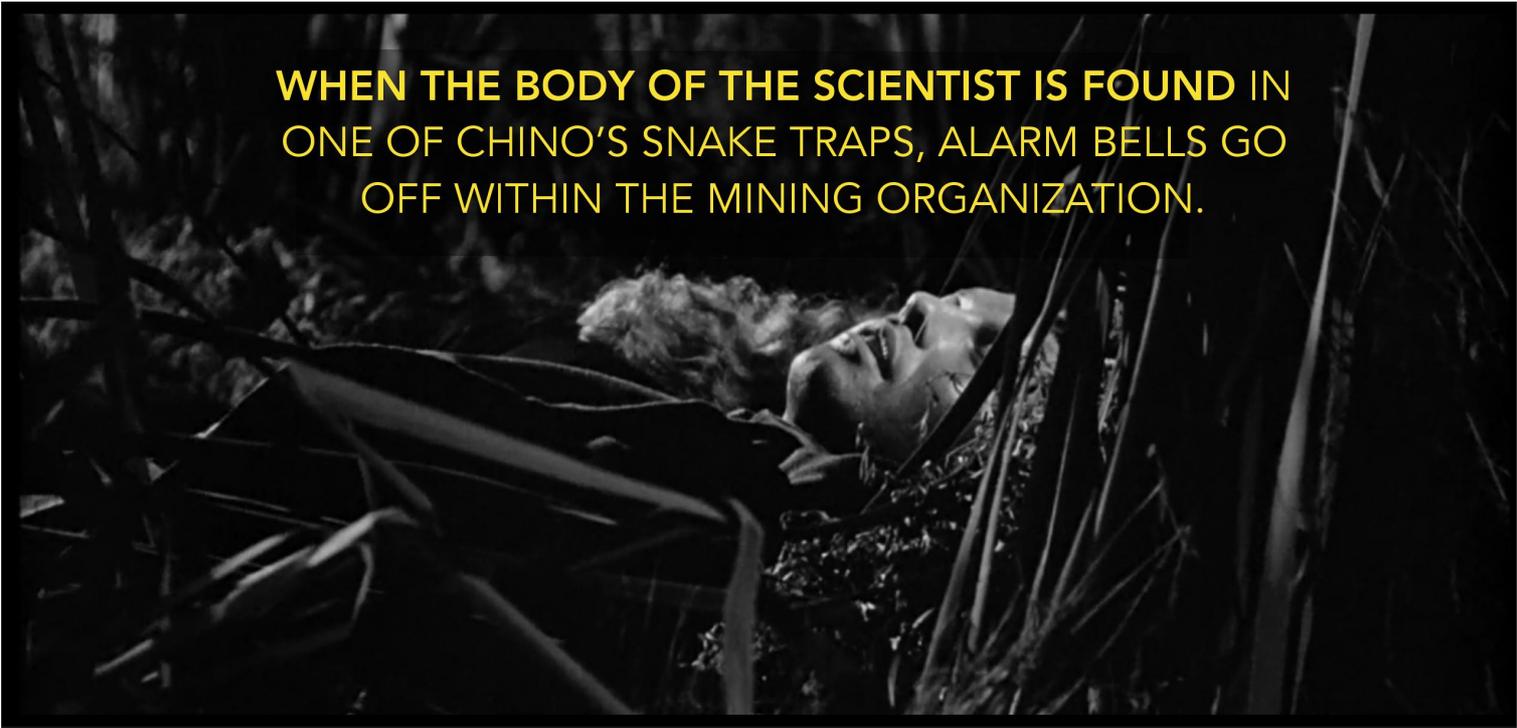
**ONE DAY WHILE ESCORTING AN AMERICAN SCIENTIST ACROSS THE RIVER, THEY ALL SEE SOMETHING THEY SHOULDN'T...**



**AVOIDING FURTHER TROUBLE, CHINO LAYS LOW AT HIS SHANTY.**



**VISIONS OF HIS DEAD DOG PLAGUE HIS MIND AND DREAMS...**

A woman with blonde hair is lying in a snake trap made of woven branches and leaves. She is looking up with a pained expression. The scene is set in a dark, dense jungle with many thin, vertical branches and leaves.

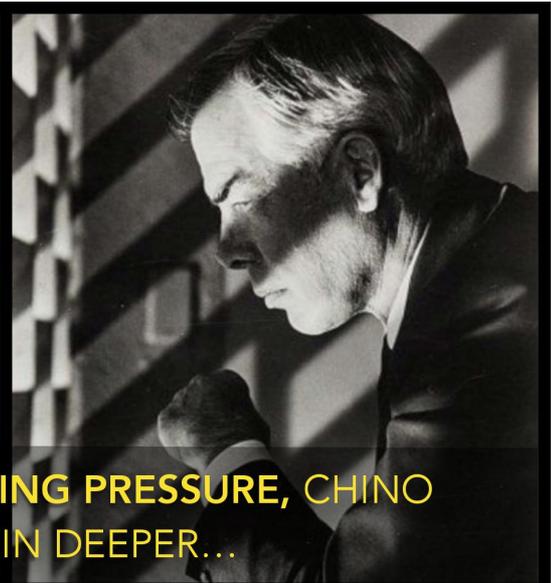
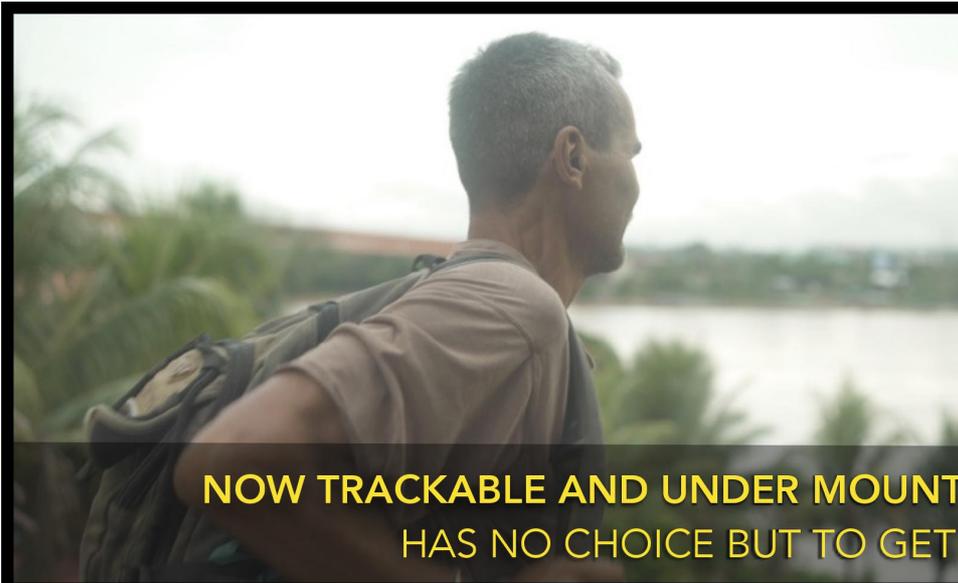
**WHEN THE BODY OF THE SCIENTIST IS FOUND IN ONE OF CHINO'S SNAKE TRAPS, ALARM BELLS GO OFF WITHIN THE MINING ORGANIZATION.**

A wide shot of a mining site in a tropical forest. The site is a cleared area with a wooden structure and several people. There are palm trees and lush greenery. Three speech bubbles containing newspaper headlines are overlaid on the scene.

**LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL PRESS OVER THE DEATH OF THE SCIENTIST BRINGS UNWANTED ATTENTION TO THE DEFORESTATION AND MINING IN THE REGION.**

A view of a jewelry store with many display cases and shelves. The store is brightly lit with fluorescent lights. The shelves are filled with various jewelry items, and there are several glass display cases in the foreground.

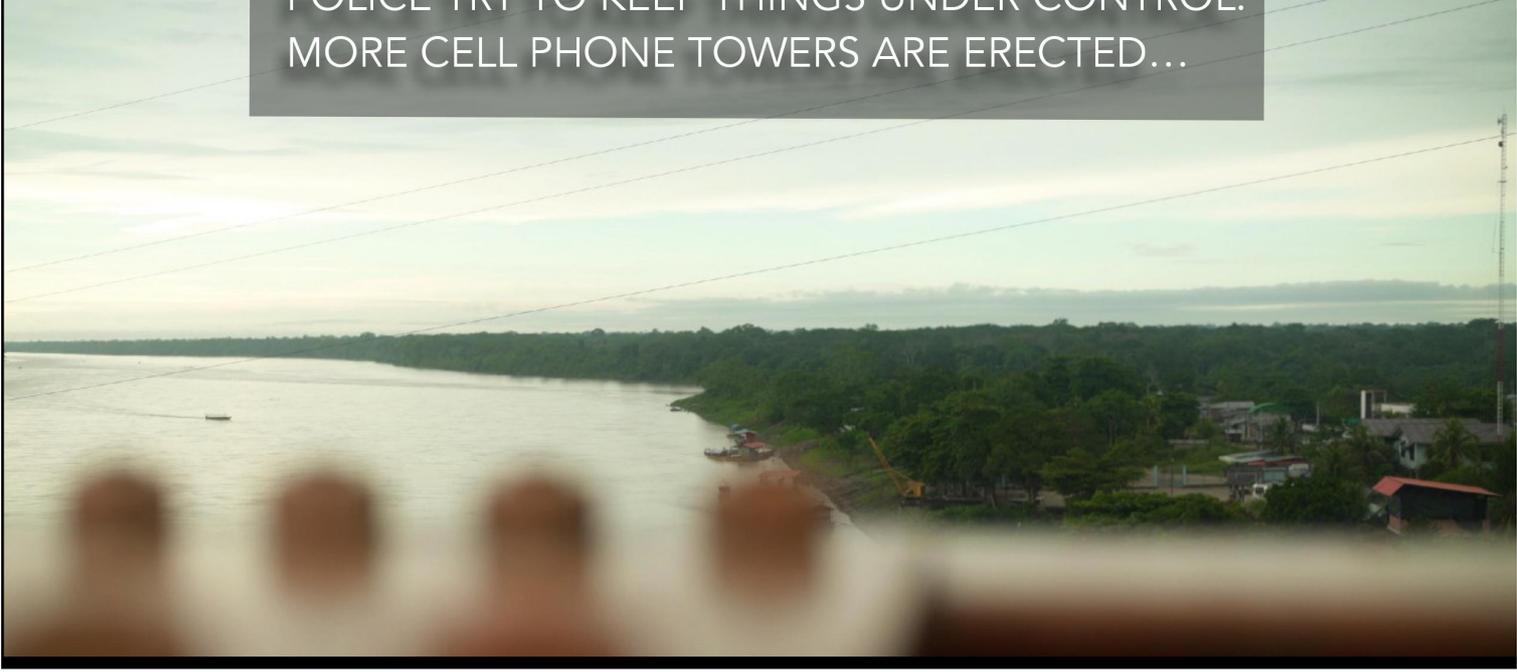
**AS A PUNISHMENT, CHINO IS GIVEN A CELL PHONE BY THE ORGANIZATION AND TOLD TO PICK UP WHENEVER IT RINGS.**

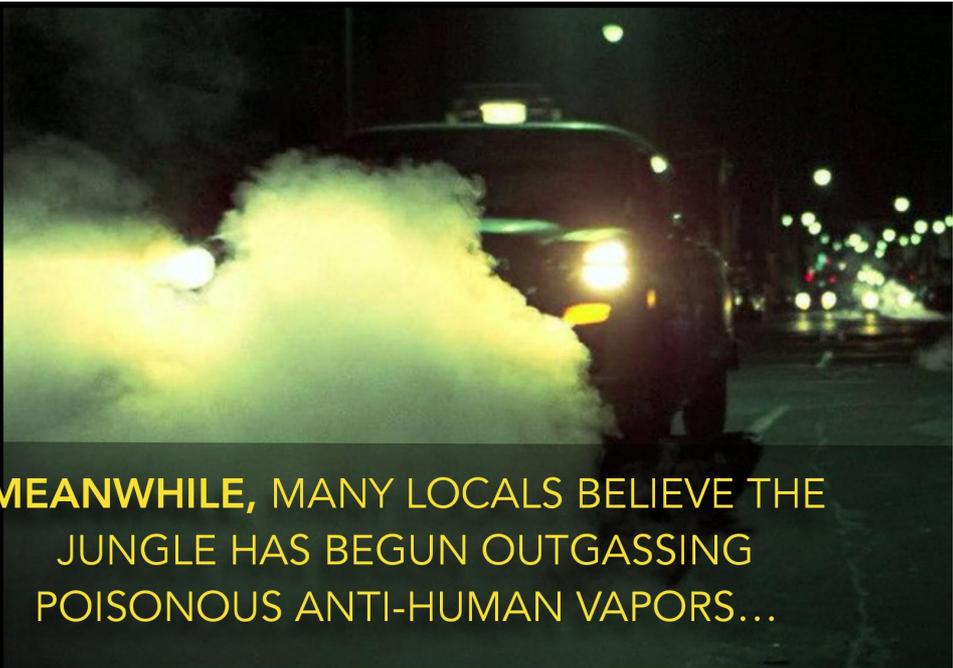


**NOW TRACKABLE AND UNDER MOUNTING PRESSURE, CHINO HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO GET IN DEEPER...**



**AS NEWS TRAVELS FAST, POLITICIANS AND POLICE TRY TO KEEP THINGS UNDER CONTROL. MORE CELL PHONE TOWERS ARE ERECTED...**





**MEANWHILE, MANY LOCALS BELIEVE THE JUNGLE HAS BEGUN OUTGASSING POISONOUS ANTI-HUMAN VAPORS...**

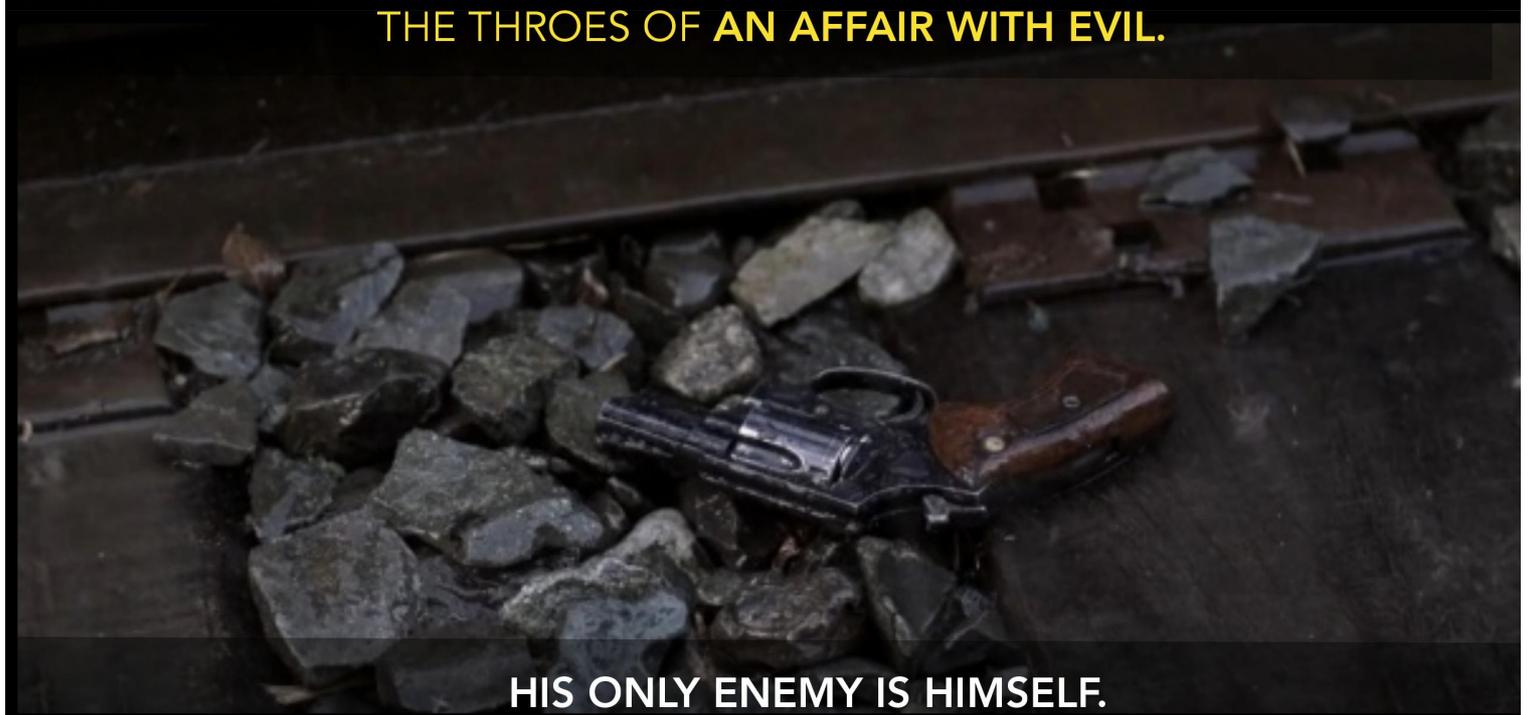


**CHINO REMAINS ON THE HUNT FOR THE ANACONDA — BUT WHO IS HUNTING WHO?**





**SUDDENLY, CHINO FINDS HIMSELF DEEP IN  
THE THROES OF AN AFFAIR WITH EVIL.**



**HIS ONLY ENEMY IS HIMSELF.  
HIS ONLY WAY OUT IS THROUGH.**



**SNAKE OIL SONG** IS AN EXHILARATING AND EXISTENTIAL MURDER MYSTERY IN THE JUNGLE, INSPIRED BY HYBRID FICTION AND HARD-BOILED FILM-NOIR TRADITION.



THE PRODUCTION WILL BE UTILIZING NEWCOMER TALENT **GUILLERMO SUBAUSTE** AND LOCAL CASTING THROUGHOUT ON-LOCATION PHOTOGRAPHY IN HONDA, COLOMBIA.



**DIRECTOR**  
**MICAH VAN HOVE**

"IN MAY OF 2018 I ATTENDED A WORKSHOP WITH 48 INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKERS LIVING IN THE PERUVIAN JUNGLE WITH WERNER HERZOG. THERE WE MADE SHORT FILMS AND STUDIED UNDER ONE OF THE MOST ENIGMATIC MASTERS OF HYBRID-DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING. NOT ONLY DID THAT TRIP PROVIDE A CHALLENGING FILMMAKING EXPERIENCE, BUT I FELT IN LOVE WITH SOUTH AMERICA AND, MOST OF ALL, THE VEXING LURE OF THE JUNGLE. I HIRED A FREELANCE TRANSLATOR TO WORK WITH ME ON A SHORT FILM. WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF SHOOTING, I REPLACED MY AND USED THE TRANSLATOR AS MY ACTOR INSTEAD. AFTER OUR SHORT FILM *DEL ARCO VACÍO* FINISHED #1 OUT OF THE PROGRAM AND WITH THE DISCOVERY OF GUILLERMO "CHINO" SUBAUSTE, I HAVE BEEN BUILDING A PROJECT FOR US ON A LARGER CANVAS. THE THEME FOR THE WORKSHOP WAS "FEVER DREAMS IN THE JUNGLE," AND I'VE BEEN FEVER-DREAMING ABOUT THIS PROJECT EVER SINCE."





EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
**JIM CUMMINGS**

JIM CUMMINGS WON THE 2016 SUNDANCE AND 2018 SXSW GRAND JURY PRIZES FOR FILM. HE HAS DIRECTED AND PRODUCED OVER 20 SHORT FILMS AND HAS GONE ON TO INSPIRE A FAST-APPROACHING GENERATION OF YOUNG AMERICAN FILMMAKING TALENT.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
**BENJAMIN WEISSNER**

PRODUCER OF *THUNDER ROAD*, *A MORNING LIGHT*, *BEAST BEAST* AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE **SHORT TO FEATURE LAB**, BENJAMIN IS ONE OF THE SMARTEST AND KINDEST PRODUCERS IN THE BIZ.





CO-PRODUCER

**ESTEPHANIA BONNETT ALONSO**

ACKNOWLEDGED BY WERNER HERZOG AS PROMINENT ARTIST OF 2018. CO-PRODUCER OF THE FEATURE FILM BARACOA PREMIERED AT BERLINALE 2019 AND WINNER AT MÁLAGA FF AND SHEFFIELD DOC/FEST. PRODUCER OF WORKSHOPS FOR EMERGING TALENT ALONGSIDE GREAT MASTERS OF CINEMA SUCH AS ABBAS KIAROSTAMI AND WERNER HERZOG. SELECTED AS AN EMERGING PRODUCER IN THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS OF ROTTERDAM AND JIHLAVA.



CO-PRODUCER / ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**JUAN PABLO CABALLERO**

JUAN PABLO IS A PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBER AND COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR BASED IN BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA, AND WINNER OF BEST SHORT FILM AT THE 2019 COLOMBIAN FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK. JUAN PABLO ENJOYS WORKING IN REMOTE PLACES AND WILLINGLY ACCEPTS THE OCCASIONAL AND UNEXPECTED GIFTS FROM NATURE.



CO-PRODUCER

**BRETT PEDERSEN**

CO-PRODUCER OF THE 2019 CATALYST FESTIVAL'S AWARD WINNING DRAMA PILOT *CHOSEN* AND A SELECTION AT THE 2019 AUSTIN FILM FEST, JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES FILMMAKER BRETT PEDERSEN HAS A THIRST FOR ADVENTURE AND GETTING THINGS DONE. BRETT'S GOOD VIBES MAKE HIM A WELCOME ADDITION TO ANY CHALLENGE — HE'S CANADIAN, FOR GOD'S SAKE.



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

**ANGELLO FACCI**

A DIRECTOR AND CINEMATOGRAPHER BASED IN BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA. ANGELLO STUDIED FILMMAKING AT ESCAC IN BARCELONA. WINNER OF BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT AT THE 2018 PALM SPRINGS SHORT FEST AND NOMINATED FOR SHORT FILM GRAND JURY PRIZE AT SUNDANCE 2018 FOR *DULCE*.



PRODUCTION DESIGNER

**CÉSAR MONTOYA**

ART DIRECTOR OF *LOST CITY OF Z* (2016) AND *ESCOBAR* (2017), CÉSAR IS CURRENTLY PART OF *THE COLLECTIVE OF FILM ART DIRECTORS OF COLOMBIA*, WHICH SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN AND ENRICH THE PROCESSES RELATED TO THE ART DIRECTION AND TRAIN NEW PROFESSIONALS IN COLOMBIAN CINEMATOGRAPHY.



SCREENWRITER

**JEFFREY REESER**

EDITOR OF FIVE FEATURE FILMS (*TAKE NONE GIVE NONE*, *SHADOW OF A GUN*) AND HAS WRITTEN TWO PRODUCED SCREENPLAYS BY THE AGE OF 27. WINNER OF AUDIENCE AWARD AT 2018 KNOXVILLE FILM FEST FOR *SHADOW OF A GUN*.



Contact  
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“How long can a man remain  
in the shade of an evil tree?”

