

a film by Nicolás Rincón Gille

ILUMINADA

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Iluminada
By Nicolás Rincón Gille
Produced by The Blue Raincoat
Feature film
119 min.
Color, 1:33, Spanish
DCP

Iluminada has visions. She tries to understand them by writing in private journals. Her writings are poetry that no one else hears. Her life in the peripheral neighborhoods of Bogotá, riddled with hardships, leaves her with no time or space.

Until she meets Juan, a young man who seems to open up another world for her. But her relationship with a stranger is not welcomed by those who control the neighborhood.

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A story of youth

Iluminada is a young woman poet. She does not correspond to the romantic imagination. She composes in a complex reality. She does not have time to distance herself from the world that overwhelms her. She has neither the space nor the time to isolate herself, to dream or to wonder. Her horizon is fragmented and urban.

Iluminada has visions. She is driven to write in order to understand the shadowy areas she carries within her. Having visions is a gift that many Afro-Colombian women have received. This gift is not necessarily a gift. The visions are open fields in a time that is not linear and that reveals the close link between past and future. Here, Iluminada's ancestors try to revive their history. A history that Iluminada in turn will be able to pass on.

A love story

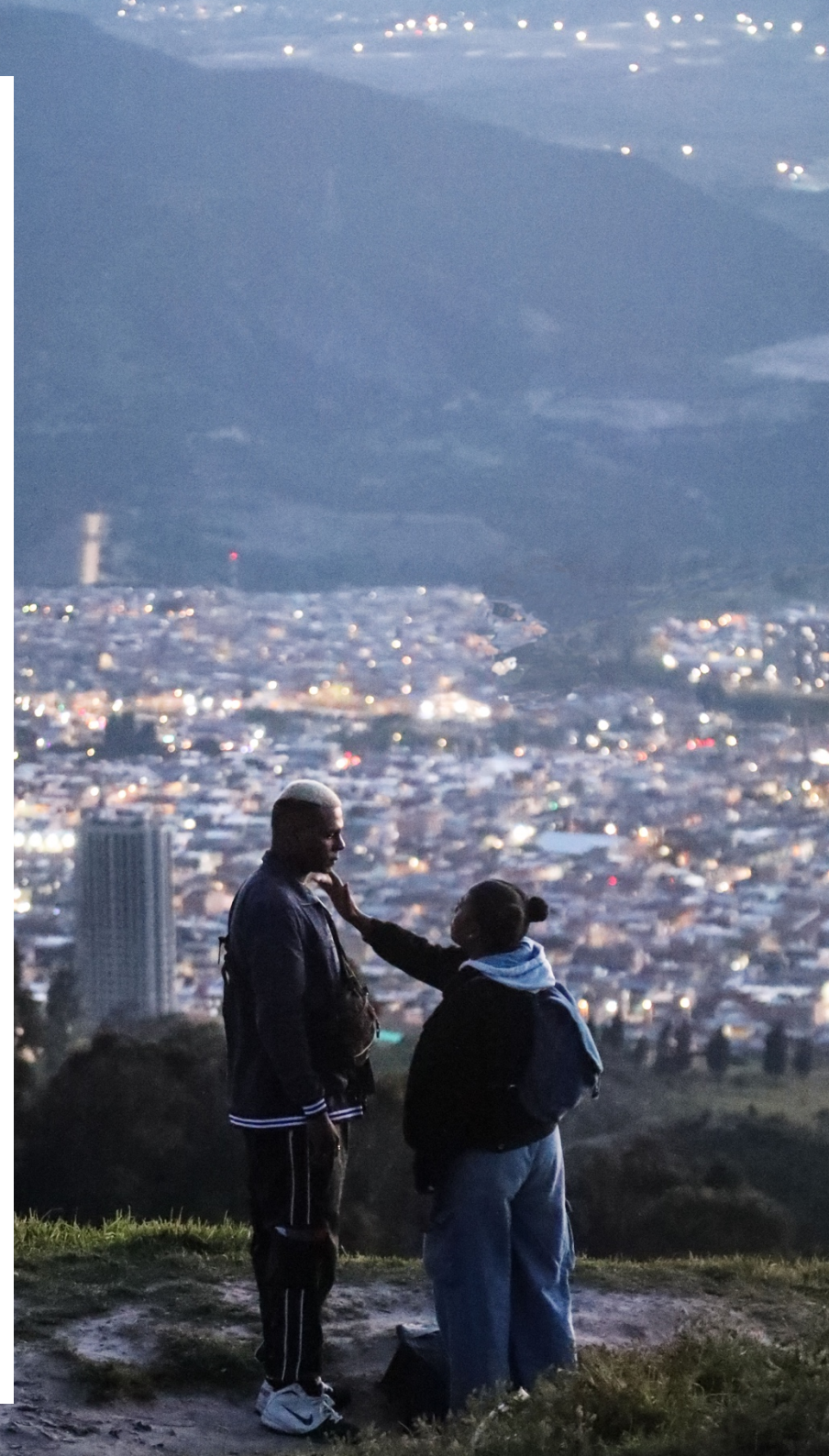
How can one plan a future with a loved one when society only encourages survival? Is it possible to build a life together in the midst of conflict, war, racism and machismo? Iluminada is surrounded by negative life experiences and yet, to live, Iluminada needs to love and be loved.

A scarred land

Iluminada was born in Chocó, a department in the west of Colombia, one of the rainiest areas in the world, dense with flora and fauna, which was used by Afro-Colombians to escape slavery. Here, the indigenous peoples have been able to preserve their culture. This virgin territory is a treasure trove of riches: gold, ancient and rare wood, but also a land suitable for the cultivation of poppies (the basis of heroin), coca leaf (the basis of cocaine) and oil palm (the basis of biofuel). For the last twenty years, this area has been under the control of different armed groups, with the open complicity of the state. Iluminada's family, like the general population, must flee or remain silent. Yet Iluminada must return there to find herself.

A story of emancipation

The film tells the story of the journey to the origins that will help Iluminada to better understand his past. The viewer will witness this process of affirmation without perceiving it as a transformation: Iluminada is not a caterpillar that becomes a butterfly; Iluminada is a butterfly that learns to fly.



Bogota, 1973.

Graduated in Economics from the National University of Colombia in 1998.

Graduated from INSAS, in the image section in 2003.

He is a member of the Belgian collective of filmmakers VOA.

Since January 2021 he works at The Blue Raincoat in Brussels.

He teaches at INSAS and at the IAD.

Nicolas' second feature film takes us back to Colombia at the crossroads of cultures, between Africa and Latin America. "Iluminada" is an intimate portrait of a young woman poet born in the virgin forests of Chocó, in the Colombian Pacific. Her poetry will lead her to the sources of her African roots. A personal journey into the Afro-Colombian tradition that is too little known. Nicolas weaves with "Iluminada" a story about youth by focusing on love and poetry. This film opens up a wider discussion of major contemporary themes: social divisions, racism, the place of women and youth in society and art as a means of emancipation.

2019 Valley of souls – Feature film

Etoile d'Or au Festival de Marrakech, 2019 ; Mention du Jury au Festival des 3 Continents, 2019 ;
Meilleur film au Festival de Cali, 2020 ; Prix du Jury à Annonay, 2021.
Busan, Rotterdam, Rome, 3 Continents...

2016 Cold Kisses – Short film

Meilleur Court Festival Int. Des Droits de l'homme Bogota, 2018

2015 Wounded Night – Documentary

Documentaire belge de l'année SCAM 2015 ; Mention du Jury au Cinéma du Réel, Paris, 2015 ;
Meilleur film colombien au FICCI, Cartagena, 2016 ; Premier Prix MARFICI, Argentine, 2015 ; Bronze
Heart a The Heart of Slavonia, 2015

2010 The Embrace of the river– Documentary

Prix Montgolfière d'Or au Festival des 3 Continents à Nantes 2010 ; Prix hors frontières,
Traces de vie 2011

2007 Those waiting in the dark – Documentary

Prix Joris Ivens et Prix des Bibliothèques au Cinéma du Réel, Paris 2007 ; Prix du Public, RIDM, 2007





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Production :

The Blue Raincoat (BEL.)
Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (BEL.)
TAX SHELTER BE (BEL.)
Shelter prod (BEL.)

The Blue Raincoat is a Belgian production company based in Brussels. Their founders, Manon Coubia, Nicolas Rincon Gille and Jérémy van der Haegen have been working with each other on each other's films since they met at INSAS in 2001. Their films and productions have won awards in numerous festivals and have been broadcast on national channels such as RTBF for Belgium, ARTE and France 3 for France. By joining forces, they have chosen to pool their experience in production and direction.

The Blue Raincoat intends to defend strong, singular and necessary cinematographic proposals - in fiction as in documentary. Films that allow us to see and hear life from all its angles. A cinema anchored in a heterogeneous reality that celebrates the power of the imaginary.

Theblueraincoat.com
production@theblueraincoat.com

World Sales:

Visionär Films
<https://www.visionaerfilms.com/catalogue/iluminada/>
francesca@visionaerfilms.com
nesligul@visionaerfilms.com