SŪKŪJULA TEI
(Stories of My Mother)
By David Hernández Palmar and Flor Palmar (Wayuu Iipuana)

Produced by: Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Kavita Pillay, and Tracy Rector

PRESS CONTACT
press@reciprocity.org

PRESS KIT UPDATE:
09/16/22

TECH SPECS
Documentary Short
TRT: 07:26
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Color, HD
Language: Wayuunaiki

POSTER & STILL PHOTOS

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA
Website: www.reciprocity.org
IG: davidhpalmar
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TW: davidhpalmar
FB: Reciprocity Project
SŪKŪJULA TEI
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SYNOPSIS

DETAILED SYNOPSIS
Rosa, a wise Wayuu woman, travels to her sister Amaliata’s village for a long overdue visit. As she enters the village, she encounters Amaliata’s children, upon whom she will impart important lessons about sharing and caring for each other. In the sisters’ conversations, viewers are introduced to common understandings of how reciprocity is enacted in Wayuu life.

LOGLINE
During a visit to her sister Amaliata, Rosa, a wise Wayuu woman, teaches Amaliata’s grandchildren the importance of reciprocity within their culture.

TITLE STYLE GUIDE
Pronunciation: SŪKŪJULA TEI [Soo-koo-ha-la Tay]
When writing or speaking the title, please always use both Wayuu and English.
When writing the title, please use all upper case for SŪKŪJULA TEI, and include the English or Spanish translation (Historias de mi Madre) after in parentheses.
If possible, please list Flor Palmar, Associate Producer, along with the Director. It is ok to list titles and names, or just names.

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

ABOUT DAVID HERNÁNDEZ PALMAR (DIRECTOR)
David Hernández Palmar (Wayuu, IIPUANA Clan) Journalist, photographer, filmmaker / Curator of Latin American and Caribbean Film specializing in Indigenous Film / Member of the Wayuu People Communications Network / Director of the Indigenous Audiovisual Foundation Wayaakua / Curator and Programmer of the Wayuu Film and Video Showcase / Curator and Programmer of the International Indigenous Film Showcase of Venezuela MICIV / Political Advisor for Latin American Coordinator of Cinema and Communication of Indigenous Peoples CLACPI / Guest Curator for Daupará – Indigenous Film and Video Showcase in Colombia / Former Advisor for special selection NATIVE of the Berlinale International Film Festival / Consultant for the Prince Claus Foundation / Member of The Indigenous Media and Communication Caucus / Member of the Programmers of Color Collective POC².

ARTISTS’ STATEMENT from David
This film shares a memory of my mother’s childhood, and I adapted it to recreate a parable of reciprocity through an everyday encounter of Wayuu People, visually inspired by the stories of Ramón Paz Ipuana, a great Wayuu writer. The mise-en-scène embraces the simplicity of everyday life with hints of Indigenous futurism that suggest that our future is a return to a community aesthetic. I feel that the camera is like a spirit that was also visiting the set. Making this film reaffirms that Indigenous Peoples can make movies and tell their own stories even under adverse conditions. When dreamers come together, we can achieve a beautiful result.
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PRODUCTION NOTES

SŪKŪJULA TEI (Stories of My Mother) was filmed on the land of the Wayuu Community of Majali, Wounmainkat, Abya Yala.

The film was produced as part of Season 1 of the Reciprocity Project - a collaborative multimedia platform and short film series made in partnership with Indigenous storytellers and their communities worldwide produced by Nia Tero and Upstander Project in association with REI Co-op Studios. Produced by Taylor Hensel, Adam Mazo, Kavita Pillay, and Tracy Rector.

ABOUT RECIPROCITY PROJECT
Facing a climate crisis, the Reciprocity Project embraces Indigenous value systems that have bolstered the Earth, which was in balance until the modern industrial age. This short film series and multimedia platform, made in partnership with Indigenous storytellers and their communities worldwide, invites learning from time-honored and current Indigenous ways of being.
https://www.reciprocity.org/

ABOUT NIA TERO
Nia Tero is a US-based non-profit working in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and movements worldwide with a mission of securing Indigenous guardianship of vital ecosystems. Nia Tero is committed to an antiracist and inclusive culture centering Indigenous rights, wisdom, practices, worldviews, and protocols.
https://www.niatero.org/

ABOUT UPSTANDER PROJECT
Upstander Project encourages decolonization and upstander behavior through compelling documentary films and learning resources. Their goals are to overcome indifference to social injustice, develop the skills of upstanders, and contribute to action-oriented campaigns in response to vital social issues.
https://upstanderproject.org/

ABOUT REI
REI Co-op Studios develops and produces stories that entertain, enrich and explore the power of time spent outside, while complementing the co-op’s broader climate and racial equity, diversity, and inclusion commitments.
https://www.rei.com/newsroom/article/rei-co-op-studios
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PRESS & ACCLAIM

“A touching, multilayered poem on the cohesion of generations, the strength of community, of family, of tradition - and the power of place.”
- Maryanne Redpath

Sükūjula Tei' (Stories Of My Mother) premiered at Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in February of 2022 and has enjoyed a robust film festival run at festivals around the world, including: Skábmagovat Indigenous Peoples' Film Festival, Cartagena International Film Festival (FICCI), Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, Maoriland Film Festival, Asinabka Film and Media Arts Festival, Vancouver Latin American Film Festival, Boston International Film Festival, NW Folklife Film Festival, International Presence Autochthonous Festival, and more. The film will screen at imagineNATIVE in October of 2022.
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CREDITS

Sūkūjula Tei’ (Stories of My Mother)
A film by David Hernández Palmar (Wayuu lipuana)
Filmed in the Wayuu Community of Majali, Wounmainkat | Abya Yala
A Nia Tero and Upstander Project Production
In association with REI Co-op Studios

FEATURING:
Rosa - Flor Palmar (Wayuu lipuana)
Amaliata - Daisy Camargo (Wayuu Epieyu)
Jasai - Yeliza Uriana (Wayuu Uriana)
Kushematai - Cristian González (Wayuu Epieyu)
Joutai - Keiber Camargo (Wayuu Epieyu)
Juyaa - Keider Camargo (Wayuu Epieyu)

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER:
Flor Palmar

FIELD PRODUCER:
Marbel Vanegas (Wayuu Jusayu)

SOUND RECORDIST:
Juan Pablo Núñez

CAMERA ASSISTANT:
Jesús Acosta

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
Duiren Wagua (Guna Dule)

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:
Yelver Florez
Marbel Vanegas

ORIGINAL STORY BY:
Flor Palmar

ON SET COVID-19 COORDINATOR:
Marbel Vanegas

SCREENPLAY ADAPTED BY:
David Hernández Palmar

PHOTOGRAFER:
Ernesto Acosta Cepeda

EDITOR:
Duiren Wagua

COMPOSER:
Juan Pablo Núñez

ASSISTANT EDITOR:
Sauli PillaY

SOUNDS:
Awa’awajawa (Hand Whistle)
Kasha (Wayuu Percussion)
Quena, Cuerdas.

ADDITIONAL EDITING:
David Hernández Palmar

CONTINUED
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CREDITS CONTINUED

SPECIAL THANKS:
Jonathan Luna
Luisa Fernanda Luna
Jorge Cadena
Emmanuel Chávez
Héctor Silva Núñez
Yanilú Ojeda
Anggie Hernández Palmar
Leiqui Uriana
Felipe Contreras
Juanes Diaz Puerta
The Hernández Palmar Family
The Florez Camargo Family

LEARNING CO-DIRECTORS:
Dina Gilio-Whitaker
Mishy Lesser

FIELD PRODUCTION COORDINATOR:
Kavita Pillay

PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Sauli Pillay

LEAD ASSISTANT EDITOR:
Jacob Bearchum

TECHNOLOGIST / SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT:
Ben Pender-Cudlip

ADMINISTRATION / PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALIST:
Chelsea Strelser

COLOR CORRECTION:
Heather Cassano

POST SOUND SERVICES:
Bad Animals

SOUND ENGINEER:
Dave Howe
David Gallander

POSTER DESIGN:
Yen Tan

PROMOTIONAL DESIGN & GRAPHICS:
Cindy Chischilly
Joel Schomberg

SPANISH LANGUAGE TRANSLATION:
Neyda Quiñones-Ortiz
Maria Angelica Ramirez

PRINT TRAFFIC MANAGER:
Jonah Kozlowski

ACCOUNTING:
Melissa Billows
Jonathan Saceda
Susi Walsh

LEGAL:
Jeffrey Cadwell
Justine Jacob
Sarah Robertson

WEBSITE:
TurnStyle Studio

Production and Clearance Counsel by DORSEY & WHITNEY, LLP

Insurance Provided by Interstate Fire & Casualty

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From the set of the film

Still from film

David Hernández Palmar (Director)

Flor Palmar (Director)

“Jasai” being filmed for a scene in SŪKŪJULA TEI. Photo by: Ernesto Acosta Cepeda

(L to R) Flor Palmar, David Hernández Palmar, Duiren Wagua, Mabel Vanegas, Yelver Yesid Florez, Juan Pablo Nuñez, Jesús Acosta, Ernesto Acosta Cepeda