



DARK SKULL (Viejo Calavera) Bolivia



© Socavon Cine

Category : Fiction

Length : 90'

Language : Spanish, Aymara

Shooting format : HD

Shooting location : La Paz, Oruro, Beni (Bolivia)

Shooting dates : September 2013

Stage of production : Development stage

Expected date of completion : March 2014

CAST & CREW

Director of photography: Pablo Paniagua

Sound engineer : Pepo Razari

Production designer : Tatiana Abello

Editor : Felipe Galvez Häberle

Composer : Kano Itaino & Miguel Llanque

Key Cast : Israel Urtado, Esteban Urtado, Silvia Quispe & Celebi Urtado

Budget : 394 000 €

Financing in place : 160 000 €

Source of financing : TyPA, La Haye Host Price

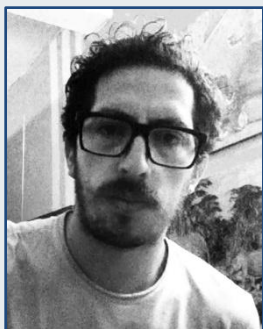
Workshops attended : TyPA, BAL BAFICI 2012

Coproduction company : Universidad del Cine

Current situation : Seeking for European coproducer, international sale agent

Diego MONDACA– PRODUCER (Socavon Cine)

Born in Oruro in 1980. He studied film at Escuela Internacional De Cine y TV (EICTV) in Cuba. He completed his studies in 2008 with his thesis film *The Chirola* which screened and awarded prizes in prestigious festivals (IDFA, Biarritz, Mar del Plata, É Tudo Verdade...). In 2008 he founded the company Manosudaca Video Filmes to start producing his films. Diego was also awarded an exchange scholarship in documentary direction at the Filmakademie Baden Württemberg (Germany). His full length documentary *CITADEL* had his world premier in the official selection of IDFA 2011 and awarded production funds from *World Cinema Fund – Berlinale*, *Jan Vrijman Fund – IDFA* and *Latin Side of the Doc-DocBsAs Best Documentary Project*. Diego is currently developing his next film at the Jerusalem Film Lab 2012-2013 and the project was part of TyPA 2011 and awarded for Best Feature Project at BAL.BAFICI 2012. Diego is also executive producer of *Dark Skull*, first feature film directed by Kiro Russo. In 2013 Diego is invited as international jury member for CNCINE of Ecuador.



Kiro RUSSO – DIRECTOR

Born in La Paz in 1984. Mauricio Quiroga - aka Kiro Russo - completed his studies in film directing at Universidad del Cine in Buenos Aires. As director and screenwriter he made two short films *Enterprise* (2010) participated in various festivals around the world and won several awards. *Juku* (2011) showcased at the Sundance Film Festival 2012 official competition, winner of the Grand Prize for Short Film at Indie Lisboa 2012, the award for best short film in FICUNAM Mexico 2012 and Kaohsiung film festival Taiwan best green shortfilm 2012. These works have a closer relation with Viejo Calavera (*Dark Skull*) his first feature film wrote in collaboration with Gilmar Gonzales. Viejo Calavera is in development stage. Viejo Calavera (*Dark Skull*) participated in: Colon TYPA desarrollo de proyectos 2011 Won BAL Buenos Aires Lab 2012.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (extract)

"[...] Since I was a little boy, my grandmother, daughter of a miner, used to tell me fantastic stories of demons and ghosts that haunted the deep galleries of Huanuni's mine, on the other hand, my father used to work as an engineer at a mine when he was really young, he would travel a lot, and from those days I remember the enormous collection of minerals that he mastered in my house, I remember the smell of the different stones and the colors [...]. In 2011 I went to Huanuni the mine in Posokoni hill for the first time, and made the short film *JUKU* that was much more focused on a search of the formal relation between light and darkness in order to transform the mine into a sensorial character. [...]"

The most important visually is the use of sensory narration and contemplation given to manage the staging and relations that the characters have with the mine as a natural space, confinement, darkness, light from the lamps that draws the movement of the miners. The elements of the nature, time. The sound work is also essential to tell this story, it will work in a particular way for the different spaces and will mark the different states of the characters. By narrating various scenes of daily life are reflected several processes of transculturation that occur in a mining town in which people from different backgrounds live together. [...]. *DARK SKULL* is a magical story about a mining family between documentary and Science fiction."

SYNOPSIS

The miners of the 180th level of Posokoni, the largest tin mine in Bolivia, are joyous. They are organizing a trip to the tropics. Gallo's daughter is sick. Gallo doesn't work in the mine, and has asked Mamani, his best friend, to take him stealing.

Inside the mine, things get complicated. Mamani leaves his friend alone, wandering in the darkness.

In the trip to the tropics, Mamani has to confront Gallo's father, an old and deafening miner seamed by his coworkers with contempt.

CONTACT :

Diego Mondaca : mondaca.diego@gmail.com

Kiro Russo : kirusso@gmail.com