

Tambogrande wins “Dignity and Work” Award in Poland

Tambogrande, Mangos, Murder, Mining has won the main competition section at Poland's Dignity and Work film festival, in the historic city of Gdansk (www.ifdw.org.pl/?article=72&lang=eng).

The film follows brave mango and lime farmers from northern Peru who stand-up to a Canadian company, Peruvian officials and the global mining industry to save their fragile valley. *Tambogrande* shares the prize with the Brazilian film *Estrellas de la Linea (Railroad All Stars)*.



Tambogrande’s mayor calms supporters during a protest against the mine

Back in 1980, when we North Americans were trading in our bell bottoms and turtlenecks for sequined disco wear, a brave man named Lech Walesa in Gdansk organized 'Solidarity', the first noncommunist worker's union under the Soviet Union. The movement went on to play a key role in Poland's independence and Lech won a Nobel Peace Prize and became the country's first democratically elected president.

We're honored that the Tambogrande film has won such an important prize in this symbolic city. The award serves as recognition of Tambogrande's innovative methods of peaceful resistance in the midst of Peru's struggle, as a nation, to recover from the seeds of violence sown by terrorism and a 20-year civil war.

Ernesto and I dedicate the award – and the film – to the memory of Godofredo Garcia, the charismatic force behind the valley's campaign, who was assassinated during the making of the documentary.



Godofredo surveys the mine's exploratory drilling, April 2000.

At a moment when communities throughout Peru are trying to assert control over their natural resources, Tambogrande's example of non-violence provides hope and motivation. With support from non-profit organizations, we've been able to donate more than 700 copies of the film to activists, educators and local media groups working in Peruvian communities embroiled in mining conflicts.

Many of these groups have incorporated the film in exciting projects. Grupo Chaski, a Peruvian film cooperative, is screening the film in their network of Micro Cines. The project uses digital technology to bring educational films to low-income communities in 35 locations throughout the country. RED TV, a network of independent television stations throughout Peru has distributed the film to over 30 partner stations. Community television in the states of Cajamarca, Piura and Tacna have also broadcast the film. And our intrepid colleagues from 'Caravana' included the film in their annual traveling documentary festival. With 'Caravana' the film was screened in Arequipa, Puno, Ica, Moquegua and Tacna. Organizers told us they were surprised by the strong emotional reactions to the film – audience members sang and shouted along with the Tambograndinos on screen and many even cried.



Fernando Carrasco, a farmer from Tambogrande, and film maker Stephanie Boyd promote free screenings of the film in Cajamarca, a region suffering violent conflicts over a US-owned gold mine. Radio Lider reaches listeners in 3 states and is one of Cajamarca's most popular stations.

Last fall, Ulises Garcia joined us in holding mass public screenings of the film in mining conflict zones, accompanied by workshops on non-violent resistance. Ulises witnessed his father's assassination firsthand and despite (or perhaps because of) his personal tragedy, is a firm supporter of peaceful resistance. His non-profit group, Tropico Seco, has made and distributed 300 additional copies of the film in Peru, and 'pirate' copies are popping up throughout Latin America. It's become impossible to keep track of all the showings, as the film has taken on a life of its own.



Ulises speaks to workshop participants in Namballe, Jaen province. The town plans to hold a Tambogrande-style referendum against a British-owned mine that would affect their water supply.



Workshop participants in Celendin, Cajamarca, watch a video on South Africa's struggle against apartheid. The film is part of the TVE series: "A Force More Powerful" on non-violent resistance.



Public screening of the film in Cajas Shapaya, Huancabamba, where villagers are confronting a British-owned mining company.

We're also happy to report that several mining companies and consulting firms within the industry have requested copies for workshops and training sessions.

Outside Peru, the film is also making an impact. We showed a preview version of the film in November at the Amsterdam documentary film festival (IDFA) and then premiered it at the One World Human Rights film festival in Prague this March.

The response from audiences has been overwhelmingly positive, and *Time Out*, London's prestigious weekly arts magazine gave the film a positive review, stating: "You need a heart of stone not to feel uplifted by the time the credits roll."

The film is now on a tour of European, Asian and Latin American festivals, and we're working on a North American release for this fall. Please check out the film's website at: www.guarango.org/tambogrande for more details about screenings and a preview clip of the film.

Copies of the DVD can be purchased through the Guarango office in Peru, or in North America from First Run Icarus Films (www.frif.com) and in Europe from Journeyman (www.journeyman.tv)

Thanks again to everyone who offered their time, energy and support in the production and distribution of this film. It's been a long ride and we couldn't have managed without all of you.



ERNESTO AND STEPHAMIE,

Directors, Producers, Asoc. Guarango Cine y Video
785 Ave. Cayetano Heredia, Int. 2, Lima 11, PERU
Tel: (511) 460-1135
Cel: (511) 9-599-3884
Email: sboyd@guarango.org
Web: www.guarango.org