

The untold history of the Maya – and their courageous struggle
to create a new future for all of humanity



MAYAN RENAISSANCE

PEACEJAM PRODUCTIONS PRESENT A FILM BY DAWN ENGLE

FEATURING RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM JODY WILLIAMS ADOLFO PEREZ ESQUIVEL PEDRO CELESTINO YAC NOJ
FAVIANA COCHOY ALVA ROSALINA TUYUC NARRATED BY GIACOMO BUONAFINA AND T. JOHN RUTHERFORD

EDITOR ELIZABETH HOLLOWAY VIDEOGRAPHY IVAN SUVANJIEFF AND DAVE WRUCK SOUND DESIGN STEVE KING AND

GIACOMO BUONAFINA MOTION GRAPHICS ERIC KING AND SUNNI JARAMILLO PRODUCERS KATHLEEN MCINTIRE

AND GIACOMO BUONAFINA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS IVAN SUVANJIEFF AND MARIA SNYDER WRITTEN BY DAWN ENGLE

AND IVAN SUVANJIEFF DIRECTED BY DAWN ENGLE

WWW.MAYANRENAISSANCE.ORG

THE PEACEJAM FOUNDATION PRESENTS

MAYAN RENAISSANCE

The Untold Story of the Maya

STARRING **RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM**
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **DAWN ENGLE**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY **IVAN SUVANJIEFF**
PRODUCED BY **GIACOMO BUONAFINA**
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY **DAVE WRUCK**
EDITED BY **ELIZABETH HOLLOWAY**
ORIGINAL SCORE BY **STEVE KING**

MayanRenaissance.org
NobelLegacyFilmSeries.com
PeaceJam.org

AIRING ON PBS AND AVAILABLE ON DVD AND DOWNLOAD ON AMAZON.COM

68 minutes, Unrated

Contact The PeaceJam Foundation:

Elizabeth Holloway
Production Manager
11200 Ralston Road
Arvada, Colorado 80004
(303) 455-2099
Elizabeth@PeaceJam.org



MAYAN RENAISSANCE

Mayan Renaissance is a feature length documentary which documents the glory of the ancient Maya civilization, the Spanish conquest in 1519, five hundred years of oppression, and the courageous fight of the Maya to reclaim their voice and determine their own future, in Guatemala and throughout Central America.

This elegant, beautiful, and thought provoking film will share their vision for the future, their call for a long-foretold renaissance of Maya culture and wisdom, and their 100 year plan to lead humanity forward, from the year 2012 on.

The film stars 1992 Nobel Peace Laureate and Maya leader Rigoberta Menchu Tum. All of the images, voices, expert commentary and music in the film come directly from Central America, from the heart of the Mayan world.

We finished principal photography for this film in September of 2011, began post-production in October of 2011, and completed post-production in May of 2012. *Mayan Renaissance* was screened May 16, 2012 at the United Nations in New York City, at the U.N.'s "World Forum on Indigenous Issues." and was awarded Best Colorado Filmmaker Documentary Award at The Film Festival of Colorado in July of 2012.

This film will be featured on PBS, online, on DVD, and it will also become a permanent part of the PeaceJam Curriculum for students in educational settings worldwide. The PeaceJam Foundation is an international education foundation, led by thirteen inspiring Nobel Peace Prize winners. *Mayan Renaissance* is the first of ten films which will be produced by PeaceJam over the next decade — the Nobel Legacy Film Series, ten films to provide a creative vision from these inspiring Nobel Peace Laureates, for creating a better world.

ABOUT THE FILM

KEY STATISTICS

40.3% of the population of Guatemala is of Maya heritage.
-Central Intelligence Agency

49% of children under the age of 5 are in danger of dying of malnutrition in Guatemala, giving it the 4th highest malnutrition rate in the world.
-United Nations

Between 1960 and 1980 approximately 200,000 people were killed or "disappeared" in Guatemala, 83% of which were the indigenous Maya.
-United Nations' Historical Clarification Commission

93% of the human rights violations committed during the Guatemalan Civil War were by the Guatemalan military, constituting Genocide.
-United Nations' Historical Clarification Commission

Approximately 95% of homicides in Guatemala between the years 2008 and 2010 went unpunished.
-Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Guatemala has one of the highest violent crime rates in Latin America. In 2009, approximately 25 murders a week were reported in Guatemala City alone.
-U.S. Department of State

QUOTES FROM THE FILM

All our ancestors' science says we can best live with three main principles and foundations for life. Spiritual, material, and social. And each of our sciences is based on profound balance, Balance of all the forces, balance in the interaction of the existence of lives, and each one is linked with the other.

-Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Nobel Peace Laureate

We have a great teacher, and it is Mother Earth. When all of us really listen to her and see the teaching that she gives us, every leaf, every tree, every plant, every being, and we respond to this, when we understand that beauty and simplicity when we really assume our responsibility as human beings, I think that everything will change. But it will be a lengthy process.

-Faviana Cochoy Alva, Mayan Elder

Teilhard de Chardin, a great thinker, spoke of ascendancy and convergence. We are generating an evolutionary moment, in a process of evolution for humanity, that will produce a synthesis of humanity.

-Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Laureate

I think the greatest problem a minority group can have, is to look in the mirror and not see themselves, but to see the model of themselves that has been imposed on them.

-Javier Payeras, Author

And I believe that racism will crack because the process of change has already started and it will not go back, We really will not go back.

-Claudia Samayoa, Human Rights Attorney

So our invitation to all mankind is to reflect, and to analyze, because we know that each culture has a deep connection with their roots, and when we get to this deep connection we are going to realize that we are the same. That we are not the owners of nature, but simply a part of it, and as part of, we have the responsibility of being an element that harmonizes well with all this beauty, where we have this opportunity to live.

-Pedro Celestino Yac Noj, Mayan Elder



MAYAN RENAISSANCE



Rigoberta Menchu Tum
Nobel Peace Laureate

Rigoberta Menchú Tum was born in Guatemala to a poor peasant family and spent much of her childhood helping her family farm. As a teenager, she became involved in many activist movements with her family. When parents and her brother were murdered by the Guatemalan army, Rigoberta was forced to go into hiding in 1981, but shared her story in the renowned book, "I, Rigoberta Menchú". She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her activism and has worked to create a better life for indigenous Maya ever since.



Jody Williams
Nobel Peace Laureate

Jody Williams has fought injustice throughout Latin America and continues to do so as the head of the Nobel Women's Initiative, which has worked to bring an end to femicide in Latin America.



Adolfo Perez Esquivel
Nobel Peace Laureate

Adolfo Perez Esquivel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his struggle for human rights. Perez Esquivel said, on that occasion, he received the Nobel Prize "on behalf of the peoples of Latin America, and in particular the poorest of all those committed to their people."



Rosalina Tuyuc
Mayan Community Leader

Rosalina Tuyuc was inspired by the disappearance of two families and the hardships experienced by thousands of indigenous women during the armed conflict to become a Mayan social movement activist and fight for human rights in the country of Guatemala.



Faviana Cochoy Alva & Pedro Celestino Yac Noj
Mayan Elders

Faviana and Pedro belong to the people of Utlatlán, in direct lineage from the Maya Quiché. María Faviana Cochoy Alva & Pedro Celestino Yac Noj are spiritual representatives and “narrators of time”. They are carriers of the ancient message of the holy Maya-calendar including its true meaning for things going on in world.



Claudia Samayoa
Human Rights Attorney

Claudia Samayoa has worked to provide services on cases of injustice throughout her home country of Guatemala and provides our film with first hand experience.



Javier Payeras
Journalist and Author

Javier Payeras is one of the writers who emerged after the Guatemalan Civil War as part of the so-called postwar generation. From 1998, he joined a emerging movement called Casa Bizarra, a project of young artists from the post-conflict generation. A tireless promoter of culture, he was coordinator of the Festival Octubreazul in 2000, director of the Contemporary Art Foundation Colloquia, and curator of Project Crea.



Luz Méndez
Women's Right Activist

Luz Méndez has been at the fore front of the Unión Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas (UNAMG) since its conception in 1996. In addition to her work with UNAMG, Méndez has been a member of the advisory group of the Independent Experts' Assessment on Women, War and Peace, a study supported by the UN Development Fund for Women, and a member of the advisory council of the Global Fund for Women. Having pursued higher education in gender studies and business administration, she earned a master's degree in public administration as a Mason fellow at Harvard University's John F Kennedy School of Government in 2004. She has also been involved in advocating for the inclusion of women in peace processes around the world.



Dr. Elisa Facio
Social Historian

Elisa Facio is an associate professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder where she teaches course on Chicana Feminist Thought, Critical Issues on Age, Aging, and Generations, Chicana-Indigena Spiritualities, and Globalization and Transnational issues related to gender, race, and sexuality. Elisa is the recipient of research and teaching awards, including a National Institute of Mental Health fellowship and a National Institute of Aging postdoctoral fellowship. She was also awarded an American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship and the Chicana Dissertation Fellowship at UC Santa Barbara.



Dr. Gerardo Gutiérrez
Archaeologist

Gerardo Gutiérrez has a Ph.D. in Anthropology as has been extensively published in Latin American Studies. He's a professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder.



Sandra Monerroso
Artist

Sandra is a Guatemalan artist, designer and researcher. Her work is autobiographical based on her search for the heritage she comes from which translates to the exploration in the field of social relations, the endless search for an identity; deconstructed shattered by the constant change culture itself. Her research work is focused on the design for human development which can improve the quality of life of people. And as a designer she has worked for government organizations, non-governmental, multidisciplinary projects and teachers in academia.



MAYAN RENAISSANCE



Dawn Engle
Writer/Director

Dawn Gifford Engle is an activist and filmmaker, and she has been nominated seven times for the Nobel Peace Prize. She directed the award-winning documentary films, "PEACEJAM" (BBC World Broadcast Premiere, September 15, 2006), and "2012: The True Mayan Prophecy" (PBS Broadcast Premiere, October 22, 2011). She also co-authored the book, "PEACEJAM: A Billion Simple Acts of Peace", which was published by Penguin in 2008. She has a background in public service, working 12 years for the US Congress, and she was the youngest woman ever appointed to serve as Chief of Staff for a U.S. Senator. In 1994, Dawn Gifford Engle and Ivan SuvanjiEFF created the PeaceJam Foundation, which has been recognized nationally as an award-winning service learning program, and internationally for excellence in peace education.



Ivan SuvanjiEFF
Executive Producer

Ivan SuvanjiEFF is an artist and an activist. He was a Detroit punk rock musician (lead singer of the Ramrods) and an editor at CREEM magazine (his work is featured in two recently published books: 'The Best of CREEM' and 'Iggy Pop and the Stooges: The Authorized Biography'). He is well known for his abstract paintings and his literary magazine, 'The New Censorship', with contributing editors Charles Bukowski, Anselm Hollo, Anne Waldman and Andrei Codrescu. He co-created the PeaceJam program, and he has been nominated seven times for the Nobel Peace Prize. He was the Executive Producer and Director of Photography for the award winning films 'PEACEJAM', '2012: The True Mayan Prophecy', and 'Jesus vs. Bono'. He and his wife Dawn were married by Archbishop Desmond Tutu at Saint Georges Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa in 2001.



Giacomo Buonafina
Producer/Narrator

Giacomo Buonafina is an award-winning actor, sound engineer, and activist from Guatemala. As an actor he is known for his work with respected directors Carlos García Agraz, Rafael Rosal, and the great Guatemalan director Luiz Tuchán. His passion and proficiency for sound have led him to work with some of the great sound designers of Latin America, such as Nerio Barbieris and Lena Esquenazi. His indie label, "Primera Generación Records", recorded over 100 albums of local and Central American music between 1992 and 2002, working with artists and recording albums which became fundamental in the post war artistic movement in Central America. He is the Vice President of the Guatemalan Cinematography Association "AGAcine", and teaches sound at the Cinematography School directed by Casa Comal.



Steve King
Sound Engineer

Steve "Dr. Ching" King has been a leading sound engineer for over 30 years, working at the famous 54 Sound studio in Detroit. He has won dozens of awards including the Grammy for Best Sound Engineer for the top selling album of 2002, "The Eminem Show", which was also on Rolling Stone's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time. He helped create the soundtrack for the film "8 Mile", and several other documentary films. He has worked with an extensive list of top artists, including Aretha Franklin, Bob Seger, Eminem, and Kid Rock. He is also a longtime collaborator with Rolling Stones Producer Don Was.



Dave Wruck
Cinematographer

Dave Wruck is an Emmy Award winning editor, with nearly two decades of experience working in both television and documentary film. He has received five Emmy Awards for documentary films he has edited. He has also won many awards at leading film festivals, including Best Documentary Film, Audience Favorite, Jury Award, and Directors Choice. He is a constant traveler as he takes on documentary projects all over the world. Dave Wruck has worked closely with the PeaceJam Foundation film department for seven years.



Elizabeth Holloway
Editor/Motion Graphics Supervisor

Elizabeth Holloway has been working professionally in the film production field since 2004. She's an award winning editor, and she first began working with the PeaceJam Foundation film department in 2010 as an editor for the documentary film "2012: The True Mayan Prophecy" (PBS broadcast premiere, October 2011). She is a graduate of the Art Institute of Colorado, and she has served as crew for ten different indie films, several of which have been recognized nationally.

CREDITS

Director

DAWN ENGLE

Executive Producers

IVAN SUVANJIEFF
MARIA SNYDER

Producers

GIACOMO BUONAFINA
KATHLEEN MCINTIRE

Sound Design

STEVE KING
GIACOMO BUONAFINA

Cinematography

DAVE WRUCK
IVAN SUVANJIEFF
ROBERTO DE LEÓN CORNEJO

Writer

DAWN ENGLE

**The Filmmakers Want to Give a Special Thanks to The Inspiration of
RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM**

Visual Effects Department

ERIC KING
SUNNI JARAMILLO
JOHN RUPE
NICCO STOREY
NICK WESSEL
ANGELO COLE
JEREMY HATFIELD

Assistant Editor

BRANDON CROY

Translators

KRISTINE BUONAFINA
BRETT ENGLE
RUTH WARNER

Production Assistance

MARIO POZUELOS DEL CID
ALISON WISNESKI
BRITTANY DEBERRY
AURY CUXÉ
DAVE GILBERT
DR. MICHAEL MILLAR
DR. ROBERT SITLER

This film was supported by Tides Canada Foundation, The Fetzer Institute, and Kathleen McIntire.

Many thanks all the people and organizations who have made this film possible.

Mayan Renaissance is dedicated to the 20th year anniversary of Rigoberta Menchú receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.



Fetzer Institute



A Film By Dawn Engle & Ivan SuvanjiEFF

© Copyright 2012 PeaceJam Foundation

THE FILMMAKERS