

## THE PLUME

### KEY CREATIVE PERSONNEL

**Franc Contreras** is the Writer, Director and Co-producer of *Water in the Desert*. He has written and directed hundreds of short and medium format documentary scripts for global news organizations including Al Jazeera English, BBC World Service Television and the China Global Television Network. Franc was born and raised in the area of Tucson's Superfund site where the water is contaminated. His own mother died in that neighborhood of cancer. Franc's video and radio productions, short documentaries and story narrations have been seen and heard by tens of millions of people around the world.

**Erika Cohn** is the Creative Mentor and Advisor to the Director. She is an Emmy award winning director/producer who Variety recognized as one of 2017's top ten documentary filmmakers. Most recently, Erika completed *The Judge*, a film about the first woman judge to be appointed to the Middle East's Shari'a courts, which premiered at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival and will be broadcast on PBS' 2018 Independent Lens series. Erika co-directed/produced, *In Football We Trust*, an Emmy award-winning, feature documentary about the unique faith and culture that ultimately drives young Pacific Islander men into the NFL, which premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and was broadcast on PBS' 2016 Independent Lens series.

**Mark Braun**, based in Tucson, is the Director of Photography. He has worked in the film production industry since 1984. He often describes the process of cinematography as painting with light. Mark has worked on a wide range of productions, from feature films to music videos, from documentaries to TV commercials. Collaborating with other creatives in the storytelling process continues to fuel his passion. With old school experience shooting on film merging with new school experience shooting on digital video, he brings a wide range of skills to any project.

**Manuel Tsingarlis**, based in San Francisco, is a story consultant and the film's principle editor. He has more than 20 years of experience creating award-winning documentaries and feature films. In 2014, Manuel won a Peabody Award along with a team of producers for the six-part PBS series *Latino American*, and he was on the production team that won the 2014 Audience Award for Best Documentary at Sundance for the documentary *Alive Inside*.

**Jaime "Jimmy" Hernandez**, of Mexico City is an Emmy Award-winning videographer and one of the film's Cinematographers. For nearly three decades, he has been shooting and editing non-fiction television programs for international channels including BBC Television, the Discovery channel, the History Channel and Netflix. Jimmy has collaborated with Franc Contreras on hundreds of video reports and dozens of short documentaries for the China Global Television Network.

**Pamela Salinas Parras**, from Mexico City, is the film's Production Manager. For five years she coordinated national and international television productions for Televisión Azteca,

Telemundo's Mexico City office and Mexican public television Channels 11 and 22. Before working in network television, Pamela was News Coordinator for Radio Formula and W Radio, two leading national current affairs broadcasts heard across Mexico and Latin America. As a single mother, she also coordinates and manages the lives of her three small children.

#### Advisors and Consultants

**Dr. Robert D. Bullard**, known as the 'father of environmental justice,' has been a leading

campaigner against environmental racism, as well as the foremost scholar of the problem.

**Celeste Bustamante**, Associate Professor of Journalism at the University of Arizona in Tucson,

and founder of the Border Journalism Network.

**Jane Kay**, a nationally recognized environmental journalist who first broke the story in the 1980s of the TCE contamination problem in Tucson.

**Richard Moore**, a nationally recognized founder of the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice and long-standing board member and chair of the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

**Sunaura Taylor**, a renowned disability studies scholar and author of *Beasts of Burden*, selected by a panel of leading writers as one of the winners of the 2018 American Book Award.