

# HUGO BLANCO, DEEP RIVER

A Documentary film by Malena Martínez Cabrera



## SYNOPSIS

**Portrait of the "Peruvian Che Guevara", a famous Trotskyist guerrilla and legendary peasant leader of the sixties: Hugo Blanco, who preferred to deconstruct his leadership and to encourage self-government becoming an anonymous activist: Hugo Indio.**

Starting with a journey to the forgotten jungle village where Hugo Blanco's fight and fame began, the film director looks for the traces of the young black-bearded man with a gun on his shoulder and raised fist shouting "Land or Death!" and finds the traces of the indigenous peasant movement.

In the second part - in the aftermath of the Peruvian Internal Armed Conflict - she meets the tireless Hugo Blanco, her father's revolutionary hero, in person. He is now a white-bearded indigenous and environmental activist: Hugo Indio.

How and why did the inspiring hero come to decide to withdraw from his position of leadership?

The film is a diptych divided by a hiatus of silence and mourning for the rivers of indigenous blood that flowed when a generation's dream turned into a nightmare: the dream of the armed revolution.

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Original title	<b>HUGO BLANCO, RÍO PROFUNDO</b>
English title	<b>HUGO BLANCO, DEEP RIVER</b>
Countries & year	<b>Austria, Peru, 2019</b>
Length	<b>108 minutes</b>
Team	<b>Malena Martínez (director, producer, editor, camera), Gustavo Schiaffino (dop, camera), Carlos Sánchez G. (camera), Aureliano Lecca (camera), Omar Mustafá (sound design, camera), Guido Deniro (sound design), Carlos Pino (additional sounds), Alexandra Wedenig (editor), Alejandra Almirón, Dieter Pichler (dramaturgical advice).</b>
Shooting format	<b>HD 16:9, 16mm, Mini DV 4:3</b>
Screening format	<b>16:9 Color. Dolby Stereo 5.1.</b>
Languages:	<b>Spanish, Quechua</b>
Subtitles:	<b>Spanish, English, German, French</b>
Fund:	<b>Federal Chancellery of Austria</b>

<b>Selections</b>	<b>Project development in Archidoc (MEDIA, La Fémis) &amp; Archidoc Pitching, Visions du Réel, 2015 Agora Market, Thessaloniki Film Festival, 2019 Media Library, Visions du Réel, 2019</b>
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### **Festivals, Official Selections**

- **One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, Prague. International Competition**
- **Cinélatino. 31es Rencontres de Toulouse.**
- **23. Festival de Cine de Lima. Official Selection Hecho en el Perú**
- **4th Beyond Borders International Documentary Festival. Castellorizo, Greece.**
- **7.FIDBA Festival Internacional de Cine Documental de Buenos Aires, Latin American Competition.**
- **20. imagineNATIVE Film + Visual Arts Festival, Ontario, Canada**
- **5. Semana del Cine. Universidad de Lima, Peru**
- **Festival Corriente de No-Ficción, Arequipa, Peru**
- **This Human World. Human Rights Festival, Vienna, Austria**

<b>Prizes</b>	<b>Festival Internacional de Cine Documental de Uruguay Atlantidoc. Best internacional documentary film 2019 Festival Nacional de Cine de Huánuco, Peru Best Peruvian documentary film 2019</b>
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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

An intense epoch of internal war in Peru spanned my childhood and youth. The terrorist violence of the Maoists of the Shining Path was replicated by the brutal military repression. In their crossfire stood tens of thousands of indigenous peasants, the most forgotten and marginalized ones in the country. People that our racism had already faded out before the war.

The trauma left in the Peruvian population for two decades (1980–2000) led many to identify now the faintest socialist impulse as a veiled communist or terrorist threat. For my generation ,revolution' is an ambiguous word. My generation is trying to process what happened.

After my extensive research in diverse visual archives in Peru, which depict Hugo Blanco in a sensationalist way and at the same time do not record the indigenous fights as part of the official history, I understood that my documentary film should show what is happening with the memory of the Peruvian Indigenous and Peasant struggles: it is fading out.

The Agrarian Reform, the biggest social catalyst of modern Peru is, for instance, only recounted beginning with the official law created in 1969 during the military government. But Indigenous fights are still labeled as subversive acts. Indigenous peoples are, century after century, erroneously interpreted as suspects and aggressors or in a passive political role or as victims. Indigenous people are still "the other", the field of projection of the countries' own fears. My film tries to approach the perspective of the Indigenous peasant movement.

Probably my biggest challenge was not to give up telling a counter-history - "bursting history against its grain" (W. Benjamin, 1995), - despite the expectation and the advice of telling the traditional hero-story about such a charismatic leader. My character himself still works in deconstructing the imagery of messianic guerrilla fighters and advocates for self-government by the people. He says there is no need for leaders. He seeks to put in the light the past and the present epic of Indian people, who were once overshadowed by him and by the light of the revolutionary imagery not just in Peru but also in the World. As for me, making a film rather ,in the spirit' than 'about' Hugo Blanco, means to activate the memory of those forgotten collective indigenous fights. I think it is necessary all over the planet to re-take knowledge of those facts facing the fact that in Latin America rural social fighters and nature guardians are being murdered and are easily criminalized relating them to communist threats.

I work with subliminal sound and images subtly touching national taboos. I'm afraid that my country won't find its path to the so-much-longed-for reconciliation and it won't heal the deep wounds of our historical memory until we don't dare to cross the traumatic waters and shadows seeded in our collective unconsciousness.



## **DIRECTOR, MALENA MARTINEZ CABRERA**

Peruvian filmmaker, photographer and cultural journalist based in Vienna, Austria, since 2000. Master in Creative Documentary (University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, 2007). Artistic Photography (Schule Friedl Kubelka, Vienna, 2014). Mag. Romanic Philology (University of Vienna, 2006). Bach. Literature and Linguistics (Universidad Católica, Peru, 1999). Mentoring program with Ruth Beckermann (FC Gloria, Vienna, 2015). ARCHIDOC alumna (La Fémis, 2015). Aristoteles Workshop (Arte TV, Romania, 2009). Cinematography WS (ESCAC, Barcelona, 2009). Music studies (Conservatorio Nacional, Lima).

## **FILMOGRAPHY (selection)**

El Juramento de Mándor	5'	2019
Hugo Blanco, Deep River	108'	2019
Arcane	1'14"	2017
Cinco trotskistas y Hugo Blanco	6'13"	2017
Diálogos que son monólogos	2'	2016
Archetype	1'15"	2015
Hugo Blanco y el periódico Lucha Indígena	15'	2014
Felipe, come back	67'	2009
Ramiro en Viena (ORF TV Shorts on Screen, special mention)	10'	2002

## **CONTACT**

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## LINKS

<b>WEB</b>	<a href="https://hugo-blanco-deep-river.jimdosite.com">https://hugo-blanco-deep-river.jimdosite.com</a>
<b>FACEBOOK</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/HugoBlancoDeepRiver">https://www.facebook.com/HugoBlancoDeepRiver</a>
<b>TRAILER</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/malenamtz/DeepRiverTrailer">https://vimeo.com/malenamtz/DeepRiverTrailer</a>

## PRESS (Selection)

### INTERVIEWS

„La memoria encuentra las formas de reacomodar las contradicciones“.  
Desistfilm / Mónica Delgado 12/19

Malena Martínez: “El movimiento campesino nunca dejó de organizarse incluso en sus momentos de más debilidad“.  
Radio Quillabamba / Janet Lobo 3/2019

Malena Martínez: “Mi película no es un recuento histórico“.  
Lima en Escena / Rosana López Cueva 3/2019

Entretien avec Malena Martínez Cabrera pour son film "Hugo Blanco, río profundo" Mediapart / Cédric Lépine 3/2019

Malena Martínez, la cineasta que visibiliza al mundo la memoria campesina peruana. La República / Itzia Huillcahuari 10/19

"La Reforma Agraria la iniciaron los indígenas"  
La República / Roberth Orihuela 11/19

### REVIEWS

Le documentaire : Hugo Blanco Río Profundo  
Blog Vie de La Brochure / Mr. J-P Damaggio 3/19

Hugo Blanco, Río Profundo: Retrato de un revolucionario.  
Wayka / Mónica Delgado 8/19

Documental sobre una de las figuras políticas más importantes del país...  
Cinencuentro / Emilio Bustamante 8/19

Perus vergessene Geschichte  
Jugendportal Österreich / Anna Egger 12/19