



# ITU NINU

72 MINUTE SCI-FI/ DRAMA  
MEXICO & UK 2023

WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY  
ARMANDO BAUTISTA GARCÍA

DIRECTED BY  
ITANDEHUI JANSEN

**OFFICIAL SELECTION**





# LOGLINE

In a highly controlled smart city in the year 2084 two climate migrants try to connect by writing old-fashioned letters to each other.



# SPECIFICATIONS

*Running Time*

**72 minutes**

*Genre*

**Drama / Sci-Fi**

*Country*

**Mexico & UK 2023**

*Language*

**Mixtec & English**

*Directed by*

**Itandehui Jansen**

*Producer*

**Armando Bautista García**

*Production Company*

**Lista Calista Films**

*Editing & Cinematography*

**Itandehui Jansen**

*Original Music*

**Enrica Sciandrone**

*Sound Design*

**William Aikman**

*Shot on*

**Bolex D16**

*Aspect Ratio*

**2.39:1**

*Sound Mix*

**Dolby 5.1**



# PROJECT BACKGROUND

*Itu Ninu is a thought-provoking Sci-fi film in Mixtec (an indigenous language from Mexico). The film delves into the impact of climate change and environmental breakdown on Indigenous Peoples. The story is set in the future in an undefined city in the Global North and focuses on two Indigenous climate migrants.*

*As climate change and environmental crisis are central themes in the film, the project was envisioned as a sustainable production from the outset. Drawing inspiration from Nadia Bozak's book, "The Cinematic Footprint," the production adopted sustainable principles and embraced the unique concept known as "Second Hand Cinema." Following Bozak's concept, the film sought to "glean" images by working with existing locations, props, and wardrobe, minimizing unnecessary consumption and waste.*

*The production furthermore adopted an artisanal approach, employing a minimal crew, reducing travel, and relying on natural light. The team tracked its carbon footprint through the ALBERT carbon calculator tools. The total carbon emissions generated by the production amounted to less than 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e, a remarkably low figure, even for an independent cinema project.*

*By pushing the boundaries of storytelling and intertwining themes of climate change, migration, environmental crisis, and Indigenous perspectives, Itu Ninu aims to provoke conversations about our collective responsibility in mitigating climate change. Through its sustainable production practices, the film seeks to exemplify the possibility of creating meaningful stories while respecting the planet's limited resources.*



An Indigenous Sci-Fi film  
reflecting on the future,  
migration, and climate change.





## SYNOPSIS

In the not-so-distant future of 2084, Ángel finds himself as a climate migrant trapped in an undisclosed city, under constant surveillance. Amidst a bleak and oppressive existence, Ángel makes a living by cultivating plants, preserving the fading wisdom of seeds.

Within this desolate landscape he crosses paths with Sofia, another climate migrant who works at a recycling facility. Fate intertwines their lives when a chance encounter reveals an unexpected connection: a shared language.

Ángel's longing for human connection and a glimmer of hope, incites him to reach out to Sofia. Aware of the omnipresent digital monitoring, Ángel decides to communicate with her through the timeless medium of pen and paper, fostering an intimate, clandestine bond.

As their secret correspondence unfolds, a friendship grows between Ángel and Sofia as does their desire for liberation from excessive control.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film originated from a very personal preoccupation. The neighborhood we live in, in coastal Scotland, might be flooded within the next 30 years due to climate change. This made me feel a certain urgency to make a film that addresses climate change. Additionally, the screenwriter and producer's native language Mixtec is endangered due to a rapid decline in speakers. Through the film we wanted to express this profound sense of loss with regards to both the natural environment and Indigenous People's cultural heritage.

Within the narrative, two characters exchange letters, sharing how devastating droughts forced them to leave their ancestral communities. Their reflective correspondence is presented through evocative voice-overs spoken in the Indigenous language Mixtec. I was inspired by narrative techniques employed by filmmakers such as Jean-Luc Godard in "Two or Three Things I Know About Her" (1967) or Mark Cousins in "Stockholm, My Love" (2016).

We shot on location in Edinburgh, harnessing the beauty of natural light. Embracing a minimalistic, artisanal, and sustainable approach, the aesthetics of the film emerged organically.

The film's protagonist, Ángel, assumes the role of a seed trader, embodying specialized knowledge about the intricate world of plants and their life cycles. This thematic thread intertwines with recurring visuals of mesmerizing extreme close-ups of seeds and lush greenery.

The film invites audiences to re-evaluate our relationship with the world we inhabit. It prompts contemplation of the intricate connections between humanity, nature, and the urgent need for sustainable coexistence.







# ITANDEHUI JANSEN

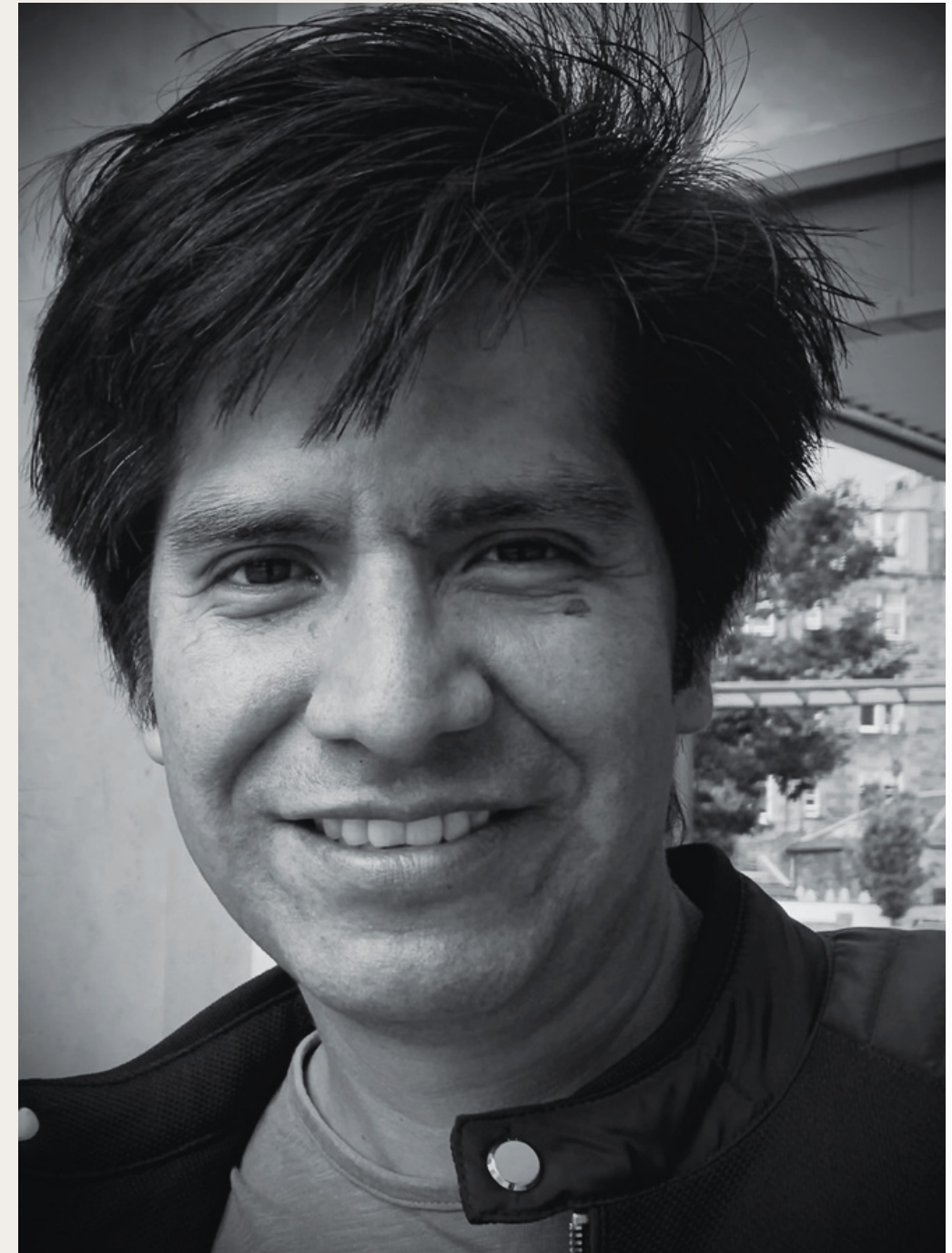
DIRECTOR, CINEMATOGRAPHER & EDITOR

Itandehui Jansen was born in Oaxaca, Mexico and studied film directing at the Netherlands Film Academy in Amsterdam. She participated in different international training programs, such as the Berlinale Talents, The Binger Film Lab, the Torino Film Lab, and the ImagineNative Screenwriting Intensive. Her films have screened at international festivals such as the IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam), The Morelia International Film Festival, Washington D.C. Shorts, ZINEBI, ImagineNative, and SLAMDANCE. Her films have received several international awards and she was nominated for the Mexican Film Critics Award Diosa de Plata. Her feature drama film *In Times of Rain* won the Award for Best Emerging Feature Film at the Oaxaca Film Fest. At present she teaches Screenwriting and Directing at Screen Academy Scotland.

# ARMANDO BAUTISTA GARCÍA

## WRITER & PRODUCER

After studying an MA in Philosophy at the Autonomous University of Barcelona with a FORD FOUNDATION fellowship, Armando Bautista started writing and producing films. He received different grants by the Mexican Nacional Council for Arts and Culture (CONACULTA) to write theatre plays, children stories, and film scripts and participated in different talent programmes such as the Cine Qua Non Lab, and the Berlinale Talents Script Station. He produced different short films, among others *The Last Council* and *Alma & Esperanza* (Itandehui Jansen 2012), and the feature drama film *In Times of Rain* (Itandehui Jansen 2018). His films screened among others in Washington DC Shorts, The Morelia International Film Festival, ZINEBI, IMPAKT, Cork International Film Festival, and SLAMDANCE. His films received different awards, among others Best Emerging Feature at the Oaxaca Film Fest.





## ALEJANDRA HERRERA SOFÍA

The role of Sofia is performed by Mexican actress Alejandra Herrera. She trained with different tutors such as Yoshi Oida, Susana Fischkin, and Thomas Richards. She had leading roles in the feature films *In Times of Rain* (Itandehui Jansen, MX 2018), the multi-award winning *Kokoloko* (Gerardo Naranjo, MX 2020- for this film she was nominated as Best Actress in a foreign film at the Tribeca Film Festival 2020), *Spider Moth Butterfly* (Alexis Moh, USA, 2019), and *la Diosa del asfalto* (Julián Hernández-MX 2021). She additionally appeared in films such as *Roma* (Alfonso Cuarón 2018), *Yo Fausto* (Julio Berthely, 2019). She also had leading roles in international short films such as *NAHJUM* (Manuel del Valle-Sebastián Torres Greene, 2019), *I have no tears and I must cry* (Luis Fernando Puente, USA, 2022), *Desde la Tierra Muerta* (Julia Weisberg, USA-MX, 2022).

# NADIA ÑUU SAVI

## SOFIA'S VOICE

Nadia López García (Oaxaca, 1992) has participated in different recitals, workshops and festivals in Mexico, India, Colombia, the United States, Guatemala and Puerto Rico. She has been a fellow of the Foundation for Mexican Literature in the area of poetry. She received the 2017 Cenzontle Prize for Literary Creation in Native Languages and the Mexico City National Youth Award. Author of the poetry books *Ñu'ú Vixo / Tierra mujada*, *Tikuxi Kaa / El tren* and *Isu ichi / El camino del venado*. Her work has been translated into Arabic, English, French, Bengali, Hindi and Catalan.



# CREATIVE TEAM - POST-PRODUCTION



## **Enrica Sciandrone - Music Composer**

Former pianist and composer, Enrica fell in love with screen composition in 2005, rapidly achieving outstanding recognitions such as the First Prize at the Premio Petrassi International Composition Competition (2009, Latina, Italy; head of jury: Ennio Morricone). Her experience was enhanced by having been Academy Award Winning composer Luis Bacalov's assistant from 2005 to 2007, working as orchestrator, copyist and editor of some of his works. In 2012 she has been one of the three composers selected for the Score Competition at BERLINALE TALENTS.



## **Stephen C. Horne - Colour Grading**

Stephen Horne is a Scottish Editor and Colorist. He has worked among others with Scottish filmmaker Mark Cousins and has edited multiple award winning short films.



## **William Aikman - Sound Design**

William Aikman is An experienced Sound Designer and Supervising Sound Editor for Film, TV and Artist's moving image.





## PRESS AND OTHER LINKS

### Mexican Newspaper El Universal

<https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/espectaculos/resistencia-apocalipsis-con-lengua-mixteca>

### Morelia Press Conference

<https://moreliafilmfest.com/en/itu-ninu-cumbres-de-maiz-press-conference-21st-ficm>

### The Herald Scotland

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23830703.edinburgh-low-budget-mixtec-language-film-earns-awards-recognition/>

### Website

<https://ituninu.com>

### Blog

<https://ituninu.com/grid-of-posts-3x2/>

### Filmfreeway

<https://filmfreeway.com/ItuNinu>



## SOCIAL MEDIA

**Twitter**

<https://www.twitter.com/calistafilms>

**Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/ItuNinu>

**Instagram**

<https://www.instagram.com/ItuNinuFilm/>



**RSE**  
*The Royal Society  
of Edinburgh*  
KNOWLEDGE MADE USEFUL

SUPPORTED BY  
**EDINBURGH**  
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL







# ITU NINU

