

MAMA IRENE

HEALER OF THE ANDES

‘THIS IS HOW I WAS BLESSED BY THE GODS’

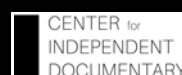


A Film by **BETTINA EHRHARDT & ELISABETH MÖHLMANN**
Editor **MONIKA ABSPACHER** Director of Photography **FRANZ ZAVALA & TENMY JOHAN CARRASCO MONZÓN**
Composer **JIM PAPOULIS** Producer **ELISABETH MÖHLMANN** Co-Producer **TORSTEN BÖNNHOFF**

A BLAZE A PATH PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH DIGITAL IMAGES

WWW.MAMAIRENEDOC.COM

© 2022 All rights reserved | Photo: Mama Irene © Franz Zavala





MAMA IRENE

HEALER OF THE ANDES

A film by
BETTINA EHRHARDT & ELISABETH MÖHLMANN

This is a film about Mama Irene, a remarkable 84-year-old woman Shaman (healer) from Peru, drawing upon indigenous knowledge and traditions in danger of being lost forever. Yet is not only a vital document of endangered wisdom; it is also a story about Woman empowerment and a testament to living harmoniously with Mother Earth.

Technical facts

Place of Production: Peru

Production Year: 2018-2021

Running Time: 72 min

Sound Format: 5.1 and Stereo

Picture Format: UHD and HD, 1,78:1

Languages: Quechua / English / Spanish

Subtitles: English

Mama Irene will be released in early 2022 for film festivals.



SYNOPSIS

*“SPIRITS HAVE TOLD ME IN MY DREAMS
HOW TO PROCEED.” (MAMA IRENE)*

The documentary follows Mama Irene in her everyday life, highlighting her healing methods and passion to serve each patient who knocks on her door: from local women who travel hours or days by foot through the Andes to a medical doctor from India seeking a cure for the illness that Western Medicine had failed to help.

We accompany Mama Irene on ancient spiritual ceremonies such as the Snow Star Festival, where thousands of pilgrims gather in Sinakara Valley high in the Peruvian Andes to honor the local glacier.

The film depicts Mama Irene’s secret healing practices, never before filmed.

Yet this film is not only a vital document of endangered wisdom; it is also a story about Woman empowerment and how to live in harmony with Mother Earth.

As the film unfolds, we learn about Mama Irene’s personal journey. She discovered her healing gift by chance at three years old, when she intuitively healed a neighbor’s migraines by rubbing her own salvia on his forehead. She became known in the village as El doctor pequeño — the little doctor.

She was sold by her father into slavery; beaten by her husband, who was determined to keep her in the role of servile female; gave birth to 15 children, eight of whom died; endured misogyny and rivalry from male shamans.

Yet Mama Irene never wavered in pursuing her craft. She believed in herself and in the gifts she was born with. This is a story about a woman who overcomes tremendous trauma and obstacles and continues to grow and inspire at age 84.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2014 I was living in New York City, suffering from debilitating exhaustion. None of the medical specialists I had consulted were able to help. My friend Carl Hyatt, a photographer who has been traveling to Peru for decades, had an idea. He consulted a healer he knew in Cusco, Puma Singona Quispe. Puma in turn consulted his coca leaves: "Elisabeth has to visit Cusco immediately and work with Mama Irene in ceremony. Otherwise, she will end up in a bad way. "

And so I traveled to Peru. The experience was transformative. I returned to New York City energized and strong. Thus began my journey with Mama Irene.

In 2016, Mama Irene invited me to be her first „Western student.“ I had the privilege of witnessing her selflessly healing patients with extraordinary wisdom, love and compassion. And although I have been deeply connected with nature all my life, I learned from Mama Irene an entire new dimension on how to live in harmony with Mother Earth and the mountain spirits.

I began to realize that Mama Irene was teaching me secrets she had never shared with anyone, let alone a Westerner. With her blessing, I decided to make this documentary, to share the story of this remarkable woman and her knowledge and wisdom.

Elisabeth Möhlmann, Co-Director



CO-DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When Elisabeth approached me and asked if I might want to realize a film about Mama Irene together with her, showing me the first material she had already shot, I was immediately taken in by Mama Irene's youthful charm, her smile forming dimples in her cheeks. And by her strength: She overcame many hardships in a world dominated mostly by men, nevertheless built on feminine wisdom.

Mama Irene, Healer of the Andes, is a true mystic – she turns to Pachamama and to the mountain spirits in her prayers, in her pilgrimages. And the Mountain Gods appear in her dreams and talk back to her, she says, "like normal people". So I happily participated from afar in Elisabeth's film project through my eye and ear as a filmmaker and story teller, listening and watching, combining themes and imagining a possible dramaturgy for the film. Our goal was to present Mama Irene's story to a wider audience, thus paying homage to the

thousands of years old Incan healing traditions. Worshipping Pachamama, Mother Earth as the feminine figure of abundance is ever more important in our nowadays world.

It was Elisabeth who did all the shooting in Peru. A last shoot was planned for March 2020: all of us together, in and around Cusco. Covid cancelled this. Thus I began, with my wonderful editor Monika, to edit what we had, Elisabeth assisting. Mama Irene's presence captured us absolutely.

In the end Torsten Bönnhoff, whom I had approached, joined in and became Elisabeth's partner in this venture – it seems like Mama Irene's spirit brought us all together to realize this movie. My biggest wish now is to meet her in person. I wish the film an audience interested in the art of healing and in a woman's passionate approach to life. And I wish Elisabeth much luck in her new career as a filmmaker.

Bettina Ehrhardt, Co-Director



MAIN PROTAGONISTS

Alfredo Huayta Singona
 Ernesto Pañihuara
 Gregoria Contreras
 Ines Epifania Quispe Sallo
 Jhon Ademir Auccacusi Sallo
 Luisa Huayta Contreras
 Natividad M. Pañihuara Contreras
 Uma Ladiwala

ADDITIONAL APPEARANCES

Edith Huaman
 Hermila Durand
 Maria Elena Auccacusi
 Nancy Illankay
 Nelida Vilca Huaman
 Eddy Roy Ninan Singona
 Felix Inquiltupa
 Maria Mandura
 Wilfredo Huaman Cjuiro
 Yodmar Huaman Cjuiro

Mama Irene
 (Juana Irene Contreras Pumayalli)



Puma Fredy Quispe Singona



ELISABETH MÖHLMANN

Producer, Co-Director, Co-Writer

New York-based Elisabeth Möhlmann is the founder of Blaze a Path Productions, and a former actor and stage director. Born in Munich, Germany, Elisabeth grew up in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and studied philosophy before moving to New York City to study acting at the Lee Strasberg Theater & Film Institute. She later returned to New York City and established a successful real estate career before meeting Mama Irene. That fateful encounter helped heal Elisabeth from a debilitating illness, and ultimately sparked the creation of this project. Mama Irene has granted Elisabeth the exclusive rights to document her life and healing crafts. *MAMA IRENE*, Healer of the Andes is Elisabeth's debut as a filmmaker.



BETTINA EHRHARDT

Co-Director/Co-Writer

Documentary film director and producer Bettina Ehrhardt holds a Master's degree in French literature and a diploma in Film Studies both from Lyon 2 University. Her favorite subjects range from ethnology, nature and politics to the arts, with documentaries about the Amazon rain forest, the Tuareg and Sherpa people or Voodoo in Benin. Passionate about music, she has made films dedicated to composers and conductors like Claudio Abbado, Zubin Mehta, Kent Nagano, Pierre Boulez, Luigi Nono, Helmut Lachenmann, Bernd Alois Zimmermann. Her films, broadcast or shown in cinemas and on film festivals around the world, received many awards. In 2009 she founded bce films & more Gmbh. A tireless traveler, by taste and profession, Bettina is based in Munich and in Berlin.



MONIKA ABSPACHER

Editor

Born in Neuburg, Germany, has worked since 1980 as an editor in Germany and in the USA. Her credits include feature films, documentaries and TV series, for ZDF, ARD, HBO and many more. Several of her films received International Television Programming Awards and Nominations in the category Best Film: Drama 'Grimme Preis', 'Deutscher Filmpreis', Peace Film Award Berlinale, Emmy Award and Sundance Festival Best Documentary. She was nominated as an editor for the German camera price in 2007 and 2010 in the category „Bester Schnitt“ (best editing).



Angana Jhaveri

Director

Film producer and director Angana holds a PhD in Theater, and a Masters in Ancient Indian Culture, Bombay University. She is trained in Classical Manipuri Dance with Jhaveri Sisters since childhood. She formed Illumine Films in 2002 with the intention of producing films on Indian/Asian Heritage and promotional short films for Social Entrepreneurs and ventures for social good.

Awards: The John D Rockefeller 3rd Fund, USA, Ford Foundation India Office and MacArthur Foundation, USA Teaching Fellowship. Awarded UGC Research Fellowship.

For a complete filmography please contact us. Angana directed one of our three film shoots. She is based in Goa, India.



FRANZ ZAVALA

Cinematographer

Born in Mexico City, Franz Zavala is a veteran cinematographer, and founder/director of Effects Or Films, a production company, based in Mexico City. He has worked in the film and music industry for the past 25 years. Previous films: Las Paredes hablan, Deseo, Casese quien pueda.



TENMY JOHAN CARRASCO MONZON

Cinematographer

Born in Cusco, Peru, and currently based in Cusco, Johan has worked as a cinematographer for fiction and documentary films that have been screened at festivals worldwide, including Alfa (2015) and Cocodrilo (2015) from Cuba, and Viaje (2018) and Rojo Profundo (2019) from Peru. He studied at the International Film School in Cuba.



CÉSAR CENTENO

Sound

Born in Apurimac, Peru, and currently based in Cusco, Cesar Centano is a sound recordist and mixer with more than 15 years experience in the film and television industry. He has worked on dozens of fiction and documentary projects, including films exhibited in Rotterdam, Visions du Réel, Cannes. He studied at the International School of Film and Television of San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba.



JIM PAPOULIS

Composer

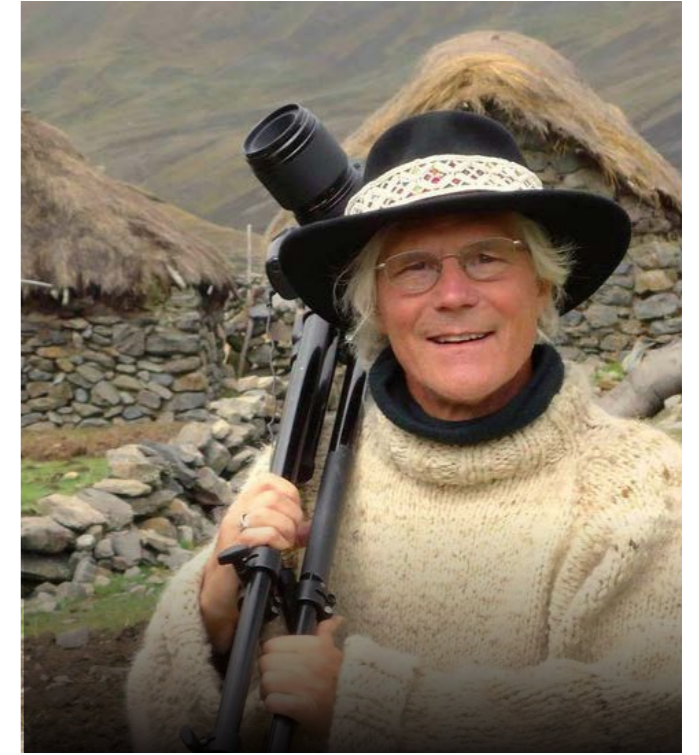
New York City-based Jim Papoulis is a multi-talented composer who creates music in multiple genres: from classical and contemporary to choral and world music. He has worked with renowned artists and organizations around the world, including Aretha Franklin, Celine Dion, Beyonce, the New York Philharmonic, the UN University of Peace Forum, 9/11 Museum in New York and the Beijing Olympics. He firmly believes that music can heal, educate and empower lives.



TORSTEN BÖNNHOFF

Co- Producer

Torsten Bönnhoff is the founder and CEO of Studio Halle, one of Germany's leading all-inclusive production and post-production companies for film and television. Studio Halle also runs Arthaus Musik, a music publishing and distribution company, and Monarda Arts, a boutique production house for cultural programming. Before establishing Studio Halle in 2003, Torsten founded a marketing agency, and later a sister company for IT technologies in media projects. He is also the co-founder and board member of 'NHV-Theophrastus, a non-profit naturopathic association that promotes natural healing practices. Torsten resides in Abberode, Germany.



CARL AUSTIN HYATT

Still Photographer

Carl Austin Hyatt has been a fine art photographer for fifty years. His conviction that the Earth, Pachamama, is an animate living being has been the inspiration for his life and work. This led him to explore shamanic traditions on four continents. He found his spiritual home on his first trip to Peru in 1998 and has returned more than thirty five times. He has known Mama Irene and her extended family for more than twenty years. His photographs are in numerous public and private collections including the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.



"It's a profoundly sensitive and courageous work. The steadiness of its compassionate, honest observation of an example of real human transcendence is as tangible a use of the film medium as I've ever seen" William Hurt, actor

"I watched your documentary in its entirety twice, feeling gratefully transformed as a witness to such emotionally evocative raw imagery of both place and person. You've been able to masterfully illumine the ancestral ethos meaningfully in-forming both sacred and secular dimensions of traditional Andean runa experience, which you convincingly accomplished by focusing the visionary intention behind your documentary on the urgency of safeguarding the spoken medicinal wisdom and ceremonial healing artistry associated with this revered elder woman hampiq from Chincheros...which is no small task. Again, my heartfelt congratulations dear one." Oscar Miro-Quesada

The originator of the Pachakuti Mesa tradition of cross-cultural shamanism, founder of The Heart of the Healer Foundation





Contact:

Blaze A Path Productions, New York, NY

Elisabeth Möhlmann

001-917-428-0932

elisabeth@mamairedoc.com

www.mamairedoc.com