


THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

By Gyan Shahaf Peled
Film in development



KANVAR FILMS



In the heart of the **Amazon Rainforest**, there is a site with paintings left on a mountain face by indigenous tribes. Created **20,000** years ago, they carry a message for the modern world that, until now, has never been revealed.

LOG-LINE



SYNOPSIS



In The Edge of the World, we meet Imika Tariru, a tribal elder from the scattered and lost Tubu indigenous tribal nation of the Colombian Amazon. Raised on the land of his people, this ancestral home has been taken from him after occupation by guerrilla forces. His adoptive home in the barrios of Bogota is a wild jungle of concrete, leaving him a stranger in both lands.

Moving through life as a knowledge bearer, Imika shares wisdom received from the lineage of his parents' tribes. Passed orally, this wisdom is also depicted on rock faces in Chiribiquete, a sacred site in the Amazon known by the tribes as the point of origin for humanity.

Imika holds a key, interpreting codes left in glyphs on these stone walls 20,000 years ago.

Scientists, anthropologists, and historians from around the world have visited the site of these glyphs, yet no one has managed to decipher their meaning.

This site is a portal. These codes, a guide. Imika will take us on a journey between the ancient and modern worlds, **connecting with ritual and plant medicine to reveal the secrets contained within - a message from the past of how to live in a society.**

Never before shared, this is ancient wisdom for a modern era. A line drawn between human and nature, community and ancestry. **An invitation for healing and reconnection found here, at the edge of the world.**

IMIKĀ TARIRU BARY VERA KUARY BARU

Imika Tariru Bary Vera Kuary Baru is a dancer, ancestral healer, and elder member of the indigenous tribe Tubu Hummurimasa. The tribe and its roots are geographically located in the southeast of Colombia in Chiribiquete: a place named by the ancestors as **“The Point of Origin and Evolution of Humankind.”**

Imika was born in Chiribiquete and raised to be a tribal leader and a spiritual and physical healer. Led by his father, Hum-mugubu, Imika **began to participate in círculos de la palabra viva - circles of wisdom sharing through storytelling and ritual - when he was six years old.** Since then, he has devoted his life to learning from his ancestors, from the consciousness granted by the plant world, and from immersing himself in different tribes in South America. **Through this immersion, he has learned twenty-two indigenous languages and the beliefs, rituals, and cultures of these tribes.**

As the internal conflict in Colombia rose, Imika was pushed to settle with his family in Bogota at the age of 48. While in the capital, he began a process of cultural knowledge exchange there, throughout the country, and beyond. He has leaned on his ancestral principles to revitalize an indigenous nation, one that has had to adapt to meet an urban economy without losing sight of ancient ways and their unique approach to the world.

Imika’s work in the city has been invaluable and prompted renowned Colombian universities to invite him to campus. As a Professor, Imika has taught lectures with themes of indigenous thought, indigenous proposals to confront and resolve armed conflict, and the rights of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia.



LOCATION CHIRIBIQUETE

Chiribiquete is located in the heart of the Colombian Amazon, one degree north of the equator. Referred to by the local indigenous tribes as “The Edge of the World,” this is the earthly point where the wisdom of the stars is delivered.

Local tribes consider this to be the core origin point of life: the first place that the mystical vine of Ayahuasca grew and above it, a door of communication with the astral.

Codes contained in tribal paintings left on Chiribiquete’s rock walls can open this portal in the sky to receive ancient wisdom for a modern era.


Chiribiquete is a melting pot, a meeting between topographic and geographic splendor, the wisdom of ancient ways, cultural and linguistic diversity amongst indigenous tribes who have never encountered western society.

For decades this was the epicenter of the FARC guerrilla, bringing violence in the name of control and illicit crops. Now free, these tribes live in voluntary isolation as guardians of this land.

The Chiribiquete National Park (also known as The Maloca of the Jaguar) is the world’s largest national park comprised of tropical rainforest. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2018 “for harboring and protecting immense natural and cultural values,” supported by the local tribal guardians.

The region has formed and preserved unique ecosystems where thousands of species of flora and fauna thrive. Dozens of these species are endemic, and several are threatened. Topographically unique, the movement of tectonic plates has created isolated table-top mountains known as tepuis.





The plateaus of these mesas are isolated from the forest below, creating ecological islands.

Home to more than 11 million people, Bogotá is a sprawling city and one of the highest-altitude capitals in South America. A mixture of modern and colonial architecture, Bogotá has a variety of cultures, artwork, and cuisines within the fast-paced big-city hustle of contemporary economics.

The film's heart is a meeting point between these places: the forest of the Amazon and the concrete jungle of Bogotá. There is an offering to pass between two worlds. From the Amazon: a world full of medicine, life, and ancient knowledge. A wall of secrets and the tribal way of life.

**What can the city offer in return?
Protection. Honor. Reverence.**

IMIKA AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

Over the course of his life, Imika has become a safeguard of Chiribiquete's power. As we hear from him in the film, Chiribiquete is **"guarded for the benefit of all humanity."** He serves as a bridge between the modern and ancestral worlds, rooted in ancient ways while he navigates contemporary society.


As we meet Imika in this sacred land, he introduces glyphs left on rock walls in the heart of the forest. Anthropologists, he explains, are the only people who have claimed expertise in deciphering these messages. These researchers have attempted to decode the meaning behind the paintings independently, without guidance from members of the indigenous communities themselves.

As the sole individual to truly decode these messages from the past, Imika accesses their mystery, reviving the forgotten ancestral memory. The wisdom contained here can help guide modern society into a reconnection with their past and impact what has been considered an inevitable future.

The Edge of the World Film meets Imika as he shares that these glyphs are not simply art on stone but a portal to access healing, and threads missing from the fragmented tapestry of our society.

For the first time, a film will give voice to the primary indigenous source of knowledge.





The rainforests hold answers to
questions we have yet to ask.

— MARK PLOTKIN

ARTISTIC APPROACH

My intention is to create a film that honors life as it is, as it moves, and as it speaks for itself. **Life is visually strong; beautiful without my intervention.** With a story as powerful as the one told here, my aim is not to write it but to give it space to speak for itself. To interpret it through strong yet subtle visuals, supported by natural light and sound.

The artistic approach for **The Edge of the World** is, at its core, capturing realism. Through available natural light and the rural surroundings, the scene becomes tangible. **This is a film about the forces of nature, and they are present in the sights, sounds, and stories within a steady frame.**

Inspired by the language of classical cinema fiction, I use a shot scale that focuses on life within the frame: **close-ups to create an emotional connection, longshots to establish spaces.** With a steady camera and little movement, the aesthetic lines are blurred between documentary and fiction. The subtle language of cinematography draws the viewer in to become part of the adventure.

The Colombian Amazon rainforest has a spirit of its own and itself becomes a character. This living, breathing forest is full of mystery and transmits emotions through pauses between scenes. In these moments, I share visuals of the Amazon river flowing, the sounds of the lush forest, the call of the jaguar at dusk as we see the tribal paintings on a rock wall. The subtle yet powerful force of nature.

The Edge of the World is a journey of discovery, moving through unfamiliar territories with reverence and curiosity. We travel through jungles without roads, take a voyage in a canoe down the Amazon River, and allow ourselves

to be guided by a tribal leader, meeting him and his ancestors through this land.

This film highlights the age-old questions around the meaning of our existence by **examining the conflict between ancient and modern ways.** Between nature and the city. Between a drive toward independence and a yearning for connection.

We will see the duality between the raw, wild nature of the Amazon Rainforest and the fast-paced life among the concrete houses of Bogota. While these two worlds may seem so far apart, I hope to show that both can benefit one another. **The wisdom contained in the ancient ways of the Amazon can invite modern society into this sense of belonging and connection that it is so thirsty for.**

In **The Edge of the World**, life guides the frame - not the other way around. Through this, I hope to give space for the experience to shape the viewers' understanding. **This is a feature film with a documentary spirit, giving voice to the ancient stories previously untold.**



DIRECTOR BIO

International filmmaker **Gyan Shahaf Peled** was born in Israel and graduated from the Tel Aviv University Department of Film and Television.

Gyan made his debut with the feature-length film **A Different Life**, filmed in Costa Rica and Ecuador with post-production in Switzerland, Denmark, Poland, and Israel. This 2016 documentary followed the paths of three female characters and their lives in a conscious community. It was shown in film festivals and bought by the media platform Gaia TV.

For his second feature film, Gyan was the Delegate Producer of **The Song of Scorpions**. Released in 2017, this is a fictional tale of love, revenge, and the redemptive power of song. Shot in India with post-production in Switzerland and France, the film was invited to more than 20 festivals around the world.

Distribution arrangements were made with Amazon Prime Video and AppleTV. Currently in production, **The Edge of the World** will be Gyan's third feature-length film. Shot in the Amazon Rainforest of Colombia and Botoga, the capital, this documentary film will reveal ancient wisdom for a modern world. Through the words of a tribal leader, we will learn the codes contained in glyphs left on a mountain face more than 20,000 years ago.

Gyan currently works as the Director of Global Film Productions for Selina, mentoring filmmakers to create short documentary pieces that share a voice from locations around the world.

See more of Gyan's work :

- **A Different Life** IMDB | Vimeo
- **The Song of Scorpions** IMDB | Amazon Prime Video
- **Selina Film Residency** YouTube
- **Gyan Shahaf Peled** IMDB

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

The Edge of the World film delivers an important message from the indigenous people to the contemporary world. **This message originates from ancient glyphs left 20,000 years ago on the face of rock walls in Chiribiquete**, a sacred space in the depths of the Colombian Amazon Rainforest. Brilliant minds have tried to decipher these messages for many years without reaching the

The film's narrative is delivered from within the mysterious heart of the Amazon. Known as **"The Maloca of the Jaguar,"** local tribes also refer to Chiribiquete as **"The Edge of the World,"** honored by the film's title. The people of this land say this is a portal in Heaven through which all of the wisdom of medicinal plants is delivered to earth, directly from the stars.

This remote place dominated by flora and fauna is full of wonder and becomes a central character. It will awaken emotions and invite reflection on the wisdom of the natural world. **The Edge of the World** will travel deep into the forest and return with ancient philosophies for the modern era.

As we meet Imika Tariru, we see the parallel between an individual standing in front of the vast, untamed heart of the Amazon and those within the hurried, wild nature of modern city life. **Orphaned from his ancestral home, Imika now lives in the barrios of Bogota.** As he navigates between the vast jungles of green and concrete, he aims to keep the memory of his lineage and the wisdom of his ancestors.

The film is rooted in existential questions about modern ways of living. These questions are universal, not specific to any country, race, or culture. They are questions of purpose, connection, and meaning. **About finding a home - within oneself and on a rapidly-changing planet.**

Through the voice of a tribal leader, this film sets out to preserve an ancient memory and connect with the wisdom of people who have lived deep within the Colombian Amazon since the beginning of our existence. This is a story of healing and constructing a more coherent way to live within a society, inspired by ancestral ways. **It is a message both timely and timeless, delivered from the edge of the world.**

A man in traditional indigenous attire, featuring a large, colorful feathered headdress with blue, green, yellow, and red feathers. He has dark brown face paint in geometric patterns on his forehead and cheeks. He is looking out over a wide river flowing through a lush green forest under a blue sky with white clouds. A wooden staff with a red cord is visible on the left. He wears a necklace of white feathers and a beaded necklace.

VISUAL SUPPORT

<https://vimeo.com/702578173/4b6e34b180>