



a Jon Ayon film

# Manzanal



"Me llamo Rufina Amaya, nací en el cantón La Guacamaya del caserío El Mozote.  
El 11 de Diciembre del año 1981, llegó una gran cantidad de soldados del ejército.  
Entraron como a las seis de la tarde y nos encerraron."

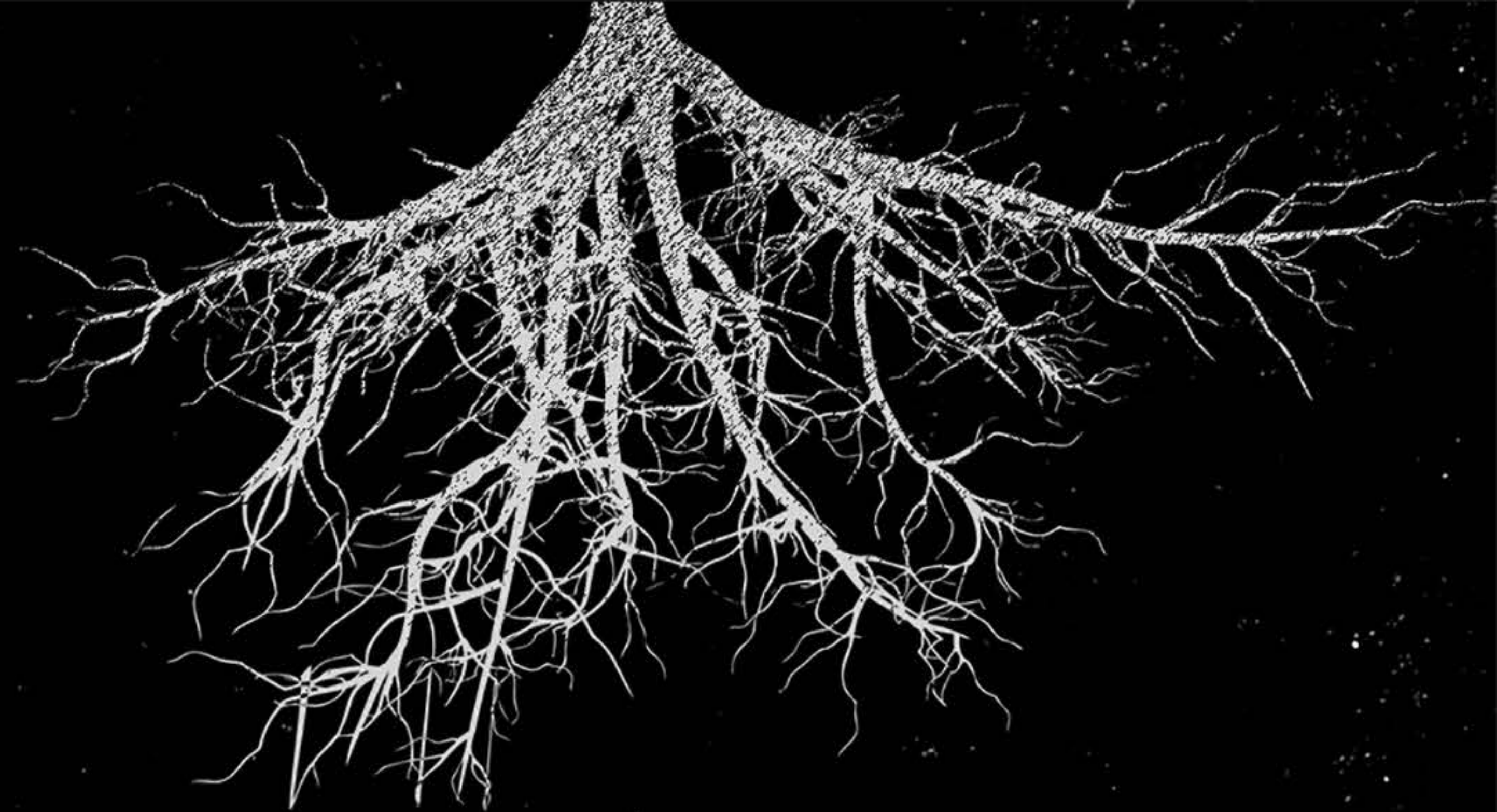
un testimonio. doce testigos.



# Synopsis

Nearly 40 years later, 12 Latinx millennials bear witness to Rufina Amaya's grave testimony about what happened at El Mozote.

2020 • Documentary • US • 7 min • B&W • 1.77:1



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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As a teenager, I read Mark Danner's harrowing account of the Massacre at El Mozote. I remember learning about Rufina Amaya and feeling her courage wash over me. Since then, I met so many Latinx millennials who never heard of her. Rufina Amaya's invisibility haunted me. My last film *Sombras* detailed how my mother fled El Salvador during one of the first civil wars to ravage her country and its people. Throughout the wonderful opportunities I've had to screen *Sombras* in various places, I have met more and more people who like me share the memories and the wounds of wars in our faces, bodies, and minds. I wanted to visually capture this international community of children searching to understand our parents' traumas to better understand our own.

- jon ayon



# Biography

Jon Ayon is a filmmaker from LA. He began his career directing music videos for punk & indie bands in the Pacific Northwest. In Oakland, he worked as a Camera Operator and Editor for KDOL-TV & graduated from San Francisco State University's School of Cinema with honors. His work has earned him awards from The Annenberg Foundation, The Caucus for Producers, Writers, & Directors, The SF Emmys, and American Zoetrope. Among Ayon's 12 short films is *Sombras (Shadows)* a documentary detailing the harrowing anxieties his parents experienced as undocumented immigrants in America. *Sombras* premiered at HBO's NY Latino Film Fest & screened at Sundance in 2018, winning the Grand Prize in the Coppola Short Film Competition. He has worked as an Editor on the films *Hoodie*, *The Celine Archive*, & *Alice Street*. Ayon's films highlight issues pertaining to the Latinx Diaspora such as Indigeneity, colonialism, & generational trauma.

2014		<i>Pega</i>
2015		<i>Innatus</i>
2016		<i>Wong is an American Name</i>
2017		<i>Sombras (Shadows)</i>
2020		<i>Manzanal</i>







## witnesses

Alex  
Cesar  
Cleopatra  
Elidia  
Glenda  
Jaqueline  
Jessica  
Jonathan  
Lesly  
Nathanial  
Sheyla  
Victoria

## Rufina's voice

Marylin Flores

## production assistance

Adrian Burrell

## technical support

Mark Urbanek  
Paul Meyers

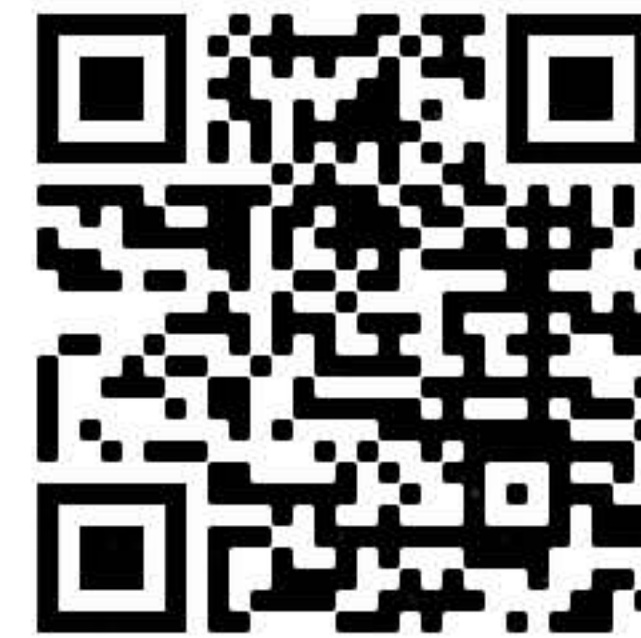
## production advisors

Jamie Meltzer  
Tijana Petrovic

## music, editing, and direction

Jon Ayon

For more information visit:



Contact:

Jon@jonayon.com  
1+(650) 906-2602  
IG: @ajonayonfilm  
Web: jonayon.com  
FB: @ajonayonfilm  
Twitter: @ajonayonfilm