

KAPIYU

A FEATURE FILM BY
RAUL WALDER



PROJECT DETAILS

GENRE

DRAMA.

FILM REFERENCES

“BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD” MEETS “WENDY”, BOTH BY BENH ZEITLIN.

LOGLINE

BABI, A FIERCE 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL, ESCAPES FROM HER ORPHANAGE IN VENEZUELA AND STARTS A DANGEROUS JOURNEY ACROSS THE COUNTRY TOWARDS LA GRAN SABANA IN ORDER TO SAVE HER MOTHER, WHO SHE BELIEVES IS A PEMÓN INDIGENOUS NATIVE, FROM THE RUTHLESS MASSACRE THAT A BRIGADE OF CORRUPT MILITARY MEN PREPARES TO EXECUTE AGAINST THEM.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

\$2 MILLION

SYNOPSIS

BABI'S BRAVERY AND DETERMINATION ARE AS BIG AS HER DREAM OF MEETING HER BIOLOGICAL MOTHER. FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BABI HAS LIVED IN A LOW-CLASS ORPHANAGE IN VALENCIA, VENEZUELA, WITHOUT SPARKING THE INTEREST OF ANY ADOPTIVE PARENTS. BUT THE DAY THAT THE FIRST COUPLE SHOWS INTEREST IN ADOPTING HER, SHE ESCAPES THE ORPHANAGE AND EMBARKS ALL ALONE ON A DANGEROUS JOURNEY TOWARDS LA GRAN SABANA, WHERE THE PEMÓN NATIVE COMMUNITY RESIDES AND WHERE BABI BELIEVES SHE WILL FIND HER MOTHER, A PEMÓN INDIGENOUS WOMAN.

ON HER TREACHEROUS JOURNEY, SHE MEETS JULIO, A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO IS ON HIS WAY TO EMIGRATE OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HE'S OF GREAT HELP TO HER WHEN THE DRIVER OF THE BUS IN WHICH THEY BOTH TRAVEL TRIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BABI, BRINGING HER FACE TO FACE WITH THE DANGERS OF THIS DECAYING COUNTRY. BUT BABI IS A BORN FIGHTER AND ALONG WITH HER NEW ACCOMPLICE (JULIO), SHE CARRIES ON WITH HER MISSION. AFTER MANY SETBACKS AND EXHILARATING EXPERIENCES, THEY BOTH ARRIVE AT THE MAJESTIC VENEZUELAN GRAN SABANA.

THERE, AFTER OVERCOMING EVEN MORE DIFFICULTIES, THEY MEET LORO, A HIPPIE WITH PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE IN THIS WILD TERRITORY. WITH HIS HELP AND GUIDANCE, THE KIDS INITIATE A PERILOUS TREK INTO THE WILDERNESS, IN SEARCH OF THE PEMONES AND HOPING THAT AMONG THEM IS THE WOMAN WHO BABI BELIEVES IS HER MOTHER.

HOWEVER, LA GRAN SABANA HAS LONG BEEN OCCUPIED NOT ONLY BY THESE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, BUT ALSO BY PARAMILITARY TROOPS WILLING TO ELIMINATE ANYONE WHO STANDS IN THEIR WAY TOWARDS CLEARING UP THIS ENTIRE NATURE RESERVE AND EXPLOITING THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF THIS NATIONAL HERITAGE.

AND YET, FOR THE PEMONES, THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS OF THE AREA, THIS IS NOT ONLY THEIR HOME, BUT WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE 'THEIR MOTHER' AND 'THE HOUSE OF THE GODS'. THUS, IT WILL TAKE MUCH MORE THAN AN ARSENAL OF FIREARMS TO GET THEM OUT OF HERE. BABI, JULIO, AND LORO WILL TAKE PART AND BE KEY PLAYERS IN A SAVAGE BATTLE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND VIRGIN PLACES ON PLANET EARTH.

MAIN CHARACTERS

BABI



7 YEARS OLD. HER CINNAMON-COLORED SKIN, JET-BLACK EYES AND REBELLIOUS HAIR ARE EVIDENCE OF HER INDIGENOUS HERITAGE. SHE POSSESSES AN OLD SOUL, AN INTENSE GAZE, AND A FREE SPIRIT. HER PRESENCE IS FULL OF CONFIDENCE, EVEN AT HER YOUNG AGE. HER DELICATE FACE CATCHES THE EYES OF ANYONE WHO ADMIRES HONESTY. HER COURAGE DEFINES HER, ALTHOUGH IT SOMETIMES CAN ALSO BETRAY HER.



JULIO

10 YEARS OLD, WITH SERENE ATTITUDE, A GOOD HEART, AND A FACE THAT CANNOT HIDE THE DIFFICULTIES THAT HE'S BEEN THROUGH DURING HIS SHORT LIFE. IT ALL HAS MADE HIM STRONG THOUGH. HIS GAZE RADIATES BRAVERY, WHILE HIS PERSONALITY SHOWS A DEEP SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS HIS FAMILY AND AN ENORMOUS DESIRE TO BE ABLE TO FILL THE SHOES OF THE MAN WHO ABANDONED HIM AND HIS FAMILY SHORTLY AFTER HIS LITTLE BROTHER WAS BORN.

WRITER'S BIO

RAUL WALDER

ORIGINALLY FROM CARACAS, VENEZUELA, RAUL HAS HAD AN EXTENSIVE CAREER IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY INTERNATIONALLY. HE'S WORKED AS AN ACTOR FOR TV, FILM, AND THEATRE SINCE AN EARLY AGE BACK IN HIS HOME COUNTRY AND ACROSS LATIN AMERICA. HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI IN 2015 WITH A B.A. IN THEATER ARTS AND A MINOR IN FILM, WHERE HE HAD A FOCUS ON SCREENWRITING.

RAUL HAS WRITTEN AND CREATED PROJECTS LIKE THE TV PILOT "LOS LOBOS BLANCO" (AKA: THE WHITE WOLVES), WHICH WAS A SEMIFINALIST ON THE PRESTIGIOUS SCREENCRAFT DRAMA SCREENPLAY COMPETITION 2021 AND A QUARTERFINALIST ON THE SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL SCREENPLAY AWARDS 2022. HIS SCREENPLAY "KAPÜY" HAS ALREADY WON THE 'WAVE D'ORE AWARD' AT BONDI SCREENPLAY COMPETITION 2023 FOR "BEST FEATURE SCREENPLAY" AS WELL AS "BEST FOREIGN SCREENPLAY" AT NEW YORK SCRIPT AWARDS 2023. "KAPÜY" WAS ALSO SELECTED INTO THE QUARTERFINALIST ROUND OF THE WESCREENPLAY DIVERSE VOICES LAB 2023. RAUL IS THE FOUNDER OF "BEACH HOUSE FILMS" AND THE AUTHOR OF THE SHORT FILMS "TLG", "CICATRICES", "COLD-BLOODED ANIMALS", AND "BLEEDING SCARS, AS WELL AS ONE OF THE CO-WRITERS FOR THE UPCOMING FEATURE FILM "PRETTY RUSSELL".

BEACH HOUSE

FILMS



WRITER'S STATEMENT

SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING MY HOME COUNTRY VENEZUELA, THIS STORY BEGAN AS A CONCOCTION OF FEELINGS BREWING FERVOROUSLY INSIDE OF ME: A DEEP LONGING FOR THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY I LEFT BEHIND, A PROFOUND ADMIRATION FOR THE CHILDREN THAT STILL WALK THOSE IMPOVERISHED STREETS WITH THEIR HEARTS FULL OF HOPE, AND A DESPERATE NEED TO SHARE THEIR STORIES WITH THE WORLD.

BABI AND JULIO, DESPITE BEING ENTIRELY FICTIONAL, WERE BORN FROM EXTENSIVE RESEARCH AND AS A COLLECTION OF REAL-LIFE VENEZUELAN KIDS WHO HAVE HAD TO ENDURE, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THE PAIN OF LOSING THEIR HOMES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC INADEQUACIES.

ADDITIONALLY, THIS STORY IS ALSO FUELED BY THE INTENT TO GIVE A HUMBLE AND HONEST VOICE TO THE INDIGENOUS PEMÓN COMMUNITY, WHO ARE TRUE VENEZUELAN WARRIORS CURRENTLY FIGHTING ARMED FORCES IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND SAVE ONE OF THE MOST MAJESTIC NATURAL RESERVES IN THE WORLD, THE VENEZUELAN "GRAN SABANA".

I'VE DRAWN INSPIRATION FROM OUTSTANDING PIECES OF VISUAL STORYTELLING LIKE "BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD" AND "WENDY" BY BENH ZEITLIN, "CAPERNAUM" BY NADINE LABAKI, AND "NOBODY KNOWS" BY HIROKAZU KOREEDA. POWERFUL FILMS WHERE DESPITE THE HARSH AND PRESSING CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FOCUS OF THE NARRATIVE RELIES ON THE HUMANITY OF OUR LEAD CHARACTERS, THEIR ABILITY TO BE OPEN TO THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEIR HOPEFUL EXISTENCE, AND THEIR UNWAVERING PURSUIT OF THEIR DREAMS.



MOOD BOARD





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