

the last flight of

# PISHAK

a film by Herbert Salas Portugal





# • INFORMATION •

ORIGINAL TITLE	PISHAK, EL ÚLTIMO VUELO DE LOS PÁJAROS
ENGLISH TITLE	THE LAST FLIGHT OF PISHAK
SCREENPLAY & DIRECTOR	HERBERT SALAS PORTUGAL
COUNTRY	PERU
GENRE	DRAMA, ADVENTURE
LANGUAGE	AWAJUN - SPANISH
RATE	ABOVE 13 YEARS
PROJECT STATUS	IN DEVELOPMENT




Your dream is the wind, just spread your wings





# • STORYLINE •

A courageous teenager, son of the leader of the Awajún ethnic group, is obsessed with his initiation ritual, being able to fly, to become a birdman. His father, after being unfairly involved in a crime that occurred during social protests; he flees to Capitol City for his life. The young man seeking to fulfill his ritual, decides to throw himself from the highest tower in the city in order to achieve his conversion.





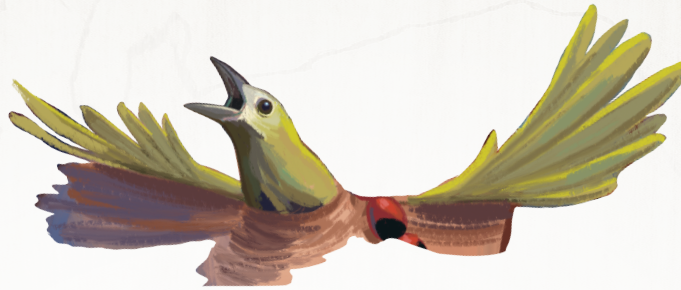
# • SYNOPSIS •

Pishak has just turned 16 and is preparing with the wise men for his initiation rite, becoming what he has always dreamed of, the successor to Samik, his father, a courageous warrior, capable of leading his village, hoping to become a courageous warrior and to replace his father as leader of the village. Pishak chose selected one of the most difficult rituals, requiring that he jump jumping from a rock into a deep pool, with a flight of more than 200 meters into the void. It depends on this alliance that both men and birds follow their path in harmony, The ritual will require perfect harmony with the birds on their path. Not only will Pishak's but not only his family will attend the ritual, but also Yumi, a young girl with whom he is in love. Samik has traveled to Bagua to meet other indigenous leaders and thus hopes to be able to face this crisis along with a new attempt by the State to possess their sacred lands.

Unfortunately, the night before the ritual, messengers from the community alert the arrival of the police to nearby areas. Samik and old

Etsa, his shaman grandfather, must flee because the police are looking for him, as well as his son Pishak, to kidnap him, and thus then blackmail him. Pishak will secretly flee to Lima, camouflaged as the pawn of a logging company. Assuming another identity, Pishak will be frustrated in getting his way to spiritual maturity as he awaits his ritual is pending.

After a long journey through the mountains, he will arrive in Lima, and through a relative, he finds out that his father has been captured by the police. Pishak will take the courage to assume that he has reached the end of his wait. The birds speak to him, demanding that he must jump irretrievably to fulfill his ritual. The young man paints his skin with colors, dresses in the style of warriors and decides to jump from the highest tower in the capital. Pishak has fulfilled his destiny, to spiritually become a bird. His body was never found.



## • CONCEPT •

Years ago, the national cinematography did not know or use the concept of “Andean cinema” or “Amazonian” in Peru. Risky, since it is already difficult to define these two words from different approaches. Most of the films in this area have almost always been documentaries, always with exceptional works that spoke of remote sites in our mountains and in rare cases of the Amazon.

This film responds to the call to tell a story in its own language, to develop a project that can be seen as universal, but that comes from the depths, with true, credible, native characters. Having their worldviews transformed into different, authentic visual narratives, based on their very own visual language.

To enter the Awajun realm is to enter an untamed culture that barely

half a century ago has been began moving toward openness. Little or nothing is known in the cities about them. The Awajun, formerly called Aguarunas, were conceived as fierce territorial warriors from the Jíbaros, famous for being head reducers. As guardians of their forests, they did not allow the penetration of evangelizing missions or mining explorations until 1940.

We venture into a project to build fictions from the real-magical for the first time, an experimental project that opens the doors to the ancestral ways of thinking and living from the magic of narrative and cinema. Telling fictional films that are not exempt from reality, such as the fight for their territories, the conservation of their oldest ancestral knowledge, their language and their way of looking at the world, always magical, always realistic.

# • DIRECTOR'S NOTES •

This film is my first feature. I started working at have worked from a very young age collecting intangible heritage, such as the knowledge of musicians and storytellers from the high Andean areas of Peru and Bolivia. I have traveled a lot looking for different stories that speak their own language.

My life changed in 1994, a first meeting with the documentalist Jean Rouch, one of the best-known authors of the Nouvelle vague, at the Faculty of Communications of the University of Lima. Later, in 1999, after visiting the Le Mirall University in France, I saw him again in Toulouse in 1999. He told me that cinema was a complete language.

For many, this may sound like pure rhetoric. But I took it seriously, thinking that in my country there are more than 50 native languages. That day I understood what I had to do. Each language is a way of looking at the world, a worldview, therefore a cinematography different from the others. Explaining the world from that ancestral perspective, and therefore using a different narrative in each language, was an adventure to live in several lives. That made me

think of a thesis that will rethink cinema in Peru. I called it “For an Amazon Andean Cinematography,” a title I created while I studied at the University of Bologna, Italy between 2000 and 2006.

This film is the culmination of two decades of theorizing about how cinema should really be in Peru. It is an essay of the ancestral look made into cinema. The perfect opportunity to give life to a new, different cinema. The character is a new type of hero: an indigenous Asperger child whose obsession is to fly, just like the astronauts, just like the first engineers but also fly spiritually, twinned with the birds, wise masters of the air.

History, an important occasion to claim the rights of the Awajun, a community criminalized for defending their territories and exposed during social protests. Likewise, to show the most important endemic bird watching corridors on the planet. Directing natural actors, without prior preparation, other than their ritual and their extraordinary nature, in is a story filled charged with spirit. It is a privilege that I wish to share with others.

**Herbert Salas Portugal**

# • PRODUCER'S NOTES •

*The last flight of Pishak*, is a drama with great potential in the film festival circuits with a jump to commercial theaters comparable to *The Milk of Sorrow*, *The Serpent's Embrace* and even *The Last Forest*. With this film we hope to attract an audience of +25 of men/women over age 25 with an important presence in the Latin American target market and an even greater presence in international audience.

The internal conflict of an indigenous adolescent, with asperger syndrome, in an unparalleled protest that took place in Peru, and convulsed marginalized by the oil companies, generates interest in a public that wants to know transcendental historical facts, Latin American cultures in extinction and their social problems. The loneliness of the protagonist and his wandering is more interesting for the female audience, while the elements of adventure and

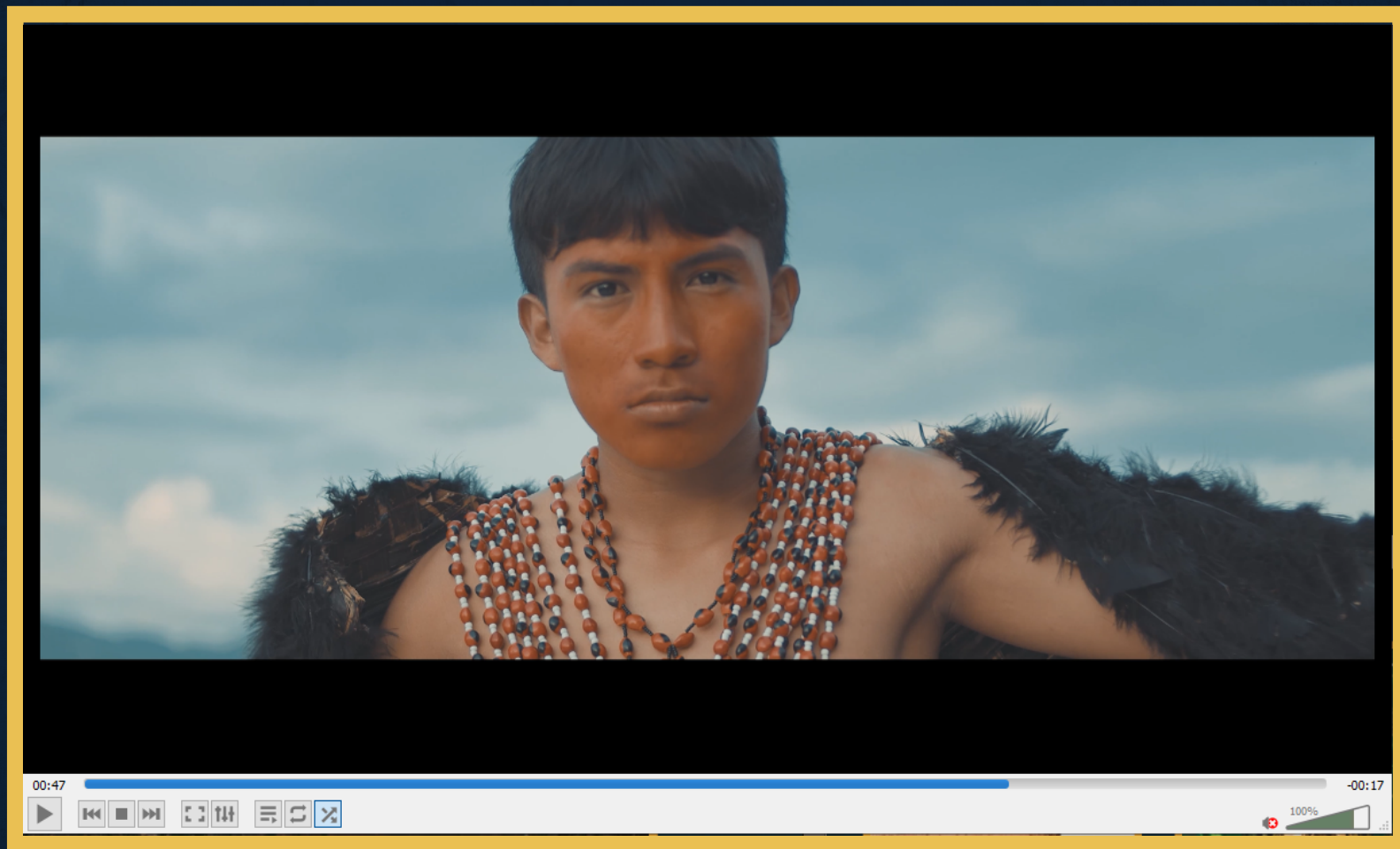
conflict resolution are captivating for the male audience.

This film takes place in natural locations in the Peruvian Amazon jungle, with monumental landscapes and warm light, easily accessible, with trained local professionals and attractive tax discounts, which can greatly improve the quality of work in the area of photography, music and directing of art.

I am proud to be part of this project, not only for revealing the social and historical conflicts that native Amazonian communities carry, but also because it promotes their social development, enriches their language and favors their artistic richness. I find this story challenging, but it will make many willing to pay their ticket to meet this character and unravel the mysteries that surround him.

**Eduardo Tello**

# · TEASER ·



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnn7fqnsfCM>





# • ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY •

**Du Tello Filmproduktion S.A.C.** is a young production company based in the city of Tarapoto. Among its titles is "Pucaurquillo" by Martín Tricárico and Federico Rozas, a Peruvian-Argentinean co-production documentary feature awarded with multiple international awards. He has also collaborated as an associate producer in the animation project "Francisca in the land of dreams" by Mercedes Castellanos, which is currently in the development stage.

*The last flight of Pishak*, is in the development stage, thanks to the incentives granted by the Ministry of Culture of Peru through the feature film project development contest. This benefit has made possible the completion of the literary script, teaser, among other materials necessary for its dissemination.

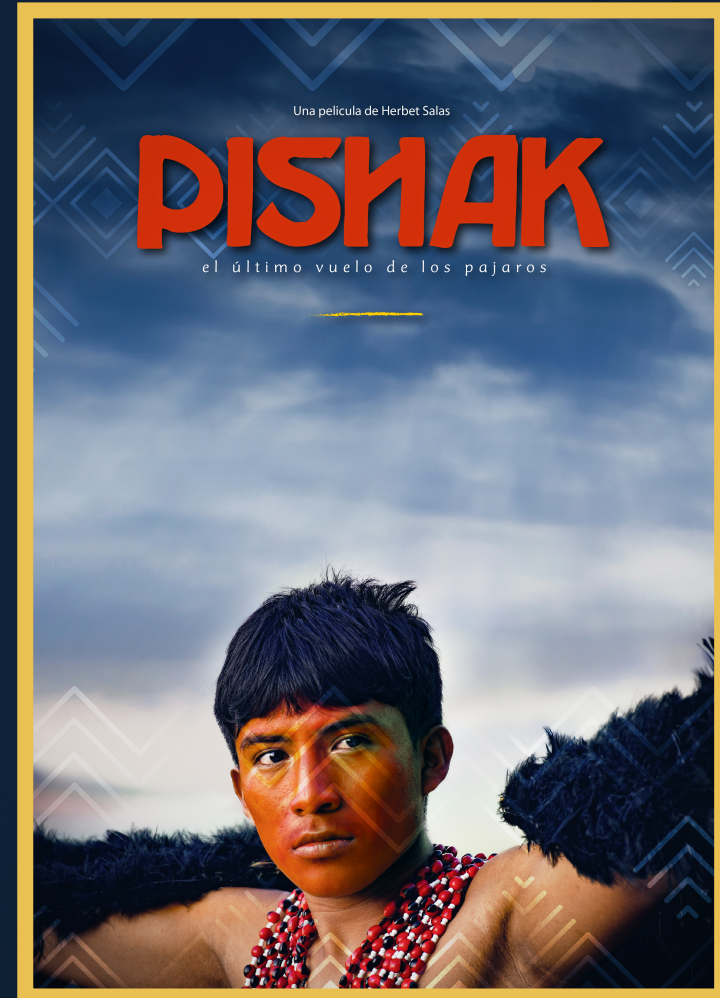


# • BUDGET •

The budget is USD \$ 750,000

Financing is through the national feature film contest of the Directorate of Audiovisual, Phonography and New Media of the Ministry of Culture of Peru, national or foreign co-productions that wish to contribute to the project and the Ibermedia Program.

# • PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL •



# · CONTACT ·

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