

CASSETTE FOR TIMESCAPES PRESENTS

FLOATING WITH SPIRITS

A VR experience by
Juanita Onzaga



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2023
Venice Immersive





World premiere

30/08/2023 - 09/09/2023

Venice Immersive Competition

80th Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica

Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/856721676>

Stills

<https://mab.to/WDjxpQMW2l8Mr/eul>

Website

www.floatingwithspirits.com

The background is a dark, atmospheric landscape. It features a large, glowing sphere, possibly a moon or planet, in the lower right quadrant. The sky is a deep, dark blue with some lighter, wispy clouds. The foreground is dominated by dark, intricate, and somewhat ethereal structures that resemble roots or branches, extending across the frame. The overall mood is mysterious and ancient.

Two little sisters prepare for the Day of the Dead in the mystic mountains of Mexico,
remembering the stories their shaman granny used to tell.

A portal opens as the Mazatec community celebrates and
we enter the interactive universe of their ancestors and the spirits of nature,
each keeping a secret world to be unveiled.

Synopsis

In this cinematic virtual reality, magical stories are told by 2 young Mazatec, indigenous sisters, Jocelyne and Jaquelyne, who recall the ancestral knowledge and mystical cosmogony that their shaman grandmother used to share with them, in the misty mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico.

Their village lies amidst giant Ceiba trees and rivers full of life. Nature breathes and within, preserves the memories of this community. The landscape that surrounds them is full of knowledge.

As the sisters wander through the nature that surrounds them and while preparing for the Day of the Dead, they share the stories of their ancestors. During these special days, the spirits of their loved ones descend into the world of the living, guided by the light of the candles and the glow of the Cempasuchil flowers on the altars, following the sweet smell of their favorite meals, to share a beautiful moment with the living.

The girl's imagination transports us into the world of the spirits of their ancestors and the spirits of nature. A shamanic dance ritual opens a portal through which we can discover the secret worlds of 4 spirits of nature. Each spirit has its own secret that it will share with us to enable us to make a new connection with the ancestral Mazatec knowledge. Their vision of the world is beautiful, deep and urgent to be shared in a moment where our society needs to rewire its ways of viewing and interacting with nature.

Behind each mountain, there is a sea of knowledge.

Intention director

Who says what is real and what is not? How are we able to see and feel the invisible worlds?
How can we communicate with the forces and spirits that live within our lands?

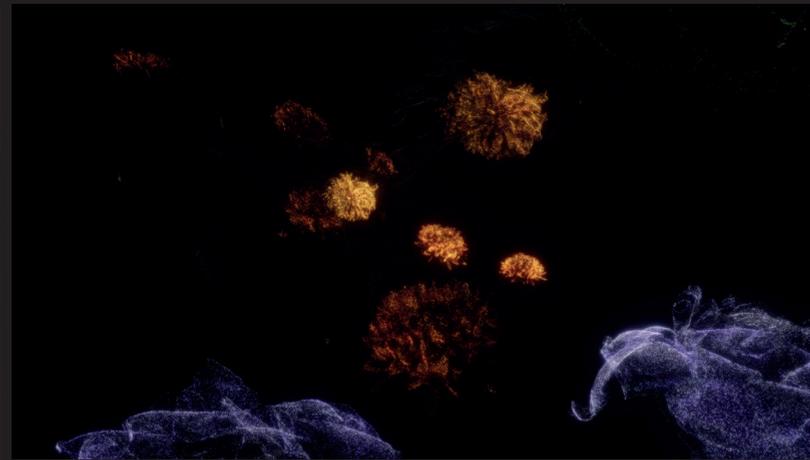
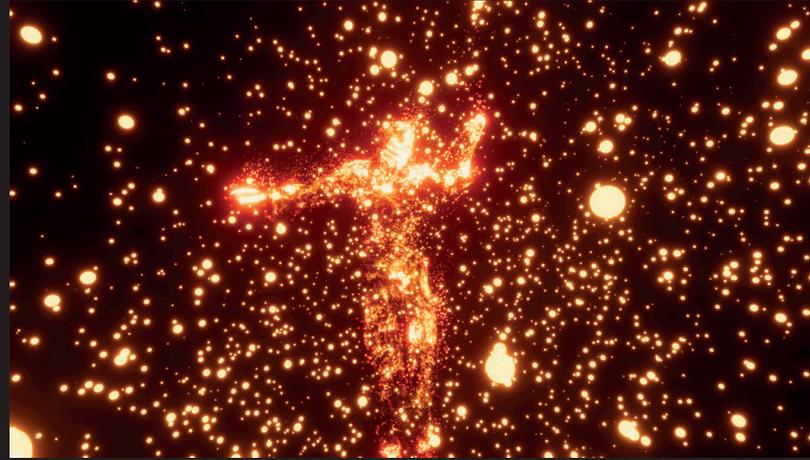
I spent years getting to know the sabedoras (knowledge people) from Mazatec indigenous communities in Oaxaca, México, listening, learning and sharing about their cosmogony and world vision. It connects deeply with my own background and questions around the afterlife, the connections between the human and non-human and the portals between the visible and the invisible.

Inspired in their cosmogony, we built this sensorial and poetic ancestral futurism VR experience, to shake our perception of the real, to rewire the ways we connect with nature and the afterlife.

Juanita Onzaga



©Alexandra Colmenares Cossio



FACTS

Running time: 31 minutes

Genre: 6 DoF, interactive, cinematic VR

Production countries: Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands

Language versions: English, Spanish

Shooting locations: Mexico, Luxembourg

Selected markets: IFFR Pro X VR Days 2019, IFFR Pro CineMart 2020, NewImages XR Market 2020, IFFR WIP Darkroom 2022

TECHNIQUES

Live action , stereoscopic 360° footage shot with the Mazatec community

Depthkit for volumetric capture of the spirits

Photogrammetry to create 3D models of the sacred landscapes

PLATFORMS

PCVR for HTC Vive Pro 2

360° immersive experience with videomapping

360° video for Quest 2 headset

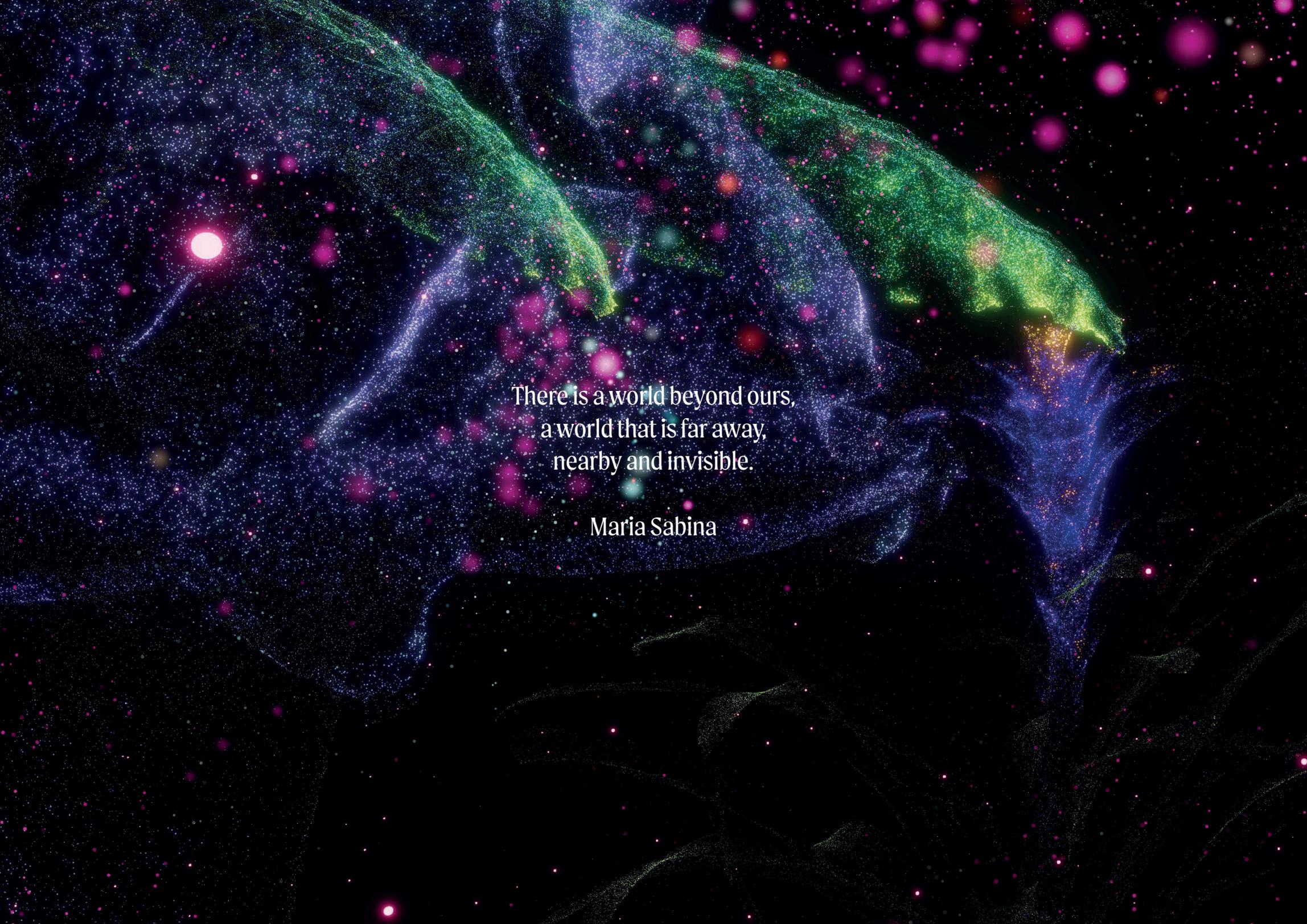
CAST & CREW

WRITER AND DIRECTOR Juanita Onzaga
INSPIRED BY THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SABEDORAS AND SABEDORES
Ofelia Allende, Sofía Gonzalez, Elodia Pineda, Leonardo Moreno and the Mazatec family Josefina Cuevas Perez, Celeste Kristal Flores, Tania Flores

CAST Jocelyne Gallardo García, Jaquelyne Gallardo García, Florencia García, Rosalia Gallardo Alvarado, Guadalupe García Allende, Grupo de Huehuentones “Chajma ndle jaá”

CHOREOGRAPHER Diego Vega
DANCERS Benoit Couchot, Astrid Sweeney, ‘Nunoy’ Johannes van den Burgh, Annick Schadeck
DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY Juanita Onzaga, Pierre Friquet
VOLCAP & PHOTOGRAMMETRY Dajo Brinkman
TECHNICAL ART DIRECTION Lillian Souwer for Game Architect Studio
ART DIRECTION Aron Fels
EDITORS Pia Dumont, Juanita Onzaga
EDITING ADVISOR Lawrence Paul Foley
ORIGINAL MUSIC Jérémy Bocquet
VOCALISTS Jana Bahrich, Sarah Kertz, Edmon Pires Domingo, John Wolter
MIXER Cedric Fischer
SOUND DESIGNER Oliver Lang
MUSICAL SOUND DESIGNER Jérémy Bocquet
LEAD DEVELOPER Guido Boogaard for Wikkl
PRODUCERS Emmy Oost & An Oost for Cassette for timescapes, Donato Rotunno for Tarantula, Corine Meijers for Studio Biarritz

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS Daniel Loustaunau for Colectivo Colmena, Fernand de Amorin for Tarantula
WITH THE SUPPORT OF Film Fund Luxembourg, Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF), The Corona Emergency Fund of the Flanders Government, Netherlands Film Fund, Creative Europe MEDIA of the European Union and Vocatio Fund



There is a world beyond ours,
a world that is far away,
nearby and invisible.

• Maria Sabina

Bio director – Juanita Onzaga

Juanita Onzaga (1991) is a film director and artist born in Colombia, based between Brussels, Bogotá & México. Her work combines fiction and non-fiction elements, touching the importance of mysticism, memory, death and imagination, creating poetic tales that reflect different ways of perceiving reality within strong political contexts.

Her short films have been presented at Cannes Directors Fortnight, Berlinale Generation, IFFR Tiger competition, the MoMA of New York, the Museum of Modern Art of Paris and many more festivals, museums and venues, while being awarded internationally.

She is currently in financing stage of her first fiction feature film THE LANDSCAPES THAT YOU SEEK, in development of a documentary and creating a series of installations about ancestral futurism.

www.juanitaonzaga.com

Bio's producers

Emmy Oost & An Oost for Cassette for timescapes (BE)



Cassette for timescapes produces films and XR projects that combine innovative vision and social or political engagement. It is one of the leading production companies for documentary and VR in Belgium. It has successfully co-produced with the US, UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands and aims at distributing its films worldwide.

Cassette for timescapes is a team of women. They are part of the Doc Society Impact Producers, EAVE, Eurodoc and ACE Producers Networks. Producer Emmy Oost received the Flanders Cultural Prize for Film in 2016. In 2019 she started Filmimpact, a field building organization that implements impact producing in Flanders. Specialised in digital storytelling and XR production, producer An Oost has taken projects to VR Days, NewImages XR Development Market, IFFR Pro CineMart, IFFR WIP DARKROOM and the Venice Gap Financing Market.

Selection of titles:

Why We Fight? by Alain Platel & Mirjam Devriendt (doc, 94', 2022) Broadcast on ZDF/arte, VRT, RTBF, RTP, ... Awards: Audience award Cinedans Netherlands, Best Documentary InShadow – Lisbon Screendance Festival, Best Feature Film On Art Film Festival Poland.

ALL-IN by Volkan Üce (doc, 80', 2021) World premieres at CPH:DOX & Hotdocs. Awards: Best Documentary Antalya FF, Winner Best Documentary Anatolian Film Awards. Selected for the European Film Awards. Sales: Cat&Docs

Barber Shop by Luc Vrydaghs (doc series, 6x26', 2017) Broadcast on VRT, ZDF/Arte, UR, Al Jazeera, SRF, RSI. Sales: First Hand Films

The Invisible City [Kakuma] by Lieven Corthouts (doc, 74', 2016) Over 230 impact screenings worldwide with the support of the Bertha Britdoc Connect Fund.

Double Take by Johan Grimonprez (doc, 89', 2009) Berlinale, Sundance FF. Awards: Black pearl Award in Abu Dhabi and more. Sales: UDI.

www.timescapes.be

Donato Rotunno for Tarantula (LUX)

Donato Rotunno was born in Luxembourg in 1966. He first went to a Luxembourgish school and then went on to complete his studies at the European School. In 1992, he graduated in cinema studies from the Institut des Arts de Diffusion in Louvain-La-Neuve (IAD), Belgium.

In 1995, Donato co-founded Tarantula Luxembourg and, one year later, helped set up Tarantula Belgium. Graduate of the EAVE producers training programme, member of EFA (European Film Academy) he has been selected in the program “Producers on the Move” in Cannes and regularly invited by “European Film Promotion” in order to develop his skills as an European producer. He has overseen over 35 feature films, including co-productions with most other European countries.

www.tarantula.lu



TARANTULA

Corine Meijers for Studio Biarritz (NL)

Founded by Corine Meijers in 2019, Studio Biarritz is a brand-new production house that specializes in audiovisual projects that cross borders. Studio Biarritz develops its own projects, but we also love collaborating with filmmakers, artists and partners from all over the world to produce stories with a lot of heart that are relevant for our trying times. We cross borders in 1) form, technology and subject matter, in 2) collaboration with filmmakers, artists & partners and 3) in audience reach, distributed on multiple platforms.

Corine is an adventurous independent producer and a dedicated go-getter, who honed her producer skills at the acclaimed Dutch interactive production studio Submarine Channel. She produced numerous award-winning projects, such as the short VR fiction film Ashes to Ashes, the interactive documentaries Echoes of IS, Bistro In Vitro, POPPY Interactive – War and organised crime gone global, Trust in the blockchain society and the multiple award-winning The Industry – Mapping the Dutch drug Economy, which included a podcast and a VR companion piece.

Corine studied cinema, theatre and television science in the Netherlands and in Sweden. Before creating her own company Studio Biarritz, she worked for several years at Submarine Channel (Amsterdam), BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts (Brussels), a digital social & cultural innovation hub called iDrops (Ghent) and at many film festivals all over the world, including IFFR & NFF & HAFF (NL), TIFF (RO) and DTFF (QA).

www.studiobiarritz.nl



www.floatingwithspirits.com
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