

*Bahía  
Awah*

*Suilma  
Aali*

# THE DUNE OF CHINGUETTI

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY **LIDIA PERALTA & GERMÁN NIETO**



CONTENTS

LOGLINE.....3

SYNOPSIS.....5

CHARACTERS.....10

THE ENIGMAS.....13

OTHER CHARACTERS.....15

WHY THIS DOCUMENTARY?.....20

TEAM.....24

PRODUCERS.....45

CONTACT.....49





## LOGLINE

An adventure through the desert and the manuscript libraries of Mauritania, where one discovers that the person you thought you were may change forever.







# SYNOPSIS



What if one day your best friend called you to say that not only are you Sahrawi, but you also have Mauritanian roots and, moreover, you are a descendant of a famous 19th-century Bedouin poet-warrior, Kefia Uld Buseif, a true desert legend?



It might seem like an improbable tale, but it is a true story. That of Suilma Aali and Bahía Awad—two friends living in Madrid, she a singer-songwriter, he a poet and anthropologist—who, after uncovering an ancestral bond, set out together on a journey to the heart of the Mauritanian desert and its legendary libraries, in search of answers.



Along the way, revelations emerge, stemming both from centuries-old manuscripts and the living memory of the people who inhabit this ancestral landscape. This is how *The Dune of Chinguetti* is born —a documentary built in real-time, allowing emotions to guide the narrative.

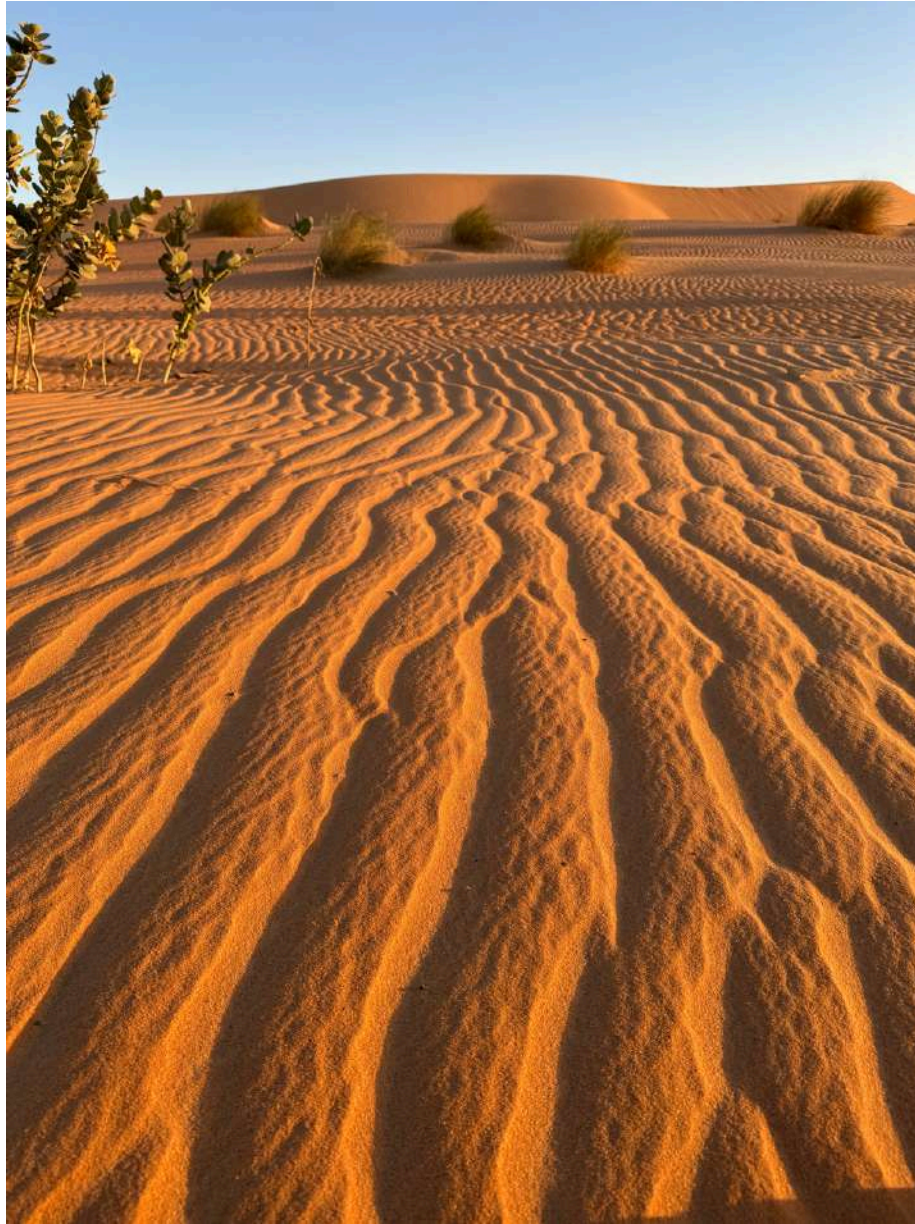






In *The Dune of Chinguetti*, the protagonists discover that identity is not a fixed destination, but a journey that can be transformed forever when touched by the secrets of the past.





Landscape, adventure, culture, poetry, music, unique local characters, and the last African salt caravans intertwine with the deepest memories of these two Sahrawi souls in exile, whose lives both move and stir us.



# CHARACTERS



## Bahia Awah

A poet, an anthropologist, a sensitive soul.

Sahrawi, Mauritanian, and Spanish.

He lives to unearth the history of Bedouin peoples.

He invites Suilma to join him on a journey through the desert so they can both discover their true selves.



# CHARACTERS



## Suilma Aali

Singer-songwriter, composer, a sensitive soul, an unmistakable voice, a very personal style.

Born in Madrid to a Sahrawi father and a Galician mother—roots that run deep, and others still waiting to be uncovered.

Her first great venture into the desert.

She accepts a journey that will change her life.



# Suilma and Bahía

A transformative **journey**

A shared **adventure**

A **friendship** that became much more

A **family** bond

A **search** for identity scattered across  
libraries and desert oases

The resolution of **enigmas** from the past

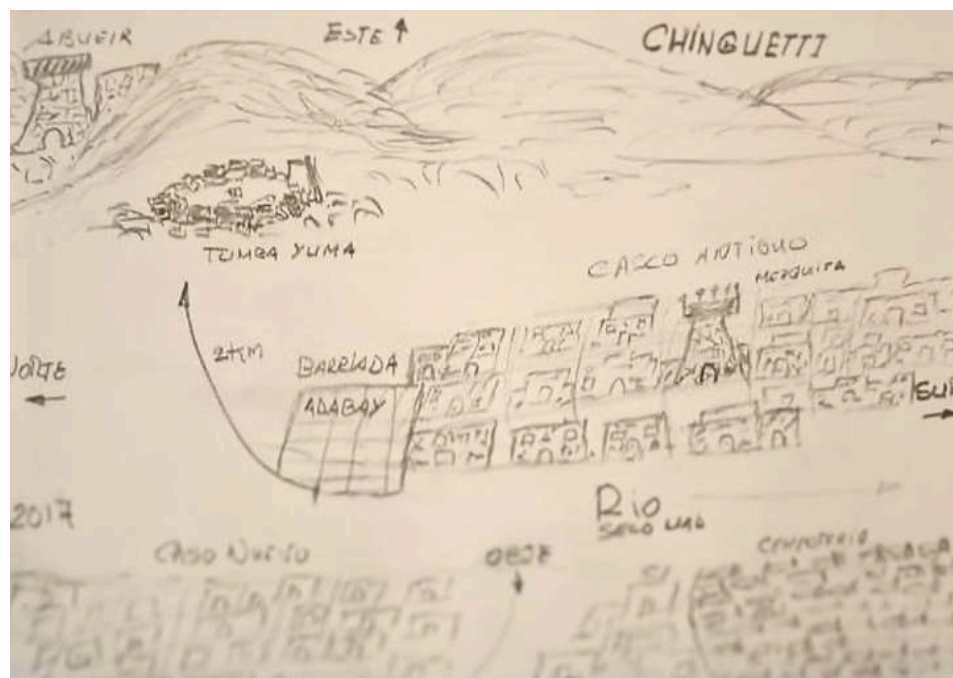
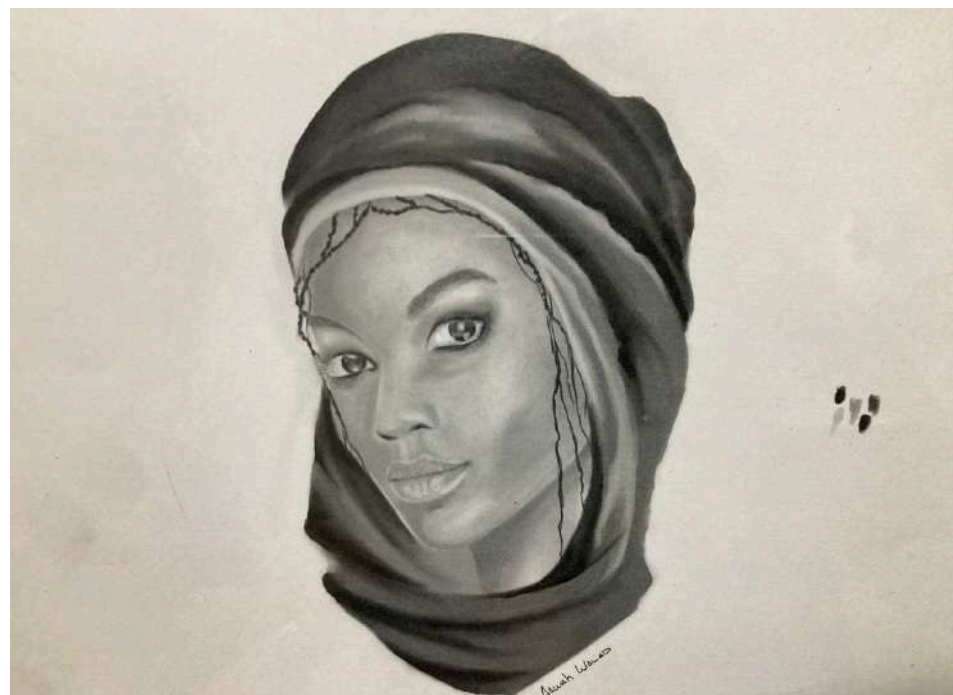
**Poetry** and **music** in dialogue

**Emotions** on the surface

CHARACTERS







## THE ENIGMAS

Bahía's family **bought a slave** from Mali to free her: she is Aunt Yuma

Bahía dedicates a **poem** to her  
Suilma turns it into a **song**

She is buried under the great dune of **Chinguetti**

They only have a portrait and a map to find her

They go in **search of her**







**Dr. ABDELAHI.** Cousin of Bahía. Economist, professor at the University of Nouakchott.

**AHMED MAHMUD JAMAL & ABDELKHADER.** Scholars, custodians of the largest manuscript archive in Nouakchott.

**EL HADRAMI EL MEIDAH.** Griot (musician and storyteller in West African traditional culture). President of the Association of Creators and Artists of Mauritania.

**Dr. KHALILOU EDDA.** Professor of Geography at the University of Nouakchott. Expert in Mauritanian culture.

**MOHAMED BIN EBATI.** Scholar and librarian in Walata.

**HABOT FAMILY.** Owners of the most important library in Chinguetti, where Andalusian manuscripts are preserved — among them, original texts by the Cordoban Ibn Rushd (Averroes) and the Malagan Ibn Abi Hatim.

**EBBA EMMAD ULD ELBAH.** Muezzin of the Chinguetti mosque.

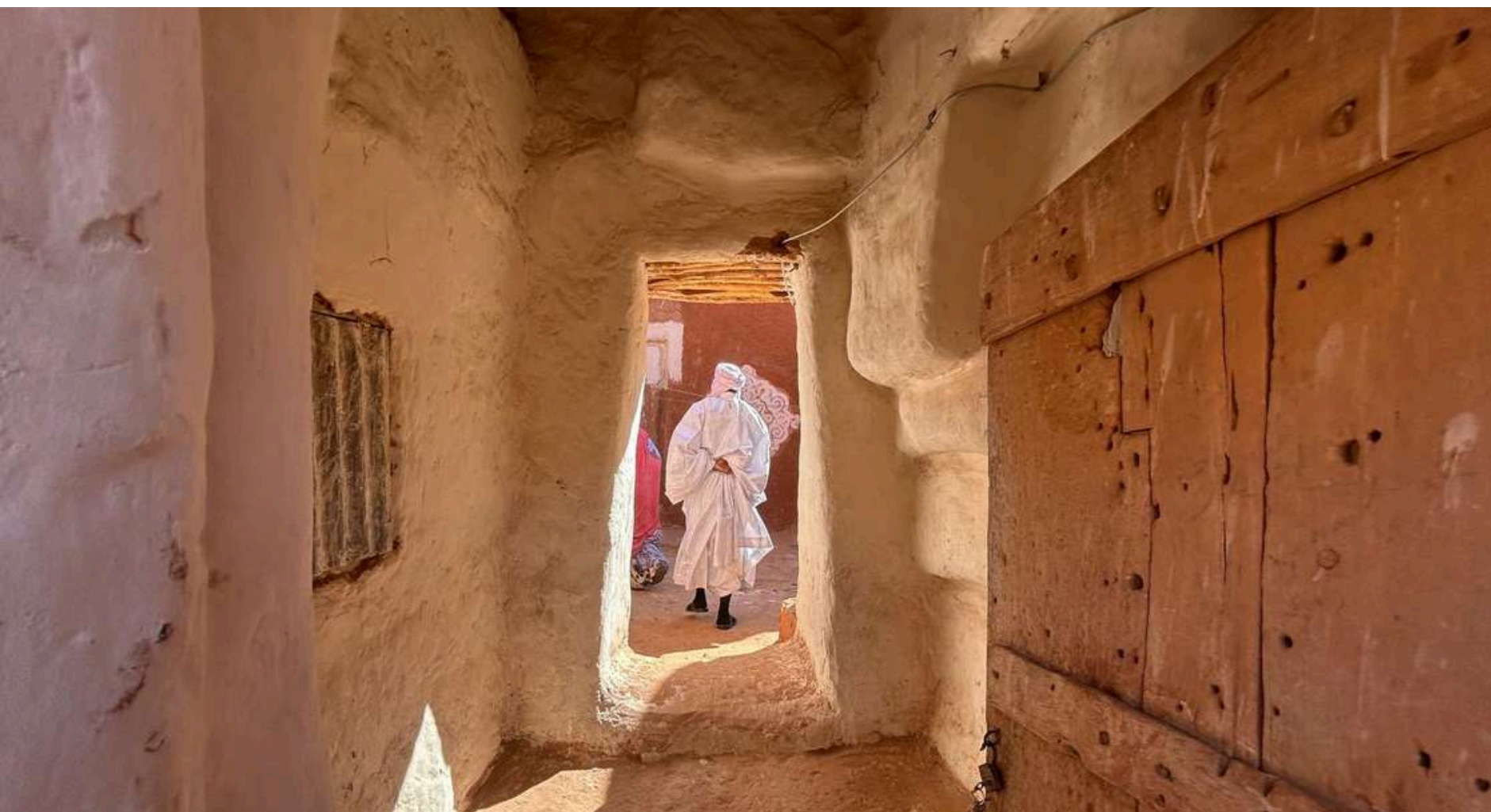


## OTHER CHARACTERS



















A wide-angle shot from the driver's perspective of a teal-colored vehicle. The road is a two-lane asphalt highway with white dashed lines, curving gently to the right. The landscape is arid and rocky, with sparse green shrubs and small trees scattered across the terrain. In the far distance, large, undulating sand dunes are visible under a hazy, overcast sky. The foreground shows the hood and windshield wipers of the vehicle.

WHY THIS DOCUMENTARY?



In 2022, Jerónimo Carrillo Acosta and José Manuel Almeida, creators of the original idea and lovers of lost causes, decided to travel across Mauritania in an old Land Rover with a humanitarian project in the north of the country. This journey opened their eyes to a world completely unknown to them, and they decided this story had to be told.







Bedouin life, camel caravans, wells and salt mines, sacred cities on the verge of disappearance, family libraries safeguarded for centuries, manuscripts devoured by termites or buried beneath the dunes. Music, culture, and landscapes. Past and present in full effervescence.







## José Antonio Hergueta García

He began his career in video creation in the 1980s and has developed it in creative documentary, fiction, and transmedia. From MLK Producciones and Producciones Transatlánticas, he has spearheaded films and documentaries, many in international co-productions focused on cultural and historical themes. He is a member of the Spanish Film Academy and president of MAPA, the federation of independent producers across Spain.



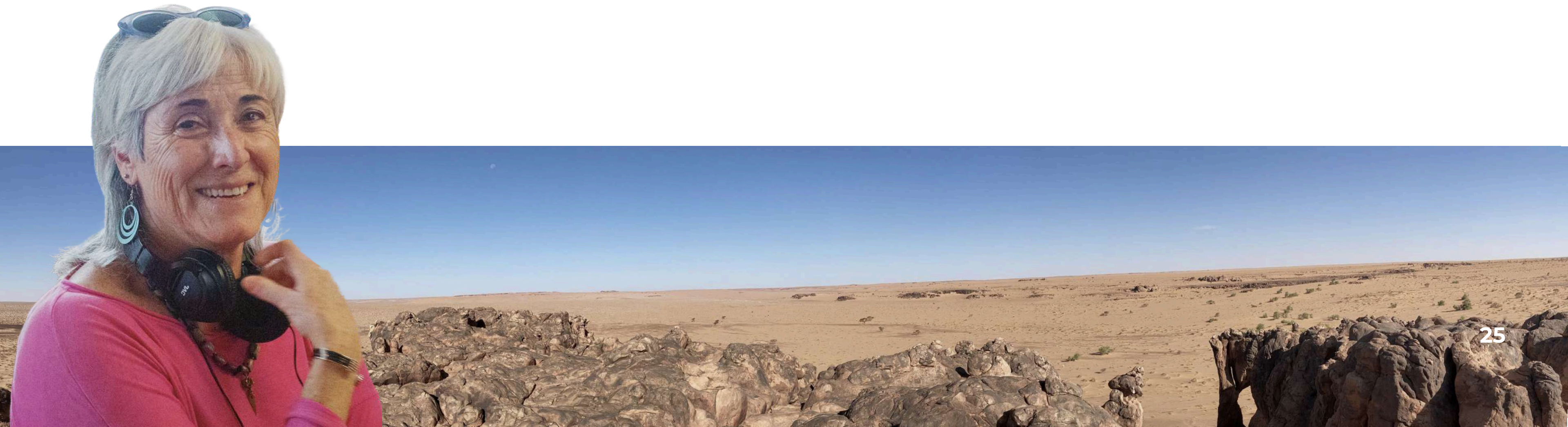


## EXECUTIVE PRODUCTION



### Leticia Salvago Soto

Founding partner of MLK Projects and Producciones Transatlánticas, with extensive experience in film production. MLK has specialized in international documentaries since 1999, and Transatlánticas in fiction for cinema, TV, and multiplatform formats since 2006. She coordinates institutional management and directs cultural projects, as well as research in historical and archaeological documentaries and other heritage dissemination initiatives.









## Jose Manuel Martín Almeida

He is the soul behind Turpin Editores, based in Madrid, where he has published over 100 titles and collaborated with nearly 300 authors. He has produced videos such as *Libro del infinito* and *Mi pueblo*, and directed the short documentary *Mutha and the Death of Hamma Fouco*, awarded in international festivals and preselected for the Goya Awards 2022. Honorary president of the NGO HumanCoop, he has worked in cooperation in Northwest Africa. Passionate about books, engines, fencing, and adventure travel.







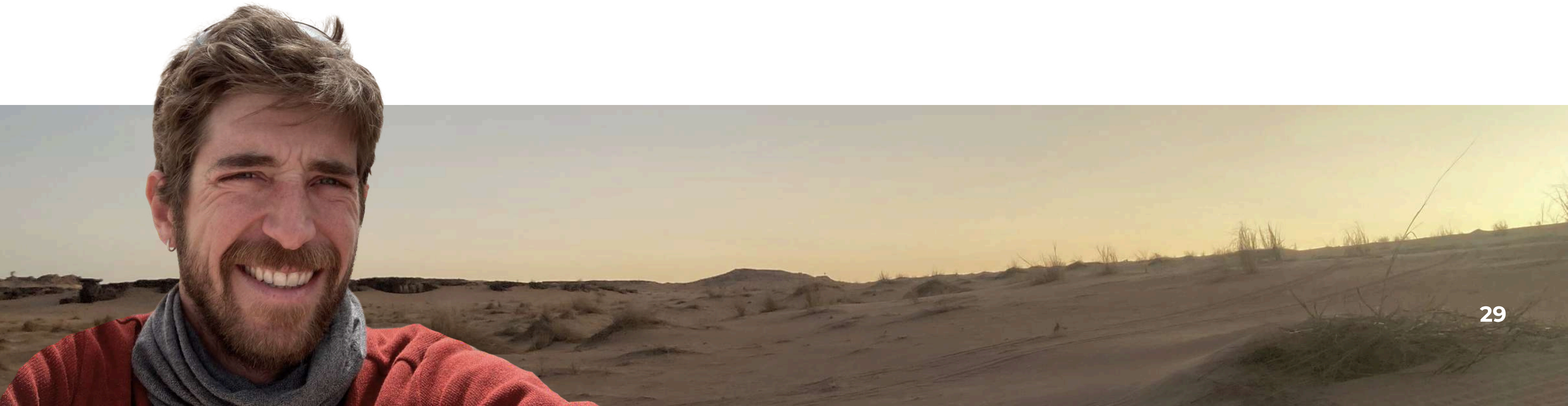


# PRODUCTION



## Jerónimo Carrillo Acosta

Jerónimo Carrillo Acosta, an intensive care physician and tireless traveler, has developed integrated health programs in diverse locations such as the Bolivian Amazon and northern Mauritania. Passionate about the audiovisual world, this documentary marks his first professional venture into the medium. Enthusiastic about collaborative projects, a previous trip through the desert libraries awakened in him the certainty that Mauritania holds stories that must be told.









**DIRECTION  
& SCRIPT**

## Lidia Peralta García

Lidia is a tenured professor of Audiovisual Communication at the University of Granada and author of several publications on migration and cinema. For over a decade, she was writer and presenter for the program Tesis (Canal 2 Andalucía). She has directed and scripted around ten independent documentaries filmed in Africa and Spain, recognized with multiple international awards. In 2013, she received the Andalusia Journalism Award for *Una casa para Bernarda Alba*.



**UNIVERSIDAD  
DE GRANADA**









## DIRECTION SCRIPT & DOP



### Germán Nieto Maeso

Germán Nieto Maeso is a filmmaker, director of photography, and camera operator, with 27 years of experience and over 50 documentaries for film and television. He has worked in more than 30 countries, from Guatemala to Niger, portraying social, political, artistic, and cultural realities. His documentary vision stands out for capturing the essence of each story and culture, bringing a unique perspective to diverse international projects.











## NOTE FROM THE CO-DIRECTION

*«The Dune of Chinguetti was born from an unexpected phone call and a question that changed everything: Who are we when we look toward our roots? This film emerges from a gesture of trust, from a journey to the heart of the Mauritanian desert in search of identity and shared memory. As co-directors, we wanted to film without interrupting —letting the camera listen, and the landscape speak as much as the people. We embraced an intimate, sensory style, guided by emotion. This documentary is also an exercise in listening —a living process that transforms its protagonists... and those who film».*





**Lidia Peralta García**

2017: *Los Ulises del XXI*  
2011: *Una casa para Bernarda Alba*  
2009: *La caravana del manuscrito andalusí*  
2010: *Alas sobre khartoum*  
2006: *Alas sobre Dakar*  
2005: *Al-andalus en el espejo*  
2004: *Tanan Djare*  
2004: *Mohammed, el pequeño guía de Timbuktu*  
2003: *Bereberes del Alto Atlas*  
2000: *Carmen, reina de los Pescadores*

**Germán Nieto Maeso**

2023: *Sierra Nevada y Tabernas*  
2022: *Pioneros del vino de Ronda*  
2021: *El bazar de mis Padres*  
2020: *Andalucía, Patrimonio de la Humanidad*  
2019: *El sueño de Olavide*  
2018: *Pasaje a Hawaii*  
2017: *Los Ulises del XXI*  
2017: *Girls from Earth*  
2016: *Volver a ser*  
2015: *Tras la huella de Aníbal*  
2014: *El sueño de Ícaro*  
2013: *Andalucía, destino turismo*  
2011: *Una casa para Bernarda Alba*  
2010: *Alas sobre khartoum*  
2010: *Talento de ida y vuelta*  
2009: *La caravana del manuscrito andalusí*  
2008: *El viaje de Jobaria*  
2007: *El reverso de la realidad*  
2006: *Entre olivos*  
2005: *Buscando a Jorge*  
2004: *Una lección de democracia*  
2003: *Etnosur, un encuentro de culturas*  
2001: *Latido Latino*



ASSISTANT  
**DIRECTOR**  
Script &  
**COSTUMES**



**Olga** Orellana García

Olga Orellana Garcia is a woman who embodies the union of care, creativity, and adventure. A nurse by profession and a humanist at heart, she has devoted part of her life to working with various NGOs, bringing her vocation for service to complex environments and vulnerable communities, always with an empathetic and deeply human perspective. A lifelong art enthusiast, she has participated in and worked on film shoots as an adult. Now, she has the opportunity to give voice to a story through this documentary.









## Eduardo Peralta Martín

Graduated in Audiovisual Communication from the University of Granada, with previous training in Sound for Audiovisuals and Shows. Passionate about sound and the potential of audiovisuals as tools to give voice to those excluded from the mainstream narrative. He aspires to grow in documentary projects with social relevance and to help make underrepresented realities visible.

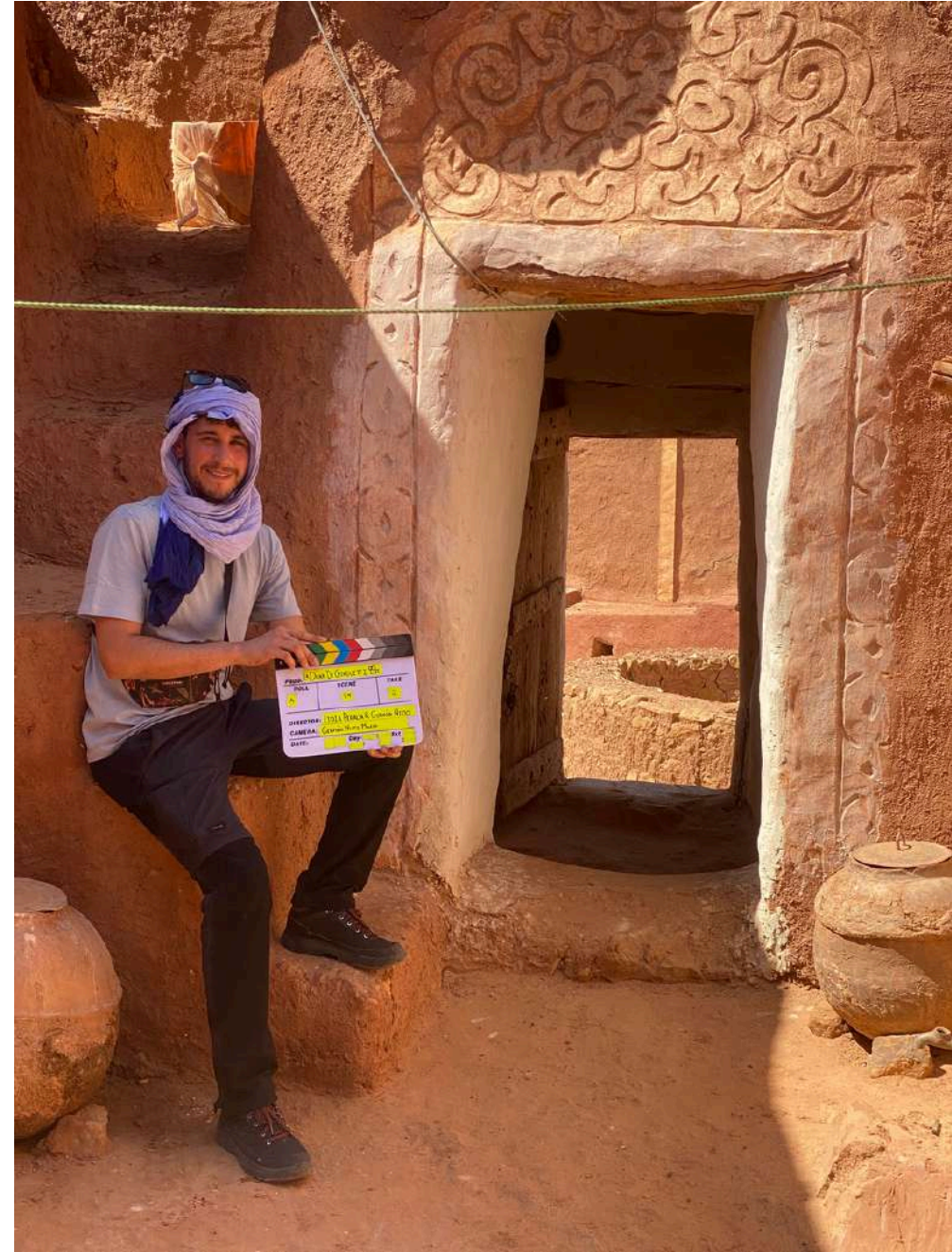
**GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
**WEB DESIGN**  
**CAMERA ASSISTANT**  
**& RRSS**



**UNIVERSIDAD  
DE GRANADA**







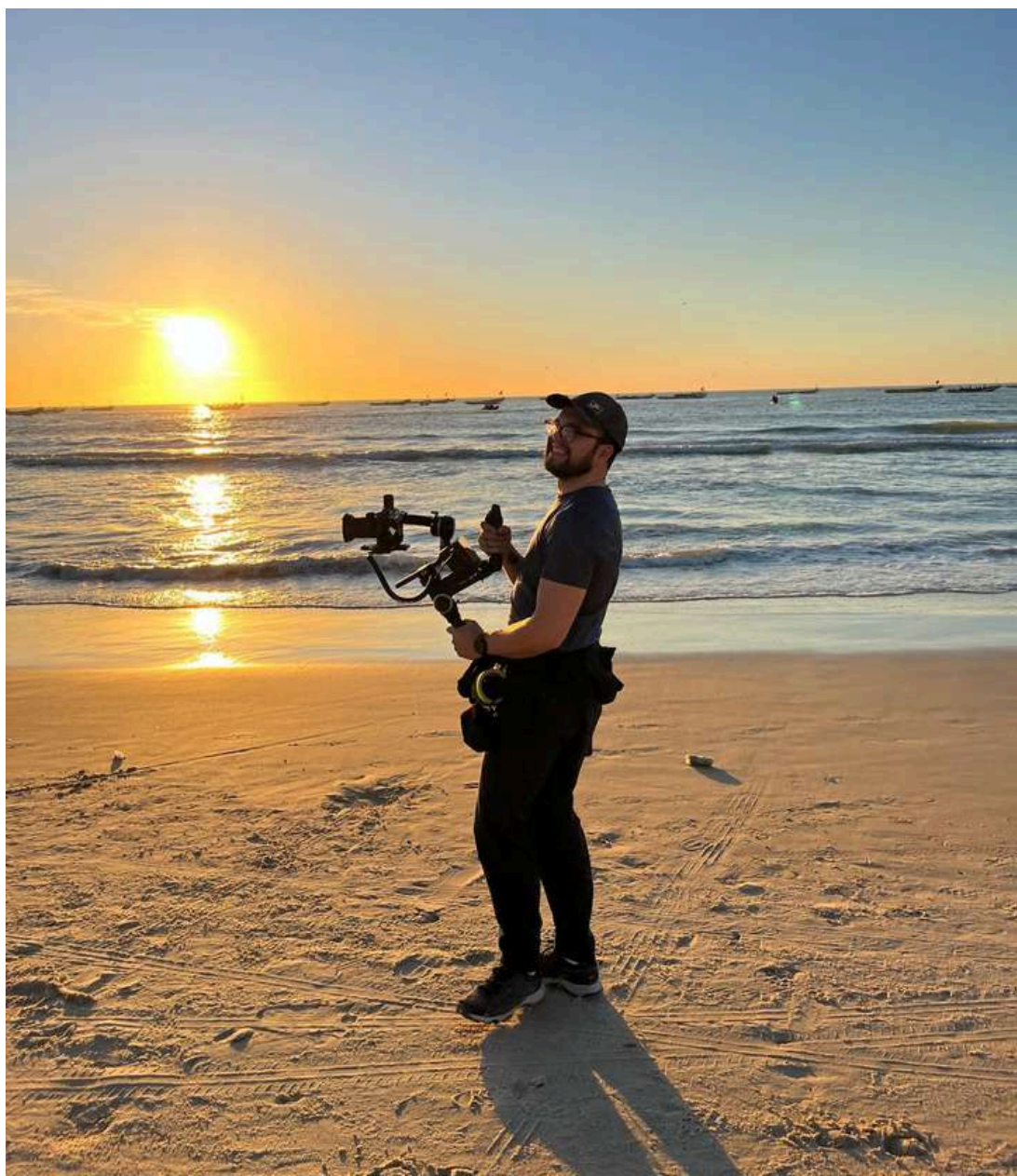


## Diego Esquivel

Diego Esquivel is a young Costa Rican with over 7 years of experience as a cameraman, director of photography, and gaffer. He has worked on documentaries, short films, music videos, television, and corporate projects. Bachelor's degree in Photography (University Veritas) and Master's in Visual Arts and Education (University of Granada). He combines technique and creativity, bringing a versatile and sensitive vision to every project.









## Martín Romero

Trained in film in Buenos Aires and in sound for music and audiovisual production, he began his career as a technician in concerts. He believes sound is a bridge to the subconscious and a way of telling stories with emotional impact. Specialized in the audiovisual field, he takes part in this sound adventure through the Mauritanian desert, where Africa's cultural richness and the search for ancient manuscripts merge with the opportunity to capture a unique and deeply evocative soundscape.









**EXECUTIVE  
PRODUCTION**

## **MLK PRODUCTIONS**

Since 1999, MLK Producciones has been creating stories for film, television, transmedia formats, and cultural projects such as exhibitions, publications, or interpretation centers. With local and international experience, it has co-produced with broadcasters and partners worldwide. Specializing in creative documentaries, it was born from the intersection of archaeology and audiovisual work. Its mission is to connect past and present, make history feel close and alive —with rigor, creativity, and emotion— opening eyes and hearts through multiple formats.







**ASSOCIATED  
PRODUCTION**

## **HUMAN COOP**

An organization founded in 2019 to operate in areas where their involvement has real social impact. It works from a holistic approach balancing the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. Its team is committed to a fairer world, acting in contexts often excluded from conventional humanitarian aid. In line with its broad vision, in 2019 it actively contributed to the making of the documentary Mutha and the Death of Ham-Ma Fuku. The documentary was awarded in various national and international festivals, preselected for the Goya Awards, and marked an important step in highlighting such a complex and unjustly forgotten cause.



**PARTNERS**





PARTNERS

# TWENTYFOUR

A production company specialized in documentaries that tell stories of the world with a close and committed perspective. We seek authentic stories that connect with the public, bringing our camera to unique places where humanity and creativity intersect. Our mission: to tell the stories that deserve to be told.



ASSOCIATED  
PRODUCTION



## **LOCAL PRODUCTION**

Saad Mohamed Aveloitt  
Abba Moh Lamin Daddi  
Mohamed Salek Moh Mailid  
Mohamed Salem Said  
Mohamed Hamudi Sidi Mohamed

## **OTHER PARTNERS**

Municipality of Zouerat (Mauritania)  
Embassy of Mauritania in Madrid  
Casa Árabe  
Casa África  
School of Arab Studies in Granada  
Ministry of Culture of Mauritania  
National Foundation for the Conservation of Ancient Cities  
Mauritanian Institute for Heritage Research  
Mauritanian Institute for Research and Training in Culture  
Mauritanian Tourism Office  
Mauritanian School of Diplomacy  
Chinguetti Foundation for Development





## CONTACT

ladunadechinguetti@gmail.com



+34 606 02 76 69



<https://ladunadechinguetti.org>

