

NYANGA

a film by MEDHIN TEWOLDE



DATA SHEET

Original Title: Nyanga

English Title: Nyanga

Film genre: Animation

Country: Mexico

Year: 2023

Running Time: 20 min.

Color

Language: Spanish


Subtitles: English, French

Classification: All age

Sound: 2.0 / 5.1

Production Company: Terra Nostra Films

Support received: Estímulo a la Creación Audiovisual en México y Centroamérica para Comunidades Indígenas y Afrodescendientes (ECAMC) / Instituto Mexicano de Cinematografía (Imcine) / Sistema de Apoyos a la Creación y Proyectos Culturales (Fonca)





SYNOPSIS

During the colonial era, Nyanga was kidnapped off the coast of Africa, brought to Mexico and enslaved. Though forced to work on the master's plantation, he never stopped dreaming of freedom.

Based on historical fact, and using shadow theater and hand made cinema, 'Nyanga' is an homage to resistance against colonial chains.





CREW

Film directing: Medhin Tewolde Serrano
Screenplay: Medhin Tewolde Serrano
Research: Medhin Tewolde Serrano
Based on an idea of: Medhin Tewolde Serrano
Producers: Daniela Contreras, Nicolas Défossé
Executive producer: Daniela Contreras
Actor: Álvaro Nel Hernández Almario
Animation & art direction: Chipotle Teatro
Cinematography: Xun Sero
Film editing: Nicolas Défossé
Music: Akonio Dolo, Aleth Durel
Audio Engineer: Carlo Massarelli
Sound Design: Martin de Torcy
Sound Mix: Carlos Cortés Navarrete, Ricardo Lavallo
Colour grading: Néstor A. Jiménez Díaz



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Inspired by the biography of Gaspar Yanga, "Nyanga" tells the story of a man who was kidnapped, enslaved and brought to Mexico during the colonial era, under inhumane conditions. Official history taught us little about our own history. All that it taught us is that we are the descendants of enslaved people. For this reason, it is necessary to change the narrative and learn how our ancestry is not only shaped by slavery, but also by the men and women who fought and rebelled against the chains of colonialism to obtain their freedom.

The short film tells a story based on historical facts that are relayed through a first- person narration that goes beyond the hero figure of Nyanga, bringing us closer to the emotionality of the person. The film uses the animation techniques of shadow theater and handmade cinema, which in an artisanal and analogue way, breath life and magic into the story.

Medhin Tewolde Serrano



DIRECTOR'S BIO-FILMOGRAPHY

Medhin Tewolde Serrano is Eritrean-Mexican and lives in Chiapas. Upon completing her studies in documentary filmmaking, she became concerned with telling the stories of others. Since then, she has dedicated herself to accompanying participatory video and community communication processes in Spain, Tunisia, Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala. In accompanying these processes, her own process of identity construction as a woman of African descent was revealed to her. This led her to direct her first feature-length documentary: 'Negra'. During this process, she learned of the story of Gaspar Yanga, an Afro-Mexican hero who, unfortunately, is little known. For this reason, she decided to create an animated fiction short film inspired by his biography and entitled 'Nyanga'. It is an homage to marroonage yesterday and today.



PRESS

Nyanga is a tribute to the resistance against colonial chains.

San Miguel Live

"Our ancestry isn't just about slavery, but about men and women who fought and rebelled against colonial chains to gain their freedom.

Revista Bocetos

The puppets have breath and feeling. There is a whole intention when it comes to animating the characters so that they convey emotions.

Mexican Film Institute

This is a unique opportunity for lovers of cinema and culture to experience a film that transcends boundaries and represents the start of a new era in Mexico's animation narrative.

Somos el Medio

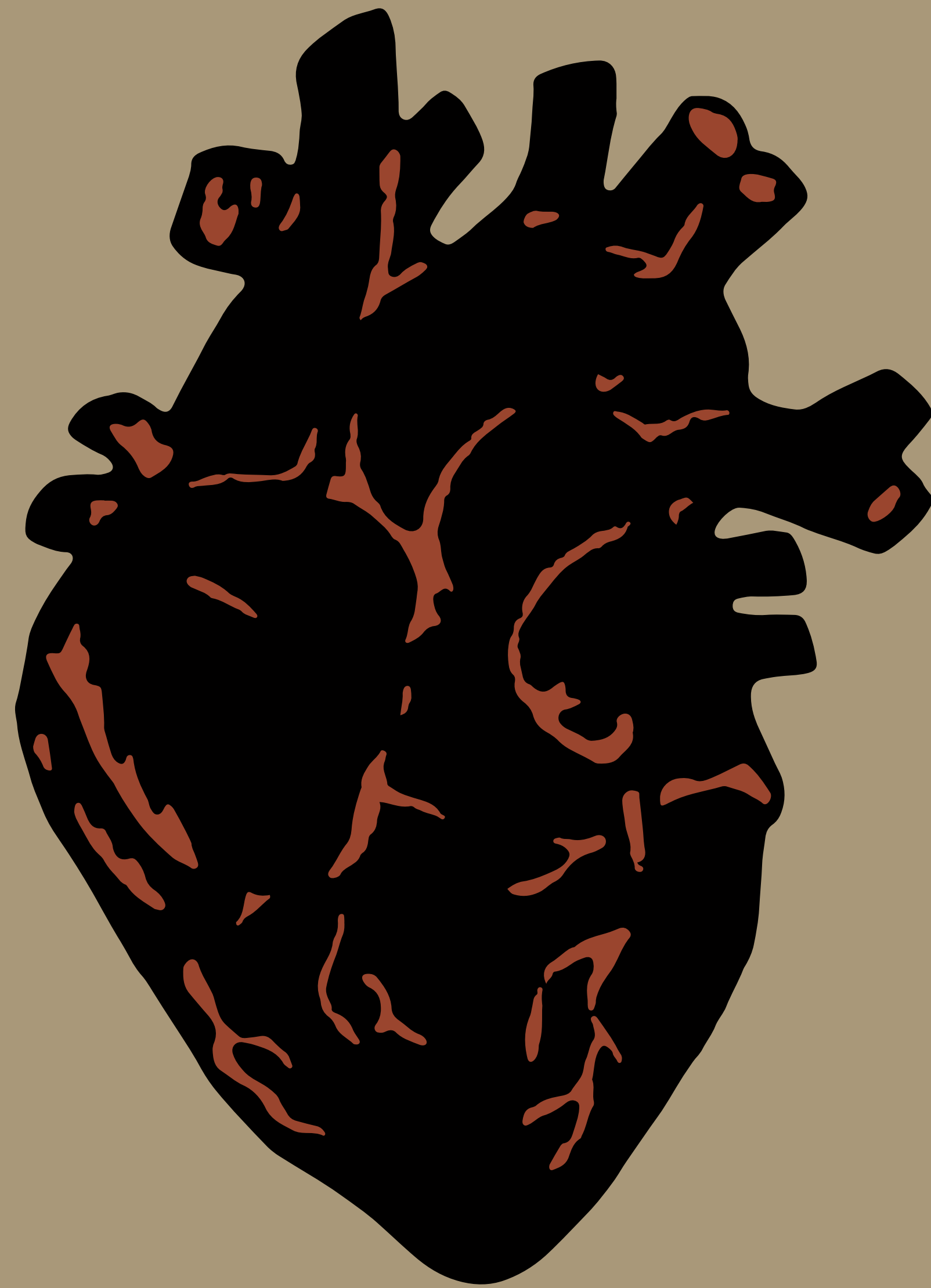
Medhin Tewolde Serrano makes Nyanga's story her own, and, through a poetic interpretation that's more symbolic than informative, but also alluding to the character's power of rebellion, she creates a beautiful short film that is also a nod to animation.

Mexican Film Institute

Nyanga is a reminder of the marronage of centuries past, but also a warning of contemporary marronage.

Mexican Film Institute





FESTIVALS & AWARDS



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