

LA PLAYA D.C.



OFFICIAL SELECTION
UN CERTAIN REGARD
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

SYNOPSIS

Tomas, an Afro-Colombian teenager who fled the country's Pacific coast pushed out by the war, faces the difficulties of growing up in a city of exclusion and racism. When Jairo, his younger brother and closest friend, disappears, Tomas plunges in the streets of the city. His search becomes an initiatory journey that compels him to face his past and to leave aside the influence of his brothers in order to find his own identity. Through this journey, Tomas reveals a unique perspective of a vibrant and unstable city that, like Tomas, stands on the threshold between what once was and what might be.



JUAN ANDRÉS ARANGO studied film at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and specialized in photography at the ESCAC in Barcelona. He directed the documentary *Los Vega y Das fandangos*. His short film *Comment apprendre à dire bonjour en 10 étapes*, won the Audience Award at the Lausanne Short Film Festival. *LA PLAYA D.C.* is his first feature film.

LA PLAYA D.C. is an urban film depicting the way in which a big city can quickly consume those who don't know how to deal with it. It takes a look at the tough streets, the force pulling towards the unknown, not knowing what lies in store. The asphalt and congestion of the sordid and banal spaces reign supreme. And so the camera moves to the rhythm of both Tomas and the streets, at the same speed he walks down the sidewalk, past concrete posts behind which malice lurks. In Bogotá, black communities from Colombia's Pacific coast have gravitated to La Playa, where they survive off their wits, earning a living by "pimping rides" and doing physical jobs. But La Playa is also a metaphor, an allegory for the nostalgia these immigrants feel for the region they left behind. Bogotá sits at 2,600 meters above sea level; the altitude, pressure and temperate climate form a breakpoint between the two regions. Aside from geography, demographically, the people from the high plain are mostly white. And at La Playa, the blacks work for the whites. Memories of the beaches formed by the river linger. Urban music is accompanied by the sound of marimbas; images are occasionally distorted, creating movement similar to the motion of the water, the rushing current. The characters' dreams are filled with the black sands of the riverbanks; suspended high in the sky, they look across the horizon at the river's path. They stand out from the other passersby with their loose-fitting clothes and different hairstyles reflecting their roots, their cultural heritage.

Full Interview: www.docandfilm.com

CAST

Tomas
LUIS CARLOS GUEVARA

Jairo
ANDRÉS MURILLO

Chaco
JAMES SOLÍS

DIRECTOR AND WRITER
JUAN ANDRÉS ARANGO

PRODUCED BY
DIANA BUSTAMANTE ESCOBAR and
JORGE ANDRÉS BOTERO

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ANGELISA STEIN and **MAURICIO**
ARISTIZABAL

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COLOMBIA / 90' / 35 MM / SPANISH / 2012 / FEATURE FILM

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