



Directors statement:

Why would you make a movie about yourself and call it an environmental road movie; Illusions of grandeur? I didn't cast myself just because I am a Bolivian/Dutch environmental activist and I can be the bridge between two cultures of opposite understanding of the nature: environment as raw material or as Mother Earth.

It had to do with the angle I wanted to take on the **environmental mayhem** we see today in our world. I was determined to treat the environment NOT as a thing that needed to be saved, but a living entity with whom we need to improve our relationship. This is the perspective articulated in the Bolivian environmental discourse that motivated me to make this movie. My challenge therefore, was to tell a story of healing the relationships with our personal and greater surroundings, starting with the state of **great disconnection**.

In order to explore the pain of the disconnection between mankind and its natural environment, I needed a protagonist that was willing to go all the way in sharing vulnerability. Someone who felt extremely engaged with environmental problems and yet very hurt by living a disconnected modern city life. I ended up with myself.

I knew I embodied all this inner conflict and that I would go through great length to share my shortcomings, my ambition as world-fixer and heighten my learning curve in order to be able to share a **story of healing** relationships through a journey of self-improvement. By taking the lead it also felt like I put my money where my mouth is.

As a filmmaker I found it scary to stay true to the **personal quest** storyline. I struggled with my doubts whether I could develop enough as a person to be interesting. I wanted to share a process of personal transformation. I longed to make a movie that was single-mindedly about healing: healing our own scared hearts and healing the relationship with our greater environment by exploring this **struggle for Rights for Mother Earth** and making it my own.

After all said and done I am proud to present a small story of local heroes: a lost activist looking for a way to live true to her ideals (me), Ramiro the water war activist admirable for his endurance, President Evo Morales fascinating for having the courage to advocate Rights for Mother Earth at UN Climate Summits, Marcelo the young student for reclaiming the indigenous perspective on agriculture and environment, and even my father with whom I clash; my antagonist. He is still endearing in his own way. He represents the average person, who rather keeps his head down and focuses on his personal ambitions in work or daily life; avoid the difficult. How to emancipate together with those who feel powerless?

I sincerely hope this personal quest strikes a chord with viewers and inspire others to live brave and make baby steps in changing the world themselves by **engaging in radical friendship**.