Corazón de Mezquite

(Mexico, 74 min., 2019, Spanish & Mayo w/ English subtitles)
This is the story of Lucia, a Yoreme girl that fights for her dream against her tradition and how she will manage to get close to her father and find her place in her community.

Director: Ana Laura Calderón
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQDwHCFS88U

SET THE STAGE

THOUGHT-STARTERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
The Mayo Indians are an indigenous group living in the Río Mayovalley in Southern Sonora and the Río Fuerte valley in Northern Sinaloa. According to the group’s oral tradition, the word “Mayo” means “the people of the river bank” and refers to the Río Mayo in Sonora and Río Fuerte in Sinaloa. The Mayos call themselves Yoreme also, which means “he that respects the tradition.” Those who are not Yoreme are addressed as Yori, or “he that does not respect,” referring mostly to the mestizo Mexicans or other non-Indian peoples.

They are one of many groups of indigenous peoples who continue to live and maintain their culture in what today is Mexico—a diverse and multicultural country. The Mayo belong to the Cahita linguistic family and are so related to the Yoeme, the Ocoroni, and the Guasave Indian groups. Unfortunately, today, no members from the last two groups survive in northern Sinaloa, their original territory, or elsewhere in Northwest Mexico. Mayos maintain relationships with the Yoemem to the north and to the Guarijíos to the east (Sierra Madre) as well as with the mestizo Mexicans that live near or in their communities.

The Mayo ceremonies and traditions reflect the region’s diversity of natural resources and geographical characteristics. Mayo dances mimic the movement of the animals in the wild, the hunt, and the relationship between nature and people.

Born in Mexico. Ana Laura Calderón is a producer, director and editor. She graduated from International School of Film and TV, in Cuba. She edited over 20 films, among them The Empty Hours (2013) by Aarón Fernández. As a director, she made the documentary The Island of Youth (2007) and the fictional feature Drawing the Sky (2018).

Source: Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona

WORDS TO KNOW

● Themes: indigenous, mestizo, music, parenthood, coming-of-age
● Media Arts: narrative, audience experience, media messages, tone, point-of-view.
TALK ABOUT IT DISCUSSION

- What techniques were used to attract and keep your attention?
- What lifestyles, values, and cultures were represented?
- Whose perspective did we see? Were other points of view shown?
- What characters or issues could you relate to, and why?
- How did the narrative (story) unfold? What was the crisis or conflict? How was it resolved?
- How might different people interpret this film?
- Who made this film and what is its purpose? (inform, entertain, etc.)
- What was omitted from this film that you might want to know?
- Describe your most memorable scene in the film.
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BEYOND THE FILM ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

https://www.facebook.com/corazondemezquite/
https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/online-exhibit/masks/who-are-mayo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuiFjC-GfUM

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Media Arts Center San Diego offers project-based Youth Media classroom residencies where students can learn the art of digital storytelling. Contact Larry Da Silveira at larry@mediaartscenter.org or (619) 230-1938 to learn more.