

Elisabeth Wennberg, Swedish director and producer, has been working with the concept of a trilogy of poetic visuals based on a mythical heritage from three continents with their threatened values slowly vanishing. South America, Siberia and West Africa become a mythical triangle.

YAGUA BLUE 1989 - 50 min.



Photo: Sven Åsberg

The Blue Jaguar is hiding among the shimmering clouds of the South American sky ... The night he charges down from his hiding place he will devour us all ...

THE FIRST FILM

Yagua blue is a visual poem following the Guarani Indians' old myths and tales – a film moving between an outer and inner reality. The main character is the 80-year old chieftain of the Simbas of southern Bolivia. Through his face, full of beauty and wisdom – present everywhere – we experience the life of the village, we encounter the animals – we discover nature; he guides us through a sequence of poems and tales from the myth of Creation to the End of the World.

Everything waited for Nanderuguazu,
waited with ears
that were still made of stone,
with eyes that were not yet seeing,
with the immortal breath
yet frozen ...

Long before we could make him out,
there in the darkness of the eternal bats,
he signalled to us
that he was there
alone...

SHAMAN 1994 - 55 min.

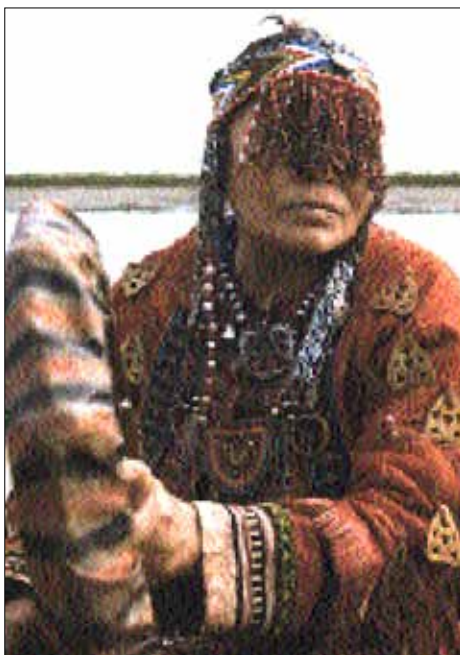


Photo: Peter Östlund

Under the icy Siberian Northern Star the Sky Dog is gnawing away at his leash of stars. The night he breaks loose the sky will tumble down on us...

THE SECOND FILM

Shaman is based on the shamanistic poetry of the Nganasan of the Taimyr peninsula, northern Siberia. A young shaman apprentice goes on his first dream - walk over the glimmering Siberian tundra and passes through past, present and future – through worlds unseen – to reach his first initiated song. The film is dedicated to the Nganasan and to the shamans Dulsemjaku, Nina and Igor Kosterkin who still carry the shamanistic heritage that has transcended centuries, into our time.

My path runs along the edge
of the purple cloud,
past the golden cloud in the West
I spread my wings and fly -
with my head lowered
I sweep across the sky
The drum is my horse –
the winds are my wings
My feathers are the Sun
My wings are the Moon
My song soars towards a star
This is me
Here I am
I am the Sun
See me now!

IN SPITE OF SORROW 1999 - 60 min.

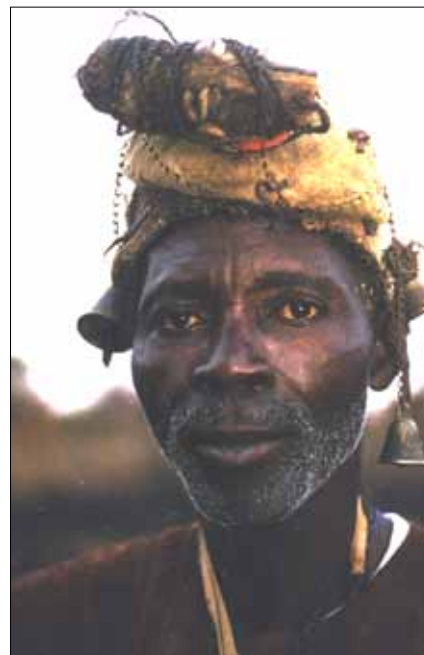


Photo: Elisabeth Wennberg

The sacred Python of West Africa has coiled up and is supporting Heaven and Earth on his back. The night he is forced to eat at his own tail Heaven and Earth will fall down and that is the end of our world ...will tumble down on us...

THE THIRD FILM

In spite of sorrow
The Nightbird, the Chameleon and the Python,
the Elder, the Guardian of the Bats,
the Soothsayer,
the Guardian of the Sacred Forest
and the Black Lizards ...

... they all line the route of the Medicine Man, as he walks his visible and invisible paths through the village of Navio - Kaya in southern Burkina Faso. He is accompanied by the drums as they pay homage to Death – Death that bears Life in her womb ...

I walk between two worlds
I walk between life and death

I see the new children come
I prepare the way for the dead

I bear the wisdom of ages past
I listen to my own fate

I walk, my forefathers at my side
I listen, to their whisperings ...



Elisabeth Wennberg was a staff producer/director at Swedish Television for ten years before going independent in 1982, in order to make her own films, and devote time to painting which has resulted in several exhibitions. Experience, gained from painting, plays an important part in creating these films, which are neither conventional documentaries nor features. She uses all means necessary to achieve an atmosphere and find ways of expressing her message, remaining true to her subject.

YAGUA BLUE

A fascinating, beautiful film, where part of the beauty lies in the fact that the culture of the Indians is not reduced to something exotic – something "strange". On the contrary you are reminded of how much these myths, both in form and meaning, connect to our own myths of the western world – a film with magnificent poetry.

DAGENS NYHETER

Sweden's main daily paper

A film about Life – the myths, magic and signs that inhabit the world of the Simba Indians. A film full of unusual expressions of what we call "the eternal questions".

ARBETET

SHAMAN

Parts of the film have a documentary touch but dominant in the story are the ritualized thoughts within the young shaman apprentice. The third element of the film emerges from his concept of the universe: the fantastic and incomparable pictorial expression which comprises the exceptionally aesthetic rendering of this work by E.W. and her cinematographer Peter Östlund. This must be one of the most beautiful films ever made for television.

DAGENS NYHETER

Existence is magical and undefinable for these people – something much more, greater, than the visible world. It is a great achievement by E.W. to be able to show this invisible world through film – the art of the visible...

DAGENS NYHETER

IN SPITE OF SORROW

It is a blessing to experience this film where rhythms, colors and patterns mix to a complete entirety. The Sun and the Moon – the eyes of the Creator, do not only look down upon the Kasena but on all of us.

SVENSKA DAGBLADET

Sweden's main daily paper

A philosophical and beautiful film seen through an artist's eyes. The last film in this remarkable trilogy of myths and rituals from three continents.

**Channel Four, film review,
Sweden**

It is the result of sensitive reflection – a keen observation of the strong relationship between the Living and the Dead, poetically described and particularly discernable in terms of music and dance.

SYDSVENSKA DAGBLADET

Sweden's main daily paper

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