

**CHIARA BARBIERI PRESENTS** | IN ASSOCIATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH | AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF LATIN AMERICAN CENTER ZURICH | AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF NCCR "EVOLVING LANGUAGE" | "FINDING FIRST PEOPLES: THE MAPUCHE" A FILM BY RENATO GIUGLIANO WITH CHIARA BARBIERI, EPIFANÍA ARANGO-ISAZA, MARÍA JOSÉ ANINAO | A RLP FILM PRODUCTIONS - 2024



University of  
Zurich <sup>UZH</sup>



University of  
Zurich <sup>UZH</sup>

Latin American Center Zurich

# FINDING FIRST PEOPLES

THE MAPUCHE

*a film by Renato Giugliano*

*Starting from a scientific project to reconstruct the genetic legacy of Mapuche communities of Southern Chile, "Finding First Peoples: the Mapuche" is a documentary on the nuanced indigenous identities of today, and the changing feelings of anthropological research.*

Following a research project initiated in 2018 at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History (Jena, Germany), and developed through international collaborations (including the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and the University of Zurich) with anthropologists, archaeologists and linguists, geneticist Chiara Barbieri collected data through expeditions and community exchanges. One element was paramount to the project: including the voice of the participants. The encounter between Chiara Barbieri and movie director Renato Giugliano, both animated by the same urge to tell stories of justice and cross-continental connections, turned the documentation of a scientific project into a road movie with many layers and different protagonists.

From the side of the scientists, the movie tells the efforts to build transparent and participative models of knowledge production, and to decolonize science. From the side of Mapuche community members, the movie tells a vivid perspective about present-time Indigenous identity, conflict and discrimination, and protection of the natural landscape.

The documentary is a non-profit, independent production, financed by partners affiliated to the University of Zurich, and developed with Italian director Renato Giugliano.





## Synopsis

In 2022, to complete a scientific project on the genetic legacy of Mapuche communities, a small team of scientists from the University of Zurich is traveling to Southern Chile. Chiara, the project coordinator and Epifanía, the PhD student, are meeting Maria Jose, the Chilean professor of Mapuche descent, to fulfill a compromise taken a few years ago: return and discuss the results with the participants from the indigenous communities. The three colleagues drive through Andean mountains, fishermen villages, and araucaria forests, to talk to community members, facing COVID restrictions, and ultimately questioning themselves about the modality of scientific production and the neocolonialistic dynamics still present in science. The genetic history of Mapuche people is entangled with a long way of discrimination that still marginalizes their history and their voice. From the dialogues with local partners comes a story of pride, resistance, patience, and friendship, which shows different aspects of Indigenous identity today.





## **Finding First Peoples: the Mapuche**

66' | 2K | DCP | COLOR | STEREO

Switzerland/Italy 2024

Genre: Documentary

Niche: Society | Science | Indigenous Culture | Road movie

Language: Spanish. Subtitles: English

Directed by Renato Giugliano

Produced by: Chiara Barbieri and RLP Productions

In association with: the University of Zurich

And with the support of: NCCR "Evolving Language", Latin American Center Zurich, ISLE - Interdisciplinary Study of Language Evolution

Assistant production: Epifanía Arango-Isaza, María José Aninao

Sound: Renato Giugliano

Audio postproduction: Davide Hare

Sound supervision: Nicolás Razzi





## Artistic Team

Renato Giugliano is an independent film director and author with over 15 years' experience filming narrative, documentary, commercial and music projects in the E.U. and abroad. His work focused on social issues and heart-touching stories of Indigenous and native populations. He developed intense partnership with several European NGOs with whom he plans and shapes edutainment projects, educational activities and filming. He studied and worked with Ermanno Olmi and collaborates with several European productions (Horizons, BBC, Nukleus Film, Cineteca di Bologna).

## Scientific Team

Chiara Barbieri is an assistant professor in genetics with a PhD from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Leipzig) and working experience at the University of Zurich and the University of Cagliari. She specializes in biological anthropology and multidisciplinary study of the human past and present diversity, with more than 10 years of research on the indigenous history of South America. Interested in the impact of genetic studies on our society, she is also active in improving participation and transparency in human genetic studies. This is her first audiovisual project, developed to expand the role of scientific dissemination and inclusion with themes of equality and indigenous rights.



## Production Team

Founded by Renato Giugliano in 2004, RLP Film Productions is an independent film company that decided to conquer the world by telling small but meaningful stories, specializing in *edutainment*, or "the art of learning while having fun." Through collaboration with important NGOs such as CEFA Onlus, CSV Italy and the financial contribution of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), RLP Film Productions designs and brings to life short films, documentaries, films, digital series, courses and events focused on social themes. *War in Cuba* was their first feature film for the cinema, distributed in Italy and Spain by Emera Film and Dynamic Enginy. *Lonely Dolls* was the first Italian documentary on the phenomenon of reborn dolls, produced by EIE Film for Discovery+ Italia and Real Time with the contribution of the Emilia Romagna Film Commission. *Play Your Rights* is a mini-digital-series dedicated to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which won the SORRISO RAI CINEMA award at the 16th International Festival of Social Cinematography Black Silk Tulips. In 2024, RLP Film Productions is touring the Mediterranean with *The Elephant Man* (Jove Sólides, Spain), an audiovisual training project that won the Erasmus+ 2022 call for proposals to produce a digital-series set in Spain, Lebanon, Greece, Poland and Italy.

## INFO – RLP Film Productions

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