

Oasis Tropical – English

Language: en-GB

00:00:01.043 --> 00:00:07.007

The following short film was produced by the young people who participated in the Photography and Video Workshop of Commune 4, in the neighbourhoods of Moravia and Oasis Tropical, with the assistance of Carabantú Corporation.

00:00:07.007 --> 00:00:09.844

It was produced in the context of the 6th International Kunta Kinte Festival of Afro Community Cinema 2021.

00:00:10.428 --> 00:00:12.428

[Kunta Kinte Festival Logos]

00:00:17.393 --> 00:00:20.104

[Título: Oasis Tropical]

00:00:25.109 --> 00:00:26.694

[Outdoors: a man walks down alley]

00:00:27.027 --> 00:00:29.029

[Indoors: male community leader interviewed]

My name is Feliciano Cordoba Mosquera.

00:00:29.029 --> 00:00:40.890

At the moment, I am the president of the Community Action Council of the Oasis Tropical neighbourhood, the place where we have been living for about 34 years.

00:00:42.918 --> 00:00:54.700

[in the streets, leader shows mural on a wall]

I arrived here, in the neighbourhood, on 15th of September, 1988, when the Mayor of Medellín brought us to be relocated,

00:00:54.700 --> 00:01:04.210

to solve our housing problem, taking into account that, a few days before, a natural disaster had occurred in the

area where we used to lived.

00:01:04.440 --> 00:01:18.037

It was called La Iguaná, near the stadium on 70th Avenue. A flood affected 380 families, who lived beside the river.

00:01:19.038 --> 00:01:27.004

[Outdoors. Young community leader] For those who don't know, we are in Oasis Tropical, which is next to the main road of the regional avenue.

00:01:28.005 --> 00:01:38.800

Better known as Moravia. People have always thought that Moravia is the same Oasis -- no. Oasis is very independent of Moravia. In that sense, the state is unaware of this territory.

00:01:38.800 --> 00:01:44.860

This neighbourhood emerged because,

when we formed the first Community Action Council

00:01:45.900 --> 00:01:51.510

[shot of a woman inside her house] and we decided to name it, a new soap opera, called Oasis Tropical was being broadcast by Caracol TV.

00:01:51.510 --> 00:01:58.740

That was in '94. It has approximately 2,000 houses, with an average of

00:01:58.740 --> 00:02:06.120

3 or 4 inhabitants. Yes, there may be 8,000

or 9,000 residents here. [stairs with graffiti at the bottom]

00:02:06.120 --> 00:02:11.160

I was born here, in this sector. My father was the first community leader here. He was the one who gave the community its name and everything.

00:02:11.160 --> 00:02:17.250

Since I was young, I have had a very strong motivation to get out of here, out of this sector,

00:02:17.250 --> 00:02:23.550

to acquire more knowledge, to be able to go to university, to be able to establish relations

00:02:23.550 --> 00:02:28.980

with other people. It is very hard when you do not have the tools and not even any support

00:02:28.980 --> 00:02:34.860

from the State or other entities, because here it's not as if they intervene very much at all.

00:02:37.650 --> 00:02:44.010

[Interviewed leader walks through the neighborhood] For me, being a community leader means having a vision, knowledge and a commitment; to be able to see what the objectives are,

00:02:44.010 --> 00:02:50.820

what the rules are, what the needs of the community are and what is the right path

00:02:50.820 --> 00:02:57.180

that must be taken to ensure that their rights are not violated. Taking into account

00:02:57.180 --> 00:03:03.720

that we are people who have origins in various regions of the country, in different ethnic groups,

00:03:03.720 --> 00:03:10.470

then you have to work in a very coordinated way, working together so that everybody's rights are respected.

00:03:10.470 --> 00:03:12.041

[Outdoors: aerial shot of the neighbourhood. Houses with zinc roofs]

00:03:14.028 --> 00:03:16.613

[Outdoors: Garbage Pile in the Street]

00:03:19.616 --> 00:03:21.160

[Wooden houses and plastic covers are seen]

00:03:21.160 --> 00:03:24.830

[Young community leaders are seen conversing]

00:03:25.750 --> 00:03:33.550

To me, this place has been a bit forgotten by the city administrations, bearing in mind

00:03:33.550 --> 00:03:40.720

that when the Mayor brought us, and they made us some huts here, without services, made of wood

00:03:40.720 --> 00:03:47.950

with metal-sheet roofs, what was agreed then was that our stay here would be temporary -- and it has been 33 years and there have

00:03:47.950 --> 00:03:54.670

been various stages because there have been resettlements, but only partial ones. And due

00:03:54.670 --> 00:04:01.120

to the area's very strategic location, the spaces that the administration frees up

00:04:01.120 --> 00:04:07.210

by resettling some families, end up being reoccupied. Why? Because here we are close to all the

00:04:07.210 --> 00:04:12.850

services and the economic opportunities needed by a person

00:04:12.850 --> 00:04:19.240

who comes from stratum zero or one, as do most of us here. So, people come from different regions

00:04:20.177 --> 00:04:28.110

even from other countries. Lately, look what is happening with the Venezuelans, who see this place as an option to reactivate economically

00:04:29.190 --> 00:04:31.021

and have a house where they can stay with their children.

00:04:32.022 --> 00:04:35.025

Being a community leader means having a voice and leadership

00:04:36.210 --> 00:04:42.660

when faced with how to give tools to
the community so they can develop various projects.

00:04:42.660 --> 00:04:47.370

[It means] to be able to represent the community
in the face of many difficulties,

00:04:47.370 --> 00:04:52.080

to be able to ensure good communication between the government and the community itself.

00:04:52.080 --> 00:04:58.090

[Young people practising urban dances]

00:04:59.007 --> 00:05:04.054

[Community leader walks through neighbourhood alley]

00:05:05.055 --> 00:05:19.027

[Community leader continues walking through the neighbourhood]

00:05:23.031 --> 00:05:34.001

[Young people make a huge graffiti on the wall of a house]

00:05:35.420 --> 00:05:41.360

At this moment, we are empowering ourselves to be able to establish a Community Council for this community

00:05:41.360 --> 00:05:49.070

because the state intervened very little here, so one can't see any social institution

00:05:49.070 --> 00:05:55.910

where one can go and do any kind of activities. In addition, I do believe that the state sees us above all

00:05:55.910 --> 00:06:01.850

as a problem for the city and does not see us as a multicultural benefit

00:06:01.850 --> 00:06:10.100

which can greatly enrich [the city] with their talents, with their projects -- for example artistic ones.

00:06:11.079 --> 00:06:20.130

[Young people rehearse urban dances]

00:06:22.299 --> 00:06:31.450

My name is Deibys Moreno. I am from Moravia neighbourhood, Commune 4. I belong to the group Afro Power Danza Urbana.

00:06:31.450 --> 00:06:36.970

In the group, I am the director of the whole process. We have been around 3 years

00:06:37.022 --> 00:06:42.944

[Young dancers rehearsing]

00:06:43.930 --> 00:06:50.710

I started with dance, I started alone; so I learned on the street, I didn't have any teachers ...

00:06:50.710 --> 00:06:57.970

Nothing like that. So we decided to form a group here in the neighbourhood and teach the children.

00:06:57.970 --> 00:07:03.820

We tell them: come on, we want to teach you that through dance you can also get ahead. It is culture,

00:07:03.820 --> 00:07:10.750

you can achieve your dream. It's very cool. I mean, everyone likes dancing.

00:07:10.750 --> 00:07:17.650

Through dancing, we express many feelings. We express anger, we express joy, sadness.

00:07:18.021 --> 00:07:19.940

[Young female sings]

00:07:26.029 --> 00:07:28.448

[Lyric: The people are hungry, Oh, holly god].

00:07:30.330 --> 00:07:36.000

We express resistance because, with dance, it is like another way in, so that we can be heard. There is no need to speak,

00:07:36.000 --> 00:07:44.370

instead with the steps, with dance, we can express ourselves and make ourselves understood to the public.

00:07:44.370 --> 00:07:51.390

I think it takes time and perseverance, because, for example, I have been dancing for 14 years

00:07:52.750 --> 00:07:59.560

and .. cool. So, I say that it is a matter of sticking around and keeping on and searching, searching for the path,

00:07:59.560 --> 00:08:03.370

because people will always create obstacles, but you are the one who decides and ... that's it.

00:08:05.350 --> 00:08:13.570

Here in Commune 4, actually, I think in all communes, the state always give some stimulus

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to carry out and support these initiatives, these groups that exist in the communes.

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Here there is [support], but, like I said, as a group we have had to do everything with our bare hands, you know? For us to give a presentation,

00:08:28.510 --> 00:08:33.400

people do not come here. It is up to us to look, we have to go out.

00:08:33.400 --> 00:08:39.580

I believe that, if the state is going to intervene, let's say with an action, in a community, if you don't educate that community first

00:08:39.580 --> 00:08:45.610

to be able to benefit from the resources that the state is providing, nothing will happen. I believe that first

00:08:45.610 --> 00:08:51.310

education is the foundation of everything. For example, teach people how to work in those spaces, teach them how

00:08:51.310 --> 00:08:57.940

to win a scholarship, teach them how to apply for a course let's say in the cultural centre,

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or in other places. Because, yes, they say there are programmes, there is support, but if that programme

00:09:04.000 --> 00:09:09.370

is not being socially integrated into the community, they are not seeing how to reach the community, they are not really doing anything.

00:09:09.370 --> 00:09:15.970

It is not a matter of arriving and providing, but arriving and teaching so that whatever programme, support or

00:09:15.970 --> 00:09:20.350

intervention they do in the community is in line with what people in the community really need.

00:09:20.350 --> 00:09:25.450

Through the Community Action Council, young people can empower themselves, bearing in mind that the Community Action Council

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also depends on them, right? They are a very fundamental part of

00:09:30.790 --> 00:09:37.360

the participation that the Council needs to carry out its different activities. Young people can

00:09:37.360 --> 00:09:44.420

come and propose activities -- like recreational, cultural -- where the main benefits will be

00:09:44.420 --> 00:09:51.270

the whole community and, yes, they can be carried out in that space.

00:09:51.270 --> 00:09:57.810

Youth participation is essential. Because today's youth are well trained, they are smart young people.

00:10:00.020 --> 00:10:06.680

We, for example, the older ones who have come to transfer leadership, we now have

00:10:06.680 --> 00:10:12.320

to learn from them, I can tell you. Because they are people who have more open minds, and already have

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very advanced intellectual and academic capacities and, taking that into account, we have to

00:10:19.910 --> 00:10:26.780

team up with them so that we contribute experience and they contribute the intelligence and

00:10:26.780 --> 00:10:33.260

the academic study that we did not have. But it is necessary to work as a team.

00:10:33.260 --> 00:10:40.265

[Outdoors. Music. Community leader walks through the neighbourhood]

00:10:42.760 --> 00:10:48.190

Today I address all the young people who
are watching this video today. I want to invite you to

00:10:48.190 --> 00:10:54.850

not think so much about individualism, and to think more about community. When the state

00:10:54.850 --> 00:11:02.530

or one of its agencies is already working in these sectors, it is easier to reach them [as a community].

00:11:02.530 --> 00:11:09.100

We need to unite -- for example in the Afro aspect. Why are we fighting among ourselves,

00:11:09.100 --> 00:11:15.100

knowing that we have an oppressive state that wants to get us out of here and even out of the city.

00:11:15.100 --> 00:11:19.840

Why don't we unite instead to fight together against the oppressive state. Why don't we make a
single force

00:11:19.840 --> 00:11:25.510

towards one end, which is to get ahead and to defend our rights, defend our interests.

00:11:25.510 --> 00:11:32.470

So what I do ask of people in the community is more teamwork, more organization.

00:11:32.470 --> 00:11:37.690

Things are not achieved overnight. Every day we have to

00:11:37.690 --> 00:11:42.490

work, work, work so that later the results will be seen, not only for me,

00:11:42.490 --> 00:11:48.190

but for later generations, for the children, so that it can be their turn ... so that they have more opportunities,

00:11:48.190 --> 00:11:55.180

more resources, they have more knowledge about how to reach out and achieve things with people.

00:11:55.180 --> 00:11:58.960

And that's the invitation that I'm making as
cultural affairs promoter of Oasis. The doors are open

00:11:58.960 --> 00:12:04.240

for any intervention that people
might want to make from outside.

00:12:06.226 --> 00:12:12.649

SPECIAL THANKS: Carabantu Corporation; Ramón Perea Lemos; Cultural Development Center of Moravia; Participants of the photography and video workshop of Commune 4

00:12:14.651 --> 00:12:18.112

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00:12:22.116 --> 00:12:24.994

[Ministry of Culture logo: "Culture belongs to everyone"]

00:12:27.997 --> 00:12:29.958

[Credits: 6th International Kunta Kinte Afro Community Film Festival 2021; Carabantú; Proceso de Comunidades Negras]

00:12:30.959 --> 00:12:32.877

University of Manchester, Cinemateca; Arts and Humanities Research Council; Cultures of Anti-Racism in Latin America; Spanish Embassy in Colombia

00:12:32.877 --> 00:12:34.877

Caecid; Cooperación Española Conocimiento; National University of Colombia; Casa de la Memoria Museum;

00:12:34.877 --> 00:12:36.877

Centro de Desarrollo Cultural de Moravia; Comfenalco; Mayor's Office of Medellín]