

**“FORGET
EVERYTHING
YOU’VE BEEN
TAUGHT ABOUT
THE MAYA”**



Log line:

BEYOND THE RUINS

Through the stories of two indigenous Maya families, ***Beyond the Ruins*** takes viewers on a breathtaking journey into the heart of the Yucatecan Maya civilization, unveiling a misunderstood culture and their ancestral wisdoms rooted in the essence of family and community.

While clearing up some of the common misconceptions people have about the Maya, and showcasing the breath of their culture, this film ultimately challenges us to rethink our relationship with nature and each other through the ancient Maya philosophy “in lak’ ech, a lak’ en,” meaning “I am you; you are me.”

01. PROJECT STATUS

FILMING

- COMPLETE

EDITORIAL

- COMPLETE

- STILL REFINING SPEED / SMOOTHNESS
OF CREDITS

- CORRECTING ONE LINE OF NARRATION FOR
HISTORICAL ACCURACY AT 42:07

COLOR

- COMPLETE

SOUND MIX

- WILL BE COMPLETE BY: OCT 9, 2023

- WILL HAVE DISTRIBUTION-READY STEREO
AND DOLBY 5.1 MIX

TRAILER STATUS

- STILL GETTING COLORED / MIXED

02. TRAILER



<https://youtu.be/X1e-gg5Yolo>

WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK
OF THE MAYA, THEY THINK OF
AN **ANCIENT CIVILIZATION** THAT
MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF,
THE MAYA ARE ALIVE AND WELL.



03. SYNOPSIS

Beyond the Ruins is a feature-length documentary unveiling what it means to be a Yucatecan Maya in the 21st century. The film starts at the ancient ceremonial center of Coba, the second largest Maya center in the ancient world, and slowly takes the viewer deeper into the jungle and villages of two indigenous families who have dedicated their lives to maintaining their heritage. The heart and soul of the film depicts the interconnectedness of all things, including nature, through the ancient Maya philosophy “in lak’ ech, a lak’ en,” meaning “I am you; you are me.”

The Maya, like other indigenous peoples around the world, have faced many hardships over centuries. Despite these challenges, the families in this film have managed to preserve their traditions and maintain their cultural identity through their spiritual

philosophy of what it means to be a family and community.

We learn that the secrets of the Maya are not found in the ancient ruins or tangible objects. Rather, it is their mindset of living together as one with each other and the natural world that has been the key to maintaining their culture and quality of life. The film portrays how the Maya work together as a community and view themselves as part of a larger ecosystem and purpose.

The American narrator of the film also goes through a personal transformation from his travels. As the Maya open his mind to their culture, he begins to compare the differences in how they live as a community to his otherwise Western, individualistic culture. This theme of personal transformation further underscores the universal truths embodied in indigenous thinking.

While the film primarily focuses on the Maya people and their efforts, it sparks a conversation on how their way of life could offer valuable lessons for other cultures around the world. The film concludes with the idea that as we navigate the challenges of the 21st century, we would all do well to draw on the lessons of the past and learn from the wisdom of indigenous cultures like the Maya. By doing so, we could build a more sustainable and compassionate world, grounded in a deep appreciation for the richness and diversity of life.

Beyond the Ruins is a visually stunning and emotionally moving documentary that offers a unique insight into a misunderstood culture that is thought to be extinct. By journeying beyond the ruins and into the heart and soul of the indigenous Maya, this film transcends the boundaries of history and embraces a living connection that has the power to transform our understanding of the world.

04. DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

[WEBSITE](#) | [YOUTUBE](#) | [INSTAGRAM](#)



Embarking on this journey, initially driven by the desire to shed light on a widely misunderstood culture, has led to a profound transformation that has forever changed my life.

When I took on this project of exploring an indigenous people, I was acutely aware of the potential harm that can arise from misrepresenting sensitive topics, particularly when it comes to journalism. Hence, my foremost objective in creating this film was to pay homage to the Maya people and craft a work that would make them proud. Today, I am grateful to declare that we

have achieved that goal. Every step of the way, over a five year period, the Maya community stood with us, endorsing the film and its portrayal of their culture and beliefs.

While conflict traditionally stands as a cornerstone in storytelling, the Maya community of Coba re-defined this norm. Despite their experiences of exploitation and marginalization, their profound philosophies steer them away from fixating on adversity or trials. Expressing negativity, including discussing these topics publicly, runs contrary to their essence. This

prompted me to embrace an alternative narrative strategy, one that prioritized gratitude over conflict. This shift ultimately triggered a personal transformation, a particularly noteworthy transition given my background in a culture that champions independence and individualism rather than the values of family and community.

My hope is that this film will not only change the way people perceive the Maya, but also their own personal perceptions of what it means to live a fulfilling life and what kind of legacy they are leaving behind.

05. TARGET AUDIENCE

1. DEMOGRAPHICS

Beyond the Ruins will appeal to those interested in history, anthropology, and indigenous cultures. Additionally, the film will appeal to those who are concerned about the environment, sustainability, and social justice issues. The film's themes of interconnectedness, community, and compassion will also resonate with viewers who are interested in personal growth and spiritual development. In addition, it will move an audience who struggles to find their footing in a Western culture that is focused on individualism, material gains, and personal achievement.

2. INTERESTS

Platforms that cater to indigenous cultures, traditional wisdom, sustainable living, history, and environmental issues would be a great fit for this film, such as PBS, Discovery, National Geographic, and the Smithsonian Channel. Additionally, streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime that offer a variety of documentary content would also be great outlets for the film.

3. MOTIVATIONS

In terms of motivations, viewers may be drawn to the film because of a general interest in learning about other cultures and histories or they have a specific interest in the Maya civilization. They may also be motivated by a desire to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing indigenous people around the world or by a desire to explore alternative ways of living that are more sustainable and harmonious.

06. CAST



BRADY SKYE
Narrator | Age: 35

Skye was born Brady Bigalke but adopted Skye as his professional last name. He leads the film as the narrator taking viewers into the world of the modern Yucatecan Maya. The viewer not only learns about the Maya through his journey and experience, but how he arrived there, why he is there, and how he undergoes a personal transformation from sharing life with the indigenous families he comes to know.



RENE HUCHIM CANUL
Indigenous Maya Tour Guide

Rene Canul is the first indigenous Maya the viewer will meet in the film. He is a local, Maya tour guide at the ruins of Coba, which receive thousands of visitors per year. What is unique about Rene is his family has been there for generations and his grandfather was part of the team that helped archeologists excavate the ruins in the 1970's. Unlike most of the other tour guides in Coba, Rene passes down local knowledge from his family who has been there for generations.



JESUS CANUL
Indigenous Maya Tour Guide

Jesus carries on the legacy of his father and grandfather in a neighboring village. In the midst of corporate tourism companies out of Cancun, Jesus started a family-owned eco-tourism company empowering other villagers, such as Rene, to be able to support themselves and maintain their culture. He and his team are not only able to support one another in their efforts, but are educating thousands of foreigners per year on the real Maya culture, their history, and local wildlife. Jesus grew up adjacent to a government protected wildlife preserve his grandfather helped create.



EULOGIO CANUL
Jesus' Father / Spider Monkey Expert

Eulogio is the father of Jesus and a spider monkey expert in the wildlife preserve, Punta Laguna. Eulogio has been studying the wild spider monkeys nearly his entire life, and has taught spider monkey behavior to many students over the years, mostly coming from universities in Mexico, Italy, and Spain.



ROSA CANUL
Jesus' Mother

Rosa is Jesus' mother and the wife of Eulogio. She has continued to carry on the Maya culture through cooking, sewing, and gardening, and has made many efforts to help support her family throughout her life. While she has continued to carry on the traditional role of the Maya woman, she expanded that role into selling her artwork and a number of other entrepreneurial efforts throughout her life.



MARISOL CANUL
Jesus' Sister

Marisol is the sister of Jesus and daughter of Eulogio and Rosa. She has followed in her mother's footsteps to maintain the traditional role of the Maya woman, but is expanding that role to also have a career as a dentist, and eventually open an animal clinic to help the local animals. Like her father and brother, she has a passion for caring for animals.

THE CAHUM FAMILY

Located off the grid in an unmarked village, The Cahum's have taken an even more traditional approach to the ancient ways of the Maya. In the film, their philosophies and ways of life are represented by Jose Cahum and his older brother Elias.



07. CREW



BRADY SKYE
Executive Producer / Director / Narrator / Editor

Brady Skye is an award-winning filmmaker and photographer with over a decade of full-time experience in documentary and commercial filmmaking alongside YouTube videos. With a keen eye for directing and editing, Brady has created over 1500 edits, from national TV commercials to long-form programs. From working with a number of ad-agencies and production companies, his work has been distributed by Viacom, CBS, NBC Sports, Golf Channel, Nickelodeon, Scholastic Education, Wounded Warrior Project, Florida Power & Light, Sonny's BBQ, MTV, and VH1. With a passion for stories involving exotic locations, indigenous people, and environmental issues, his projects often search for ways to preserve authentic human connections and natural environments in a world where they are potentially disappearing.



LANCE HASTINGS
Executive Producer / Production Manager

Lance is a retired psychologist and arm-chair anthropologist with a passion for traveling through the eyes of local and indigenous people. This film was made possible because of Lance's relationships formed with the indigenous Maya families over the last five years. Although this may be his first time producing a feature film, he has a natural talent for organizing travel, budgeting, and all of the factors involved when operating in remote locations and harsh climates. He is a world traveler, having been to China, South America, the Caribbean, and Europe through Peace Corps activities and humanitarian efforts. Lance has lived the motto of author Mark Adams, "An expedition is a journey toward something, instead of vacationing away."



JUSTIN WIRTALLA
Cinematographer / Colorist

Justin Wirtalla is more than a cinematographer and camera operator. He is an award winning filmmaker and published photographer based in Northwest Montana. Telling stories through visual mediums is a passion that has grown out of developing these crafts for nearly two decades. His unique aesthetic is present in every project both visually and conceptually. Justin has been fortunate to work with clients such as Chevrolet, Ram, Hyundai, GT's, onX, Nokian, Kumho, Oppo, Chopard, and Bowmore. Justin's love for adventure and the outdoors drew him to photography as a way to remember the experiences, which in turn inspired him to search for even more extraordinary moments to document.



TONY CROWE
Re-recording Mixer

Tony has provided professional audio services to the Los Angeles film and television community for nearly 20 years. He has sound designed, mixed, recorded, and edited for Hollywood's biggest production companies and most respected directors and producers in the industry, including Christian Breslauer, Andrew Sandler, Chris McQuarrie, Ron Howard, Vince Gilligan, and Sofia Coppola. In 2021 he was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for his work on National Geographic's 'Life Below Zero.'



THOMAS COLLIER
Motion Designer

3D Animator & Art Director with a decade of experience in the sports industry.

North 19° 29.6' / West 87° 43.7'

FILMING LOCATIONS

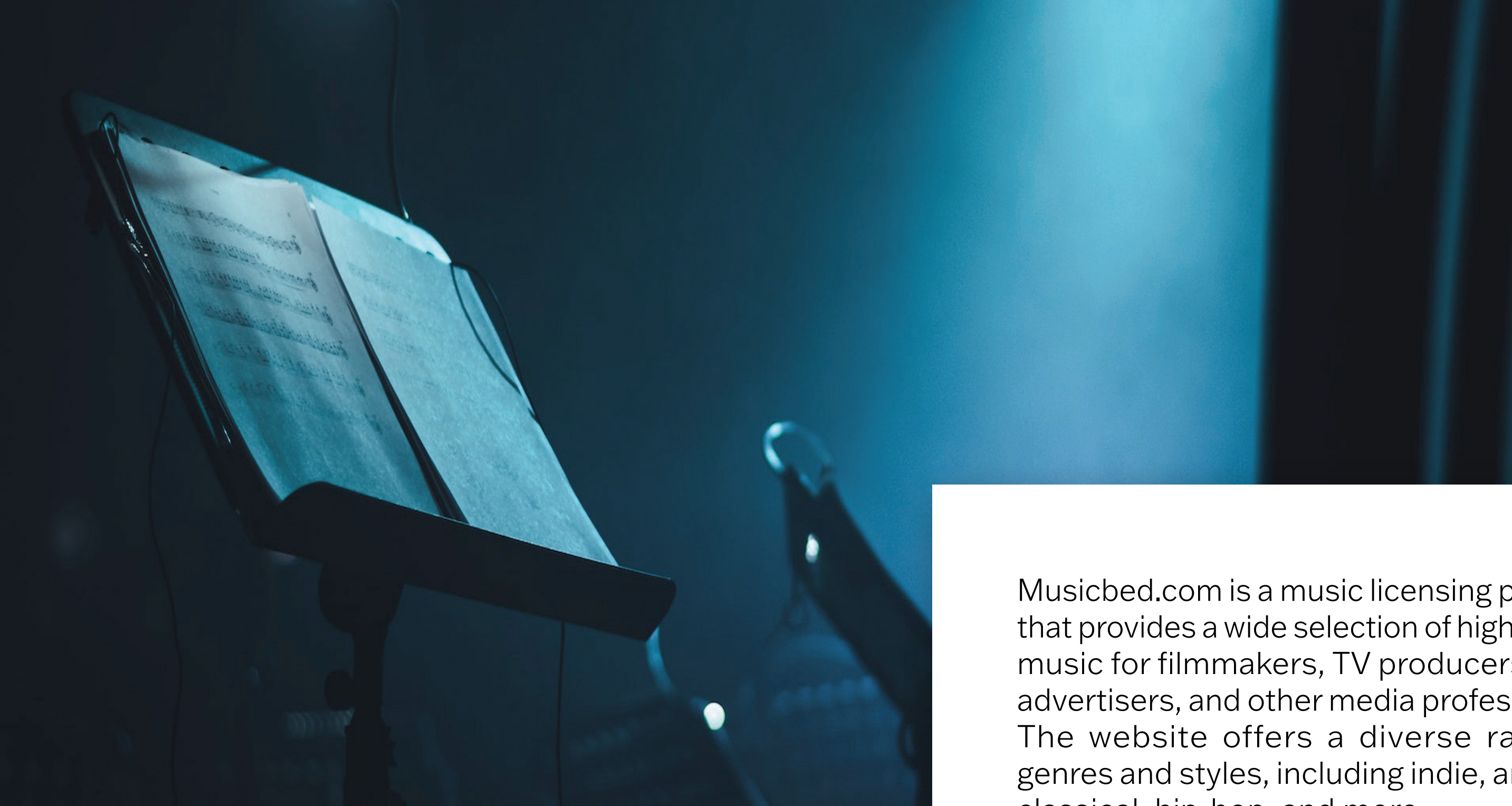
**Yucatan Peninsula,
Quintana Roo, Mexico**

1. Coba

- 2. San Ignacio, Belize
- 3. Tikal, Guatemala
- 2. San Juan de Dios
- 3. Punta Laguna
- 4. Cahum Village
- 5. Orlando, Florida
- 6. St. Augustine, Florida



09. MUSIC LICENSING



Musicbed.com is a music licensing platform that provides a wide selection of high-quality music for filmmakers, TV producers, advertisers, and other media professionals. The website offers a diverse range of genres and styles, including indie, ambient, classical, hip-hop, and more.

One of the reasons Musicbed.com has a great selection of music is because it works with a large network of talented artists and composers who create original and unique music for the platform. Musicbed.com also has a team of curators who carefully select and review each track, ensuring that only

the highest quality music is available on the platform.

In addition to its great selection of music, Musicbed.com also provides full licensing for television distribution. This means that the platform offers licenses that allow TV producers to use the music in their productions without any legal issues or copyright infringements. The platform provides different licensing options to fit different needs and budgets, including licenses for single productions, multi-episode TV series, and more.

www.musicbed.com

10. BEHIND THE SCENES

Some behind the scenes images from filming on location in Mexico

*more available upon request





11. FILM ART

Poster, artwork, and
advertising ideas



More than three millennia old, the Maya culture moves with grace before those who regard it as past history. However, today close to six million individuals form part of this ethnic group, heir to a great tradition that day by day re-creates its identity by incorporating new ways of understanding the world.

The Maya is not merely an archeological legacy, a snapshot frozen in time or an inanimate museum piece. It is also the sum of knowledge, resources, perceptions, attitudes, and relations guiding this collectivity, which is reproduced and connected to an economically uncertain, globalized world in constant transformation.

(Grand Maya World Museum, 2022)

THANK YOU

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SEPTEMBER 2023
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