



**Your mobile phone rings. A voice asks you to help in a rescue mission on one of the most dangerous mountains in the Himalayas. If you accept, you will be putting your own life at risk. This film is the story of a group of people who received just such a phone call. They did not hesitate and replied "I'm on my way". Despite putting themselves at risk, they all responded to one of humanity's most basic instincts: the urge to help save someone's life.**

**During the exceptional rescue operation which unfolds, we discover that these people share not only a love for the mountains they climb, but also profound principles and goals that define the way they live their lives.**

**This film is a journey depicting core values and the essence of human nature.**



## - Pura vida (The Ridge) -

### SYNOPSIS

On the south face of the Himalayas at 7400 metres high, a climber starts to feel unwell. His partner raises the alarm and one of the greatest rescue attempts in the history of the Himalayas begins.

The Annapurna peak in the Himalayas is considered to be one of the most dangerous in the world. 41% of those who attempt to reach its peak die. Rescues above 7400 metres are usually impossible because helicopters cannot fly that high and few people are able to handle the altitude.

This film is a detailed reconstruction of the four-day rescue operation which involved some of the best mountaineers in the world, from a variety of backgrounds. They all came together with one goal: to rescue their friend, Iñaki Ochoa, one of the most respected mountaineers in the world.

The individuals that took part in the rescue effort revisit the events that unfolded during those four difficult days.

We go to Rumania to meet Alex Gavan and Horia Colibasaniu. Horia was climbing with Iñaki when he fell ill and raised the rescue alarm; Alex Gavan joined the rescue team in Kathmandu. In Canada, we meet Nancy Morin, Iñaki's girlfriend, who coordinated the rescue operation from the Annapurna base camp alongside Nima Nuru who organised the helicopter from Kathmandu. We travel to Russia to meet Sergei Bogmolov and Alexi Bolotov, who after having just reached the Annapurna peak went back up to try to save Iñaki. We also go to Switzerland, where we talk to Ueli Steck, the first person to reach Camp IV where Iñaki and Horia stayed for four days. Ueli was the last person to see Iñaki alive. Denis Urubko in Kazakhstan, and Don Bowie, in the US, tell us about the rescue efforts after base camp, where the helicopter left them. The essence of this amazing story comes to light only after viewing these intensely personal accounts of the events that took place.

Interspersed amongst the rescuers' testimonials are personal and public statements given by Iñaki himself; they reveal why people felt so compelled to fight for his life.

### DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS

Our starting point is based on a true story: The rescue operation to save Iñaki Ochoa near the peak of Mount Annapurna and his life up to that point.

Starting from the events that actually took place, we were able to construct a narrative that delves much deeper than a basic personal account. It is this aspect that particularly caught our attention, as we felt it gave us total freedom to create both in content and in form.

Our aim was to portray a story that encourages people to live life to the full; a story that makes us stop and think, that makes us take time to reflect. In our view, Western societies are in desperate need of films that inject a strong dose of vitality and energy into people's lives.

Everything about Iñaki's life and death helps us to deliver the message we want our audience to remember. Our goal is for viewers to understand what the mountains mean to these very real people. The mountaineers climb peaks in order to distance themselves from day to day life, to see everything that surrounds them more clearly. They escape to the mountains to recharge their batteries and to renew their perspectives on life. The mountains epitomize nature in its purest form, both harsh and beautiful. Their difficulties constantly present us with an opportunity to push the boundaries of our own limits. Their beauty helps us to accept the worthiness of life and start living it to the full.

Western culture is generally afraid of experiencing life in all its intensity. We fear death, beauty, health, lack of resources, the risks of love and friendship. We hope this story will help people to recognize and overcome that fear of life and to learn to appreciate every moment to its full potential.

#### MIGUELTHO MOLINA – BIO - director

Miguel Molina has been Scriptwriter, Producer and Editor at Arena Comunicación Audiovisual since 2007. Among his earlier jobs, perhaps the most noteworthy was the post of Location Manager for the American full length production entitled "Americano", which was filmed during the San Fermin festivities in Pamplona in the year 2003. He has furthermore participated in numerous film productions, not only Spanish, but also American, always in a senior capacity such as Editor, Cameraman, Scriptwriter, etc.

He was the Scriptwriter and Editor of the short documentary, "La voz de Iñaki", ["The Voice of Iñaki"] a film financed by the Government of Navarre that premiered in 2008.

#### PABLO IRABURU – BIO - director

Since the foundation of Arena Comunicacion, Iraburu has shot documentaries for the United Nations, the Spanish Government and several of the main Spanish Non Governmental Organisations such as Manos Unidas, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, Forum Barcelona, Medicus Mundi, etc. He has directed documentaries shot in Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela, El Chad, the Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Malawi, Thailand and India.

Iraburu's first full length documentary film was "Nomadak TH" [www.nomadakt.com], also in co-production with Thalap.art, which was filmed in India, Lapland, the Sahara and Mongolia and directed by Raúl de la Fuente, [Photography Director in "Pura vida"]. In this particular film, Iraburu was Co-script writer, Co-director and Co- executive producer.



#### ARENA COMUNICACIÓN & THALAP.ART - producers

This is the second feature film that these two production companies produce together.

The first one was a great experience with the multi awarded film NÓMADAK TH. Its International Premiere was at IDFA 2006 and has been awarded at the San Sebastian IFF, Guadalajara IFF, Silverdocs, Durban IFF, Mofom (Prague), Docs DF (Mexico), Belfast IFF, Napa Sonoma FF, etc. It has been screened in more than 100 international film festival and the audience voted the film as the Second Favourite film of the 20 Years of IDFA, and was again screened at IDFA 2007 with the other 19 films chosen by the spectators. The international distribution company is Outlook Films and it will be soon premiered in cinemas in USA, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Holland, the United Kingdom, Benelux, Poland, for wich countries the theatrically rights have been already sold.

The experience with that film has been so helpful for "Pura vida", as well as the contacts in festivals, broadcasters and distribution companies. They were all asking for the next project of the team of Nómadak TH, but they needed 4 years to choose the story they wanted to tell. They had it so clear with "Pura vida".

**SUPPORTED BY:** ICAA (Spanish Ministry of Culture), INAAC (Government of Navarra), **Government of Basque Country**

**BROADCASTERS:** TVE (Spain), ETB (Basque country)

#### MORE DATA

Filmed on location in Canada, United States, England, Switzerland, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Kazakhstan, Spain and Nepal.

Production: 2010 / Postproduction: 2011 / Premiere: 2012 (Potential: San Sebastian Film Festival)

Running time: 84' / 52' (TV). Shooting format: HDcam, Super8mm, digital photography (time lapse)

Screening format: DCP / 35mm. Screening ratio: 1:1.85 Language: English, Spanish, Russian, Nepalese.

#### Ficha técnica

Pablo Iraburu	Director, Executive Producer, Scriptwriter.
Migueltho Molina	Director, Scriptwriter
Igor Otxoa	Executive Producer
Marga Gutiérrez	Production Manager
Itziar García Zubiri	Head of Production
Raúl de la Fuente	Photography Director & Operator
Iñaki Alforja	2nd Unit Camera Operator
Mikel Salas	Music
Ernesto Santana	Sund
Patxi Alda	Postproduction Director
Natxo Leuza	Postproduction

#### Ficha artística

Iñaki Otxoa de Olza Seguin	Pamplona - Navarra
Mingma Sherpa	Kathmandu - Nepal
Horia Colibasanu	Bucarest - Romania
Ueli Steck	Interlaken - Switzerland
Dennis Urubko	Almaty - Kazakhstan
Alexei Bolotov	Ekaterinburg - Russia
Sergei Bogomolov	Saratov - Russia
Robert Szymzak	Gdansk - Poland
Alex Gavan	Bucarest - Romania
Mihnea Radulescu	London - England
Don Bowie	Bishop - United States
Nancy Morin	Calgary - Canada
Nima Nuru Sherpa	Kathmandu - Nepal

PURA VIDA / THE RIDGE

[www.puravidatheridge.com](http://www.puravidatheridge.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/PureLifeTheMovie>

ARENA COMUNICACIÓN & THALAP.ART

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