



# ORQUÍDEA

## CONTACT

Emily Cohen Ibañez, [reversafilms@gmail.com](mailto:reversafilms@gmail.com), 347-420-3998

## LOGLINE

*Orquídea* is a kaleidoscopic tale of the political and ecological life of orchids in Colombia. The story is told through people who care for orchids in the jungle and the orchid's perspective itself.

## SYNOPSIS

In Colombia's Amazonian region of Caqueta, the FARC, a leftist guerilla group trying to overthrow state power since 1964, protected the jungle to hide under its canopy of trees. In 2016, they signed a peace treaty. Paramilitary groups and narco-traffickers took over the jungle. Within 6 years, 40% of Caqueta's Amazonian jungle has been deforested. But a ray of hope gleams. In 2018, Colombia's Supreme Court passed a law that grants the country's jungle and rivers legal personhood. In 2022 the Colombian people elected Gustavo Petro, its first leftist president with an environmental agenda. Yet deforestation continues on a massive scale in a politically volatile country.

Enter an ethnographically surreal world located in the Colombian Amazonian jungle. *Orquídea* is a kaleidoscopic tale of the political and ecological life of orchids in Colombia, a country with the widest variety of orchids on the planet. This is the story of a fragile flower, the orchid, struggling to survive; Colombian and international people must work together to save it. Will they succeed?

In *Orquídea*, the lead character is Colombia's national flower, the orchid, providing a window into late modern capitalism and its roots in colonial exploration of the Americas. As one of the ecosystem's best bio-indicators, the orchid is a stand-in for life itself on earth. The orchid is intersex, a non-binary life form that has diversified more than any other in the plant kingdom. The orchid encounters an unlikely crew of conservationists from peasant farmers to biology students to ex-combatants of Colombia's decades long war. They all dream of restoring peace and ecological sustainability in the jungle through saving the biodiversity of orchids. How will the orchid respond to their dreams? Will the humans be able to cooperate to save the biodiversity of the orchid, the jungle, and the planet?

Stunningly cinematic verité captures in-the-moment dialogue and disputes between the humans as they work with orchids. As protagonist, the orchid narrates encounters with humans who both help and endanger their quest to survive.