

local news

Innovative Documentary Shot and Edited in Cusco

By Maxi

Josh Hyde and Dan Fischer are a team of independent filmmakers who have come to Cusco to document how tourism and globalization are affecting shamanism in Peru. Josh and Dan call themselves LoFu Productions and the rest of their crew consists of anthropologist Dan Vacant and multimedia producer and film editor James Saldana. The

documentary they are filming will be called "Despacho", the Peruvian name for an offering to the earth from the earth.

Filming started on the 14th of April with the arrival of a group of ten American tourists that came to Peru under the guidance of to Denisse Kinch to experience regional shamanistic medicine. LoFu documented their travels through Cusco, the sacred valley, Machu Picchu, Puerto Maldonado and Nasca.

The second part of their project was to film a medical visit to the Patacancha valley and Huilloc. "Vanishing Cultures", the NGO run by Denisse Kinch in the USA, organized the trip with the purpose of giving the people in these isolated towns medicines and health education.

As Josh puts it, "In America, we lack spirituality and therefore these people that come to learn shamanism from Peruvian shamans, are actually healing themselves in a way that American society does not provide. In contrast, the indigenous people have a strong spiritual connection with the earth, but lack access to antibiotics and other modern medicine." Despacho's purpose is to show that both societies need to be healed, and that this healing can be achieved through the two interactions that they experienced with the help of people like Denisse Kinch.

Lo Fu productions are using an innovative editing process that is made possible through digital technology and commercially available editing programs of professional standards. By editing in country instead of going back to the US to do postproduction, they are able to maintain contact with their subjects and if necessary can re-shoot scenes and fill unforeseen gaps. "Working in Cusco allows us to be in touch with our inspiration for the story line throughout the process of making the film"