



# Seed

**A film by Joel Stängle  
In collaboration with Mike Threesixty**

Experimental Fiction

9 minutes and 40 Seconds

Format: 16:9

Screening format: DCP/Prores/HDCAM

Languages: Narrated in Nahuatl (the language of the Aztec), and English

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## Synopsis

The modern myth of a farmer in search of a place to plant his corn seed. In search of clean soil, he must pass through the Industrial World and the Digital World. However, the seed can only grow in the Spiritual World, and he must learn to listen to the call from above. Narrated in Nahuatl, the language of the Aztec.



## Director's Notes

### The Philosophy

Modern man is living without myth. We are detached from the heroes of the past, and our monsters are every different today. It is the job of the storytellers of today to redefine the myth of our age. We are transitioning from the industrial into the digital era. Man himself creates things far greater than the Greek Pantheon ever imagined, and yet where are we without the simplest things?

Where are we when water is contaminated with oil to keep the world in motion, when a seed doesn't grow because the ground is destroyed by radiation to make electricity? Where are we when we replace nature and the mysteries of the spiritual world with the technologies that are confined by the limits of understanding?

The tools of our era are the same monsters that threaten us. At the hands of "progress" we threaten to erase thousands of years of culture, with acts such as replacing the Hopi corn with genetically modified seeds, seeds that terminate, seeds that don't continue the cycle of existence.



Where will we be when we have lost connection to the simplest parts of life, to our heritage? Who are the warriors of our times? Are they the farmers holding on to traditions in the face of hostile change? Who are the monsters? Are they the industries, the modern social system?

But what use is tradition in this changed world? The world has changed, but the soul of man and the fundamental questions have not. Tradition is not the shovel you use to plant, it is the act of planting. It is not only the style of hieroglyphs on the wall, it is the act of writing on the wall for the world to read a message. It is the thing that gives the story of man continuity and meaning, and thereby a way to identify and look for answers on our existential search. Yes, tradition can continue in a modern context, it is perhaps the only thing that can guide us on the right path and tame the monsters of modernity. The modern tools must also be used traditionally, to sustain us, and preserve culture; they must be used to battle the monsters of our day, and save our souls.

Modern man is looking for direction, but we are all looking together, across cultural boundaries, looking for the same thing, fighting the same battles. The modern myth must encompass the global culture, and a history that spans from the ancient to the modern.

### The Text

The text is from a volume of an Ancient Aztec Codex. It is narrated in Nahuatl.

## The Technical

The technique is meant to reflect the respective worlds. In the industrial world I used analog, old 16mm and hand developed the footage rather crudely in buckets. As we transition into the digital landscape I of course used more digital. Experimenting with different types and styles, from animation to HDR time-lapse. There are also moments where the worlds transition and mix, here there is a play on 16mm projected backdrops, animation and digital combined.



But what medium is worthy of the spiritual realm? I learned there is none. Here the content is the only things that can come close. Filming the growing of a seed, the sky, the dances and rhythms that are thousands of years old. Together they can produce something that harkens the power of the spiritual.

## Biographies

**Joel Stangle** is a young director born in the US to German parents. Accordingly, he lives and works with his feet on both continents. His fiercely independent production style is a rejuvenation of auteur cinema. His global touch has led to the creation of films, in languages that range from German, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, all the way to Nahuatl (Aztec language).



Joel Stangle and Mike Threesixty on set

**Mike Threesixty** is a Muralist, Musician and Gardener from Nuevo Mexico. With a message of the conservation of culture and nature, he travels the USA painting, making music and planting seeds.

## Credits

### **Warrior**

Mike Threesixty

### **Aztec Group**

Kalpulli Hue Hue Koyotl

### **Dancers**

Temok Mosqueda

Santiago Jaramillo

Ketzal Cihualt Diana

Ignacia Genco

### **Music**

Tzotzollin

### **Crew**

Robert Stroud

### **Narration, Music**

David Atekipatzin Young

### **Sound Design**

Doug Gallob

### **Murals, Artwork**

Mike Threesixty

Quentin Rice

Jolt

### **Song**

Tonantzin

### **Director/DoP**

Joel Stängle

Filmed at the Guerilla Garden art Studios

