



Blood and Water

An American executive, framed for murder in a corrupt third-world country, must befriend a hunted rebel to survive and expose an ecological disaster and genocide.



Blood and Water

A puma stalks along a majestic Mayan temple's wall in the dense rainforest of Guatemala. Downstream, a massive hydroelectric plant forms a wedge across the river. Electrical power lines lead to a smoggy city, where an enclave of estates with security gates and guards form a green oasis.

TAVO, the charismatic revolutionary leader of the H2O protest movement, is outraged over the country's toxic water. Tavo and a friend break into an estate to talk to the CEO of the country's major utility, called APCo, and accidentally kill him.

KATE and BEN are on a quest to save the world. They target one of her father JUSTIN's venture capital investments, APCo. They believe they have identified the source of the water contamination at an illegal mining operation. They meet with AL DELAURO, who works for Justin at APCo. DeLauro says he will help them but needs more time to organize a team of scientists to visit the mine.

When Tavo is arrested for murder at a water protest rally at an APCo dam, the protestors get violent and Ben is killed. Kate, grief-stricken, goes missing, not sure of whom she can trust.

Justin interrupts his business deal in Shanghai, China, and flies to Guatemala City to find Kate. He visits the dam with OLGA, APCo's security officer. Olga hints there's some kind of conspiracy regarding the water toxicity. Justin's drugged and becomes unconscious. When he comes to, he's in his hotel room and Olga is in his bathtub, bludgeoned to death with the towel rack. The local militia break down his door and throw Justin in the cesspool they call a prison. His cell mate is the "murderer" Tavo, who hates all corporate types and thus distrusts Justin.

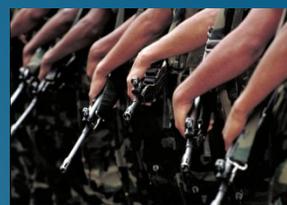
The water protests intensify and military rule takes over.

Despite the U.S. Embassy's evacuation of all Americans, Kate stays to figure out what is happening – why kill Ben and why frame Justin? While Kate conducts her own investigation, Justin must survive prison – the squalid conditions and threats on his life. He plots an escape. Tipped off, Tavo forces Justin to include him or he'll blow the whistle. They escape and make their way across Guatemala, hiding in dumpsters, escaping human burial pits, and eluding the militia in the ancient Mayan waterways.

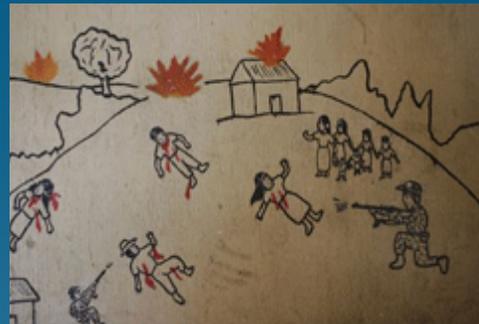
Back in Guatemala City, Kate tries to piece together the corporate clues – implicating APCo, the militia, and the venture capitalist firm. Can Kate prove the conspiracy behind Ben's death and Justin's incarceration? Can they prevent needless deaths from the toxic water? How far will Tavo go to avenge his people and save his country? Justin asks Tavo, "Terrorist or freedom fighter? Which is it going to be?" Tavo replies, "It all depends on who wins, doesn't it?"

For centuries, the Mayans endured dictators who brutalized the peasants. The peasants would rise up and destroy the dictators. Time would pass.

And it all would begin again.



Our Team



Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough, Screenwriter/Producer

Gayla has written award-winning feature screenplays and has written/produced three short films. Her first short, *A PIG'S EAR*, is set in Appalachia in 1970 and deals with racial relations. It has been accepted at 15 festivals, including the LA Short Fest and Cannes Short Film Corner.

Her second short, *SLAP*, stars Clancy Brown and Mel Rodriguez. *SLAP* had its world premiere at Palm Springs International Short Film Festival (1 of 320 selected out of 3,200 submissions) (2009). Since then, *SLAP* has screened at more than 40 festivals, including LA Shorts Fest, New Orleans, Sedona, Houston, Newport Beach, Phoenix, and Denver Starz. *SLAP* has won festival awards, audience awards, and best of fest awards. *SLAP* just completed a tour with Tribeca's American Now+Here project, where it screened in 5 cities. *SLAP* now has a distribution deal with Shorts International. www.slaphemovie.com

Because of her first short, she obtained a grant to write/produce her third short, *HELOISE*, based on the two French lovers, Heloise and Abelard. *HELOISE* has screened at several festivals already. Her research for this short script enabled her to write the feature script, *HELOISE+ABELARD*.

Today, because of the success of her short films, she has had three of her features optioned by different producers: 1) *YEAR OF THE CATERPILLAR*, a coming-of-age story, which Alison Eastwood will direct; 2) *HELOISE+ABELARD*, an historical romance, which CAA gave a "Recommend" to; and 3) *BLOOD AND WATER*, a political thriller set in Guatemala.

She was accepted to the Squaw Valley Writers' Conference, Screenwriting Program (2011), where she worked on a new script. She is a Women in Film (WIF) member and served on the Northwestern University Entertainment Alliance (NUEA) Board. She has been a Judge for the Spirit Awards, Big Bear Lake Film Festival, and Lunafest; and for the upcoming Zealous X in London. She's a Screenwriters' Group member with the University of Virginia Entertainment Los Angeles (UVELA). She has also been on a number of film panels with UVELA, NUEA, and the Global Social Change Film Festival – Bali, Indonesia.

She is also an entrepreneur as President/Founder of KH Consulting Group (KH), a management consulting firm that has served 200 clients in 25 states and 6 foreign countries.

www.khconsultinggroup.com At KH, she has worked in an array of fields – academia, government, healthcare, utilities, bioterrorism, airports, and seaports. She has traveled to more than 50 countries. These experiences help her tell realistic stories in believable settings with characters people care about.

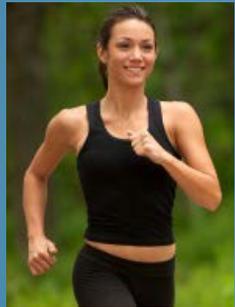
She has a BS degree, Northwestern University, School of Communication; a Masters degree, Tufts University; Ph.D. and Masters degrees, University of Virginia; and a post-doctorate fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Program. She earned a Feature Screenwriting Certificate through UCLA Extension.

Cast of Characters

The Americans



JUSTIN, a venture capitalist, goes down to Guatemala after his daughter Kate disappears. When wrongly accused of murder, he must team with Tavo and survive in the jungles while fleeing the military police. While on the run, he discovers he values people, family, and life over money.



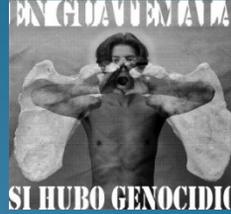
KATE has been on a quest to show her father Justin makes bad investments in the environment. She gets involved in the H2O movement and finds more than she bargained for. She befriends Lupe and, together, they seek the men in their lives and the truth.



AL DELAURO, a U.S. venture capitalist, thinks investing in APCo is a great opportunity until he finds himself in the middle of an environmental atrocity.

Demetrio Cuzzocrea

The Guatemalans



TAVO CASTILLO, fit and charismatic, is the rebel leading the “H2O” movement. He speaks articulately and passionately from the heart and is the political spokesperson for the intellectuals, liberals, and peasants.



LUPE CASTILLO, Tavo’s spirited, devoted, and loving wife, fears for his life and doesn’t trust anyone. She is the reason Tavo has the will to live and fight.



CAPTAIN ANGEL PERA has a refined, commanding presence. He not only thinks he is God, but around these parts, he IS God. He loves tango music, animals, and knives. He plots to take control of the country and rid it of foreign greed.

Edward James Olmos

Audience Demographics

U.S.

The American audience will relate to the film, given the current unrest, corporate corruption, environmental atrocities, and reported genocide in the world.

Millenniums, Gen X, and Baby Boomers will value the film because of its social injustice message, combined with political intrigue.

An oft-neglected U.S. audience is the growing Latino population, who will be drawn to BLOOD AND WATER. Today there are few Latino-themed films with strong role models, such as Tavo and Lupe. And yet, in the top ten U.S. cities, Latinos make up more than 30% of the market. The U.S. has 6 million Spanish-speaking residents.

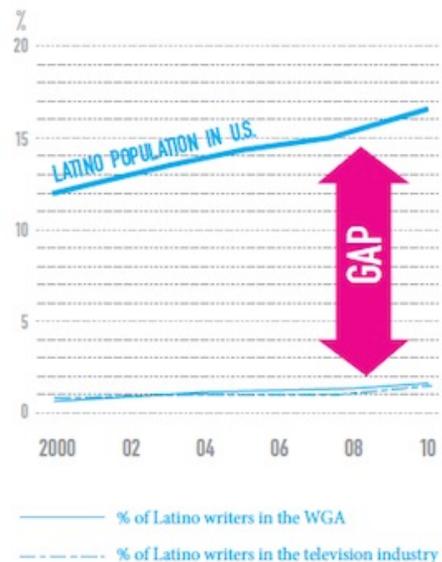
Finally, everyone is drawn to well-done dramas with redemptive endings. The Guatemala experience is universal of any country with oppressive regimes – whether in Latin America, The Middle East, Eastern Europe, or Asia.

Foreign

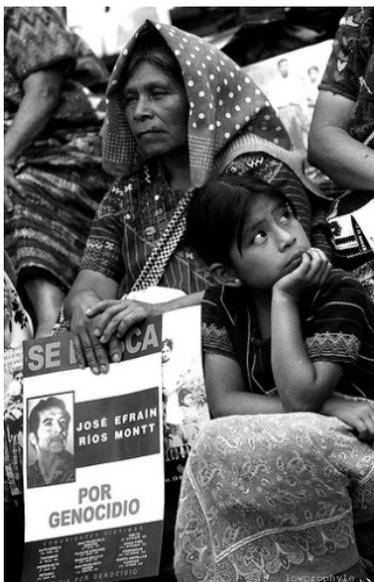
Because BLOOD AND WATER is a political thriller, it will have universal appeal.

Foreign audiences account for 45% to 60% of the gross box office receipts of the top movies. In general, the foreign audiences fall into similar categories as the American audiences although attendance can be higher in some territories, such as Eastern Europe.

This film will also attract Latino audiences in both South America and North America.



http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sj-main/the-latino-media-gap-crisis_b_5604714.html



Budget and Distribution

Budget

An overview of the \$29m budget is at the end of this document.

It assumes that the project will be primarily shot in the United States. Costs could be reduced by shooting the project by taking advantage of tax credits in Puerto Rico or reduced costs for shoots in Latin America.



Distribution Channels

- U.S. distribution
- Foreign distribution
- Pay TV (e.g., HBO, Showtime, Starz, or other pay networks) – The income generated from this licensing can be proportionate to or greater than the theatrical success and subsequent audience interest in the film.
- Television and Syndication – After video and pay TV, the last remaining market is the licensing to basic cable stations (e.g., Spike, TBS, or Bravo).
- Netflix and Home Video/DVD – This growing market can exceed theatrical distribution revenues. Success at the box office will impact home viewing performance.
- Non-theatrical rentals (i.e., revenues collected by the distributor from film rentals to universities, colleges, and other institutions) – There is minimal income generated from such markets.

Distribution Companies

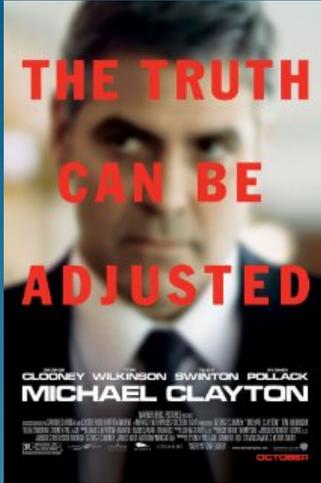
Target U.S. Distributors/Producers

- Fox Searchlight Pictures
- Escape Artists
- The Weinstein Company
- Sony Classics
- Roadside Attractions

Target United Kingdom and European Distribution

- Studio Canal
- Wild Bunch – UK
- Pathe' Films – Paris/UK

Comparable Films



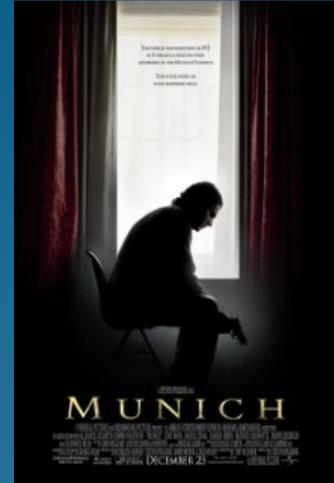
MICHAEL CLAYTON (2007): Director /Writer Tony Gilroy, starring George Clooney, Tilda Swinton, and Tom Wilkinson. Grossed \$50 mil US.



THE CONSTANT GARDENER (2005): Director Fernando Meirelles, starring Ralph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz, and Hubert Koundé. Set in Africa. Grossed \$36 mil US.



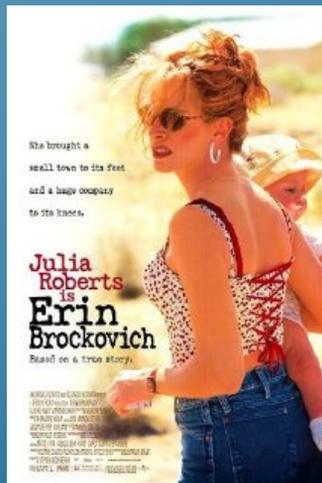
BLOOD DIAMOND (2006): Director, Edward Zwick; starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou, and Jennifer Connelly. Set in Africa. Grossed \$100,000 mil US.



MUNICH (2005): Director Steven Spielberg, starring Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, and Marie-Josée Croze. Grossed \$50 mil US.



BABEL (2006): Director Alejandro González Iñárritu, starring Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, and Gael García Bernal|. Set in Asia, Mexico, Japan, and Morocco. Grossed \$35 mil US.



ERIN BROCKOVICH (2000): Director Steven Soderbergh starring Julia Roberts and Albert Finney. Grossed \$125 mil US.



ARGO (2012): Director Ben Affleck, starring Ben Affleck, John Goodman, and Alan Arkin. Grossed \$136 mil US.

And many more...

- Tailor, Tinker, Soldier, Spy
- Taken
- The Kingdom
- Body of Lies
- The Good Shepherd
- Hotel Rwanda
- Ronan
- Syriana
- The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
- Spy Game...

Guatemala, a land of contrasts...



...Mayan culture...



...violence



...and genocide



... and environmental nightmares



... in a land no bigger than Ohio.



Script Rights and Contests

Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough is the sole writer of the script. BLOOD AND WATER is registered with the Writers Guild of America. BLOOD AND WATER screenwriting contest entries include::

- Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting (top 15%)
- Acclaim Film & Television Competition, Top 10 Finalist
- Big Bear Lake International Film Festival, top 5 finalist



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