



# CEMETERY

A FILM BY CARLOS CASAS

## **CEMETERY**

(prov. Title) version 1.1

Directed by Carlos Casas

Film in process of development.

HD COLOR 110 min.

Production: still to be defined

Co-production: Still to be defined

### **Synopsis.**

Sveda, a gurka mahout\* living in the border of India and Nepal, leaves his village to take Nga, his old elephant partner with whom he worked as tourist tour guide since he was 9 years old, to an unknown cemetery once his grandfather told him, along the way we are taken by a monologue of remembrance across time, and we are lost in the jungle in a journey of discovery, mourning and reincarnation, Nga is supposed to be the oldest elephant of the world, it's age is unknown.

There will not be a descendant, Nga leaves no future for Sveda who will have to find a new job in the city. All his calves were killed by the poachers\* and died earlier, Nga was at service of Maharasha Raja Jonipur\* during the earthquake in the 20s. It would follow the Raja into the wild tiger hunts, and guide him also to his reclusion as a Yoghi. The new raja sold all possessions of the previous raja and most of his belongings went on sale, amid his collection of tiger furs, and his elephants who end up in Chitwan national park, Nga has been guiding tourist along the jungles of Chitwan, some say thousands of German, English, American, Irish, Spanish, Italian..., tourists have been carried by Nga, they discover...His age is unknown, it is supposed to be older than 100 years. Since the first mention of Nga in the royal archives is in 1910.

\*(an hindu elephant caretaker and guide)

\*\* (Some say NGA was born in 1904 a son of the royal lineage)

\*Poachers: tusk traffickers, related to a new mafia and organized crime that supposedly has tights even to Al-Qaeda. And which operates in Nepal, and the north of India.

## Notes.

A film about death, reincarnation, immortality, where Hindu and Buddhist traditions mix.

A film about memory, colonialism, discovery, loss of innocence, collapse of all sanctuaries and unexplored territories. A road film on elephants, a sound oriented film guided by a monologue voice over, the amazing sounds of the jungle and a deep sound research related to the sonic language of the elephant.

The film wants to be a sort of deconstruction of traditional animal documentary, an homage to the jungle stories of Kipling, Rice Burroughs and also an homage to old adventure films that populated my childhood, the film is a requiem for the unknown, for the undiscovered, for the elephant cemetery that doesn't exist, for a shangrila. The elephant cemetery is our bardo thos tol our black hole, in between our lives, the place we need to arrive to reeincarnate in something better.

## Film structure:

The film structure will be divided in three, first part will be the trip, the second: the black interlude (the Bardo Thos tol), the third: the new light. Reincarnation.

The death of the elephant will be portrayed in black darkness and only through sound, the spectator will fully immerse in the sound of the jungle and off course the last sounds produced by the elephant.

## Image.

The shooting will be done with a two HD cameras in a sort of stereophonic recording I am currently developing.

## Sound.

Sound will be the most important of the components of the film. A collaboration with sound artist Chris Watson is envisioned

