

TRAINING OF STREET COMEDIANS IN THE SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT OF MINING IN THE JUNGLE.

Prepared for Oscar Lara

This document aims to shed light on the strengths and work opportunities with Ambulant Comics concerning the socio-environmental context and gold mining in the Peruvian Amazon.

In this regard, I develop three points to begin the conversation:

1. Strengths and Opportunities for Work:

The socio-environmental context is so worrying, devastating, and entails so much corruption that it apparently lacks amusing elements to develop. However, the improbable paradoxes that coexist to make the Great Business of illegal mining persist are precisely the genuine foundation of sarcastic and ironic humor capable of dismantling all the misinformation disseminated in popular media (NOTE: misinformation for being bad and manipulative).

The knowledge of the different actors related to mining and their socio-environmental context is real: endless cases, stories, controversies, and parallel worlds unknown to the national and international urban world that allow a detailed development of each character within the Ambulant Comic space.

Having participated as an observer and consultant for formal miners and a resident of Madre de Dios throughout the process of Illegal Mining while being an ECO-cultural conservationist has enabled me to visualize the panorama from many points of view simultaneously; to analyze the various situations in their entirety and to find multiple solutions to the pressing realities.

2. Opportunities for Development (Based on Sarcasm and Creativity):

The diverse events surrounding illegal mining, informal mining, and “legal” mining, combined with the parallel realities and their actors at the local, national, and international levels, allow for the creation of several artistic representations that can be understood across all instances and sectors of the population.

The ability to “weave” local situations with regional, national, and international instances connects the local population with the national and the world. This opportunity is quite particular as it invites/challenges the listener/viewer to contrast their rights with many others, including: those mobsters making millions from illegal mining corruption; other societies leading global trends regarding social justice related to environmental issues and health; those transnational companies with green laurels (certificates) that paint themselves as “sustainable” miners; and environmental corporations that crown themselves and applaud annually at COPs, talk shows, among others.

The eternal and tragic impotence of the “mountain keepers” (conservationists) for not being able to tilt the balance in favor of environmental justice in life.

Questioning situations, analyzing the “pictures,” and proposing solutions to the various components of the mining problem at the national level.

Developing/characterizing new characters within the scope of socio-environmental themes related to mining.

3. Proposed Characters:

- *The old miner invited to populate Madre de Dios to work gold*, who has lived in times when internationally his work was deemed “inhuman”; to mitigate this, he has received the benefits of the mining bank and has grown with it; he has lived through procedures to recognize his mining “request”; he has paid thousands of soles to the “Engineer” who scammed him with environmental studies that would not work (none have been prosecuted due to incapacity or state plan) and pays annually to the state for his “extraction right,” also paying fines for “non-compliance” with extraction quotas; he is bombarded by the state for working.
- *The Illegal Miner RQ*, who pays no state entity (and does not issue traceable receipts); who pays a FEE to work. Who coordinates all his actions with the police who move the motors of some judges and prosecutors in the region, selling his gold to collectors/front men of the “heads” controlling the business from the outside. Who spends his money on events like “Clavito and his Combo” or “Esto es guerra,” on adulterated beer and trafficked women.
- *The highway police officer* assigned by the state to control illegal mining and its resurgence at Km. 105 of the interoceanic road, who immediately understood the business, formed his cartel, and “cut deals” with other “partners” to ensure everyone profits. That same police officer is also an actor in environmental talk shows where he appears showing a worried face and a strategist's demeanor, a special command attitude. The “delivered” servant of the state flies over the mining zones accompanied by the Minister of Environment (who is also dressed in command gear), bombarding the malfunctioning motors of his mining partners or those who “do not pay the FEE.” The police have created a price catalog for each “pass” of mining supplies to the camp: pump motors, support, hoses, fuel, oil, and everything else. His maximum expression was “Burresti,” who was the High Commissioner of Mining Interdiction and Formalization, later even a presidential candidate for Peru, and spent 300 million soles (of our taxes) to interdict illegal offenders. As a result, the same miners now work within the Tambopata National Reserve and continue working safely. In many societies, anti-illegal mining police are considered National Heroes fighting for justice amid the most terrible national social insecurity (a fact previously corroborated by the newspaper “El Comercio” and by 4to Poder).
- *The judge of Madre de Dios* (the prosecutor could also be another) who has not controlled or monitored in reality but is also an actor in media shows; who has motors in illegal mining through front men, but “nobody” knows. Who has not jailed ANY traffickers of girls, but when he walks, he seems to radiate much pride from the power of his investiture.
- *The local resident* aware of having experience in many other fields due to family and work. Who is of fair thought and wants to continue seeing and defending his forests.

Unmeasurable persistence despite numerous clashes with the incapacity, inefficiency, and negligence of the state but still continues trying. He even risks his life by “putting his chest” in the midst of much social insecurity stemming from the arms of the mafia. The representative Don Alfredo Vracko, murdered by illegal mining in 2015.

- *The shaman* who works at the magical-spiritual level to reconcile the miner with the land so that it shows him its gold and makes him earn much money. He offers dispatches, offerings, healings, protections... removes evils, witchcraft, and fixes incredible situations. He convinces the miner that he is being attacked, ensuring his job ‘in eternum.’
- *The trendy environmentalist from Lima* who fills their FB with environmental posts, does yoga, never misses any environmentalist march that gets thousands of likes, is moved and even has chest pains over the news published by former environment minister Pulgar Vidal. They have a strong, secure, almost wise opinion about environmental injustice; know the latest from DiCaprio and admire the awareness of a European.
- *The “overbearing” Mother Earth* that ‘doesn’t need humans’ to live, sure that if necessary, she will just expel them and shake herself off. Who, without much drama, sends rains and landslides, floods, and collapses... to give us a lesson and make us reflect; who laughs at our prayers when they are incoherent; who, in some way, also feels “treated” without consent and knows why there’s no jail time for her traffickers.