**Development**

This project started with two words: folklore and adaptation. At our core, the two of us are storytellers. And the first stories many of us encounter in our lives are fairytales, myths, and folklore. These tales that captivated us as children, these were what we wanted to explore. To start, we read volumes of tales across a diverse range of cultures and watched various films that were adapted from or inspired by written word. This helped inform our film’s story and style. Our film was written to be a sort of modern fairytale. Traditionally, fairytales are meant to help children navigate the world and deal with the changes of growing up. Our version would deal with the changes and fears that come from leaving for college.

**Production**

Production began in the early summer of 2021. For 6 days, we all hiked to the lockhouse, carrying equipment, props, and food. Each day started at 7:30 am. We carefully planned our days to give us enough time to get everything we wanted. However, it wasn’t all smooth sailing. Our generator could only supply so much power, so we had to make it last as long as possible. Trains, planes, and passing pedestrians would interrupt filming. Rain was a constant threat. We stayed on our toes, constantly problem-solving to keep production in motion. And at the end of a very long, but very fun and fulfilling week, we had shot our film.

In the editing room, we took our footage and assembled it into a rough cut. From this cut, we made revisions, eventually producing the final edit.

While we had finished working on the picture, we still needed sound. We turned to some talented recent graduates, who created for us a unique, captivating, and sometimes frightening soundscape.

We have always found music extremely important in movies, and we wanted our film to reflect that. One of the first people we brought on to the project was our composer, a Peabody student who specializes in film scores. Her score enriched every scene, making the film more emotionally immersive.

**Conclusions**

It is hard describe just how much we have learned from this project. We are completely different filmmakers than when we started in 2018. Planning is everything. Throughout every part of the process, we made sure we had contingencies in place in case things went wrong or something unexpected happened. Communication is vital to the process. With so many people working on the project, you need to be constantly keeping up with their progress and making sure they have everything they need to create. And finally, we learned to take pride in our accomplishments. When making a film, it is very easy to be caught up in the moment. There is very rarely a chance to take a step back and actually admire the project as a whole. Filmmaking is an extremely difficult undertaking, filled with challenges that can at some points seem insurmountable. But we did finish it. And we are happy with it. And we can’t wait to do it again.

The Filmmakers Would Like to Thank

The Cast: Persia Zurita, Julieta Gozalo, Yinka Olagbegi, Nicole Wade, Julia Asher.
The Crew: Daniela Mileykovsky, Jack Strayton, Alex Hecksher Gomes, Abena Ababio, Mary Yan, Aarushi Krishnan
Post: Lukas Mackinney & Scott Li, Ashna Pathan, Budapest
Scoring
Location: C&O Canal Trust, The National Parks Service
Our mentors, Matthew Porterfield and Dr. Natalie Strobach