



## EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT 'El abrazo de la serpiente'

Autumn  
Season  
2016

Release: 2015

Cert (UK): 12A

Runtime: 122 mins

Director: Ciro Guerra

Screenwriter: Ciro Guerra & Jacques Toulemonde-Vidal from the diaries of Theodor Koch-Grünberg & Richard Evans-Shultes

Cinematography: David Gallego

Cast: Nilbio Torres, Jan Bijvoet, Antonio Bolívar



'This movie from Colombia was an Oscar nominee last year for best foreign language film – a Conradian jungle dream, or nightmare, shot in searing, scorching monochrome. It has something of Herzog's 'Aguirre' or Coppola's 'Apocalypse Now', a drama about the west's obsession with the dark interior and with the money

to be made for adventurers who are unafraid of the danger, and the equally intoxicating promise of new knowledge frontiers' – Peter Bradshaw, Guardian. The story interlinks two real explorers' adventures, 30 years apart. The link is a tribal shaman they both met. They are travelling into the Amazon, searching for the medicinal and psychedelic yakruna plant, whilst, in the background there is always the west's desire for rubber, plus a Christian evangelist mission...

The director, Ciro Guerra, has done two films before this, but this one has brought him 37 awards around the world and nominations from Cannes and even for an Oscar; the critics and audiences seem to love it everywhere.

'Young Colombian director Guerra's visionary and wildly ambitious film seems like a movie from another era. It's the kind of jungle epic that Werner Herzog might have tackled in his prime' – Geoffrey Macnab, Independent.

'It is gripping, challenging, engrossing stuff, beginning to end. Seriously, what a film' - Tom Long, Detroit News.

'Guerra's remarkable film dives deep into seemingly infinite forests, and deep, too, into the soul of man' – Stephen Rea, Philadelphia Inquirer

