



# BITTERSWEET COFFEE

## THE FILM

BITTERSWEET COFFEE is a film of struggles and dreams. Set in the coffee region of Nicaragua, two silent decades after the Civil War, the filmmaker allows us to enter the lives of three women connected to the land in different but profound ways. How do their struggles impact their families and communities? Do they have a chance, as women, in a society strongly dominated by a 'machismo' mentality?



BITTERSWEET COFFEE shows us how, behind every cup of morning coffee, many bitter stories unfold. Despite traditional barriers, these women are determined to change the patterns of rural poverty. We will see that fairer access to capital for women plus innovative use of the land could be the key to a sweeter future.

The powerful collage of the three stories will result in a film that is highly dramatic, while offering a window to modern-day rural Nicaragua. The viewers will be engaged by the daily heart-wrenching struggles that the women must overcome. The stories will be told entirely from their perspective, cut with images of Nicaraguan market life, festivities and breathtaking rural landscapes.

Will **Juana** obtain legal title to the land she has cultivated for decades and which used to be hers?

Will the risk of taking up alternative agriculture lead **Dora's** family to more stability outside the coffee season?

Will **Dominga** be able to influence other women to take their own future in their hands?

**Running Time:** 60 min.

**Format:** DV

**Spoken language:** Spanish

**Subtitles:** English, German, French, Italian

**Production Start:** Summer 2006

**Post-Production Start:** Winter 2006

### AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST:

- Content and Visual Treatment
- Background Information
- Production Schedule
- Financial Plan, Crew and Budget
- Trailer (2 min.)
- Demo Reel of Previous Work

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

**Margarita Semadeni** completed her Master's degree in Business in Switzerland. After work experiences in journalism and a career as Project Manager for a Swiss bank, she has been increasingly interested in writing and producing film projects.



Margarita Semadeni completed a film program at Ryerson University (Toronto, Canada) in 2005. She produced THE KITE, a short film shot in 16 mm, her debut as a fiction writer/director.

*"Having Nicaraguan roots myself, I have always been attracted by this fascinating country whose natural richness strongly contrasts with its troubled past. During prolonged visits to the Northern rural regions, I noticed progress but also structural and cultural problems which remained unresolved. I felt an obligation to give a voice to the untold stories of the people in the coffee region. Getting to know these unique women has profoundly changed my view about rural poverty in my motherland, Nicaragua, and opened my eyes about possible solutions".* Margarita Semadeni, Producer and Director of BITTERSWEET COFFEE.

## ABOUT THE CO-PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

**Dominika Dittwald** studied film at the Ohio University School of Film and also holds an Honours Bachelor Degree of Arts with specialization in Peace and Conflict Studies and a major in Psychology from the University of Toronto.



Dittwald has worked on more than 30 other film projects as Director of Photography, Editor and Production Designer. Currently she is the Director of Photography for 'Freedom Formula', a Canadian documentary film which follows the democracy process in Belarus and other Eastern European countries.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

Dolce Vista International productions address the complexities of globalization, merging cultures, loss of identity and their impact on economics, politics, culture and human psyche in a captivating and accessible way.

Dolce Vista International started 'Famous Players', a documentary directed by Dominika Dittwald and produced by Margarita Semadeni, about the life of a group of subway musicians in Toronto. The project received development funding from the TV network OMNI Television (Toronto Hot Docs 2005 Award).

