



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

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Duration: 3'48"

CIRCUS ARTS FIND YOUNG FANS IN MEXICAN 'LOST CITY'

VIDEO

Various shots of neighbourhood,
buildings, dogs in the streets,
crazy slopes

People in the streets, activities,
electric wires all from one pole

Med shot Juan Cartos on camera

Shot of him meeting people,

AUDIO

NARRATION

Some neighborhoods were never meant to exist.

Places like this section of Mexico City -- settled in the mid-80's despite the dangerous incline of its slopes...

But by now it's home to a whole generation of young people -- born and bred at the edge of urban life (18")

Juan Carlos Hernandez Vazquez (Spanish):

"This community is known as the "lost city" due not only to the geographic conditions but also because of (the) high rates of violence, drug trafficking and drug consumption" (15")

NARRATION

But now the community is on the map for something other than urban blight -- says Juan Carlos Hernandez, director of the Machincuepa Social Circus. (9")

Med shot JUAN CARLOS on camera

Juan Carlos Hernandez Vazquez (Spanish):

“Little by little, Machincuepa created a safe space where children and young people could play without problems.” (12”)

NARRATION

Pictures of students doing somersaults

Machincuepa is word derived from Nahuatl – an aztec language: it means somersault. (6”)

Pix Chris teaching

Helping with these circus arts workshops are instructors from the world-famous Cirque Du Soleil. Canadian circus artist Christopher Taylor sees this as chance to teach his specialty – aerial arts – as well as something else: (15”)

Chris Taylor: (English)

Med Shot Chris Taylor on camera

We’re giving them the things that we learn which is discipline and sacrifice, in order to achieve what we want. But we do it in a way that allows them and encourages them to be themselves. (8”)

NARRATION

Judit in her house

Judit, 17, joined the Machincuepa program a year ago and finds her life already changed. (6”)

Judith Serrano Monroy ,17 (Spanish)

Judith Monroy on camera

“It has helped me a lot to develop relationships with other people and to express myself” (6”)

NARRATION

Judith on walking in the streets

But what really makes the activity unique, she says, is the chance to give back something of value to her community. (7")

Med shot Judith

Judith Serrano Monroy , 17 (Spanish)

"Even if it's only for a brief time, we make people laugh so they forget their pain and their sorrows " (7")

Neighbourhood Morning
workshop. Instructor training

NARRATION

The impact of Machincuepa's activities is beginning to resonate beyond the neighborhood. A number of its older graduates teach circus arts in towns and rural communities across Mexico. Nancy Galicia Guzman is writing her thesis on the Machincuepa Circus Programme. (17")

Med shot Nany Galicia Guzman
on camera

Nancy Galicia Guzman :(Spanish)

"To write about the workshop I need to experience it" (3")

Various shots instructor training

NARRATION

She is passing on what she learns here to children with disabilities (4")

Med Shot Nancy Galicia Guzman

Nancy Galicia Guzman :(Spanish)

"It is very beautiful to see a blind child using his legs to play with a hoop and saying "I 'm doing circus" (6")

NARRATION

The Machincuepa Social Circus is supported

Establishing shots Citlalin and people in the circus.

By Unesco, The Un Agency for Education, Science and Culture. Human rights experts from the agency say that circus arts foster an artistic sensibility that is at the core of the children's universal right to education. (17")

Various shot Mario and his family in the house

That's not something young mario has been giving much thought to—and for his mother, Maria Eugenia Rico, it's enough that her son is spending less time playing video games and hanging around on the street. (11")

Med shot Maria Eugenia Rico on camera

Maria Eugenia Rico (in Spanish):

"It is better that he goes to the circus workshop than to end up in the streets and getting into drugs". (6")

NARRATION

Mario in the circus

bad habits that can be overcome with the discipline of circus arts. (4")

Chris Taylor on camera:

Chris Taylor: (English)

To learn something like juggling or to learn how to roll upside down or a handstand, you really need to be in your body you can't think about work or school or how little food you have or how upset you are at home.

"Our job is to be here and to be here right now"
(16")

NatSot (Music) up and out.

This report was prepared by Michele Zaccheo

UN LOGO

for the United Nations Television.