of Black History to empathize with the material and draw a real connection between them. These connections aid the argument and conclusion to ground the material in something much closer to our present than America tends to argue. Creating a docuseries on such a well-discussed and debated topic can seem redundant, but as some critics state, it is a necessary piece of the story for equality. As for the shortcomings of the anthology publication of *The 1619 Project* and previous articles, the show has received mostly positive responses and critiques. The show's significant point and takeaway is Nikole Hannah-Jones's attempt to humanize this narrative by striving for empathy in reference to the 400 years of struggle and experiences of Black Americans.

Monay D. Brown

Pamela Yates, director. *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*. Kanopy, 2011.

Special Jury award winner and human rights activist Pamela Yates brings awareness to the world about racism, war crimes, and genocide. She focuses on America and Latin America with an emphasis on legal work. In her 2011 documentary, which won eight awards and was nominated for an Emmy, *Granito*: *How to Nail a Dictator*, Yates shines light on the genocide and oppression of the Guatemalan people, especially the Mayan indigenous community. About 200,000 Guatemalan civilians were executed under the dictatorship of General Rios Montt. Throughout *Granito*, the people questioned how Guatemala could be a city of impunity.

Yates returned to Guatemala after filming her previous documentary, When the Mountains Tremble to establish the human rights case against former General Rios Montt. With the help of human rights activist Rigoberta Menchú, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for traveling internationally to speak out her testimony. Testimonies from within the city, indigenous communities, and guerilla soldiers illustrated that Guatemala needed help to end Montt's doings. In addition to Guatemalan civilians, they gave secret evidence to one of the women who worked along with Yate's film crew. Based on the evidence they

managed to bring the court case to Spain. If they had filed the lawsuit in Guatemala, the civilians and indigenous community members would have not been allowed to speak about their experiences. After the documentary was released, four former soldiers were pronounced guilty of killing a Mayan village during the war. Then in 2013, ex-military leader Montt was convicted of genocide and crimes against humanity but with no court date. However, by early 2015 the trial was suspended because of bias from the lead judge, but by August 2015, Montt was back on trial despite suffering from dementia.

Granito is divided into three parts explaining the process of capturing Montt and taking him to court. General Rios Montt was the Guatemalan dictator during 1982-83, along with being the chief of military intelligence, resulting in having complete control of Guatemala. The first part focuses on Yates and her team going through all the CDs and documents to analyze what they could have missed. Meanwhile, providing unforeseen evidence, Yates explained the struggles of the Mayan community and how the guerilla resistance protected their people. The second part focused on getting Montt to court for genocide. During the years of Montt's dictatorship, Yates managed to unearth evidence of Montt's killings and disappearances of Guatemalan civilians by rediscovering a clip where Montt proudly states that if he was not a good leader, then what would he be doing? Through the difficulty, Guatemalan civilians hoped that one day they would find justice for their loved ones who disappeared from Montt's soldiers. The third and final part focused on encouraging the youth and other civilians that Yates and her team have been trying to expose Montt and his horrible injustices to Guatemala. As a result, a judge from Spain accepted the evidence from Yates and her team to arrest Montt for committing genocide and other crimes.

Yates uses police and military records, CDs, and archeological works to display the horrors of the genocide war. The archeological evidence showed that many young people died from being shot in the head based on skull fractures. Montt and his soldiers had no sentiment but to follow orders and kill civilians. A strength of the documentary was the display of Montt's wrongdoing. He was ruthless towards Guatemala and its people. His connections with the United States were unjust

because the U.S. did not know precisely what foreign aid was being used. Yates includes testimonials during the run-down with the judge in Spain to explain their experiences of having their friends and family members either killed or disappear. The human rights activists helped victims' families seek answers and speak out. All those who provided testimony had a political and social standpoint in their stories.

This documentary shows cinema can expose war crimes in a foreign country. Being ruled by a dictatorship leaves an impact on innocent civilians. We see powerful emotions through the experiences Guatemalans lived through. The police were no help; in fact, they were used to extort and terrorize the people in the village. Police records, military records, CDs, testimonies, and archeological work offer a wide range of seeing a country go down but also providing hope that justice can be found to develop a better country. Montt, had total power and his cruelty affected the country's social structures, politics, economics, and indigenous communities. With solidarity, a *granito* (grain of sand) really can liberate the people and a nation. A grain of sand is like a piece of justice; change comes from struggle and hardships that unites collective and individual rights.

Marina Marquez Saban