



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (5 SEPTEMBER 2026)

**OSCAR® SHORTLISTED FEATURE DOCUMENTARY YANUNI FROM
AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR RICHARD LADKANI LAUNCHES ON
YOUTUBE TODAY**

**Film Available Exclusively on Producer Leonardo DiCaprio's
YouTube Channel**

**Release Timed to World Amazon Day and One Month Ahead of
Critical Elections in Brazil**

**"Juma is one of the most memorable characters audiences could
meet in a documentary." – POV**

"Thrilling and deeply human."

"Timely and inspiring."

Amazon, Brazil / Los Angeles, CA / New York, NY / Vienna, Austria (Sept. 5, 2026) –

Oscar® Shortlisted Feature Documentary **YANUNI** begins streaming today exclusively on YouTube. The release of the film – which has been hailed by critics as "a cinematic reckoning" – is timed to World Amazon Day, and one month ahead of critical elections in Brazil on October 4, where the stakes could not be higher for the preservation of the forests. YANUNI follows Juma Xipaia, an Indigenous chief from the Amazon, who rises from activism to Brazil's new Ministry of Indigenous Peoples. While her husband Hugo, a federal agent, raids illegal gold mines, she navigates politics, threats, and impending motherhood — at the personal cost of resistance.

The film premiered at last year's Tribeca Film Festival to critical acclaim and went on to play more than 65 festivals around the world and win more than 25 awards, including SUNCINE Environmental Film Festival "Golden Sun", SCAD Savannah Film Festival Best Documentary Feature and Best Director; the Mostra Internacional de Cinema em Sao Paulo Audience Award for Best International Feature Documentary; the Los Angeles Brazilian Film Festival Best Documentary Feature; and the Cinema for Peace International Green Film Award.

"From the territory to the world: as part of the film's production team, I am proud that we chose to make it available for free on YouTube so that this story can reach everyone," said Xipaia. "At this critical moment for the Amazon, the film's message could not be more important. I hope it crosses borders, awakens consciences, and inspires the world to act before it is too late."

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A fearless defender of her people and the rainforest, Juma has survived six assassination attempts while confronting illegal gold miners, land-grabbers, and multinational corporations threatening her ancestral land. Spanning years of activism and personal sacrifice, the film captures Juma's historic appointment as Brazil's first Secretary of Indigenous Rights under President Lula.

"This is not just a story about Brazil, but a global story about sustaining the most important ecosystem on the planet - what happens in the Amazon truly has global implications," said director Richard Ladkani.

"At a time when focus on the environment is being eclipsed by authoritative regimes, this film reminds us why we need to continue to keep the environment top of mind in global conversations. We are so grateful for Leo's commitment to giving this story the international platform it needs and sharing it on his YouTube channel."

"The timing of this release could not be more poignant, with Brazil heading into a consequential election and the future of the Amazon at stake" added executive producer Dax Dasilva.

"Bringing **YANUNI** to a global audience gives Juma's timely story an opportunity to reach millions at a moment when it can truly matter, not just in the conversation, but making a real impact on the ground. This is exactly the kind of meaningful, urgent storytelling I always seek to champion as a producer."

The film will be available with subtitles in English, German, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Catalan, Italian, Thai as well as English and German Voice Over.

Told with intimate access and cinematic urgency, **YANUNI** is both a love story and a call to action. It illuminates one of the world's most critical environmental and human rights struggles through a deeply personal lens. At once epic and intimate, **YANUNI** is a powerful portrait of resilience, Indigenous sovereignty, and the fight to protect the world's largest rainforest—for future generations and the planet we call home.

Credits:

Directed by Richard Ladkani

Produced by Anita Ladkani, Richard Ladkani

Producers: Juma Xipaia, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Davisson, Phillip Watson

Executive Producers: Joanna Natasegara, Laura Nix, Eric Terena, Dax Dasilva, Martin

Choroba, Philipp Schall

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