



Official Selection

# THE MAN I LEFT BEHIND

A LARRY TOWELL, MATTHIEU RYTZ & HUBERT HAYAUD FILM

EDITED BY HUBERT HAYAUD WORD, VIDEO & STILL BY LARRY TOWELL  
SOUND DESIGN SYLVAIN BELLEMARE MUSIC BY LARRY TOWELL, JOSE ANTONIO MEJIA, DHAIFER YOUSSEF, DAVID LANG & ZIYA TABASSIAN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MURRAY BATTLE, PATRICE RAMSAY, FABRICE PUCHAULT, RASHA SALTI ASSOCIATE PRODUCER DENIS MCCREADY  
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY LARRY TOWELL, MATTHIEU RYTZ & HUBERT HAYAUD  
PRODUCED BY MATTHIEU RYTZ

[WWW.TOWELL.FILM](http://WWW.TOWELL.FILM)

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PRESS KIT - MARCH 1st 2024

# THE MAN I LEFT BEHIND

**World Premiere at  
Vision du Réel 2024**

DIRECTED BY

Larry Towell, Matthieu Rytz and Hubert Hayaud

RUNTIME

83 minutes documentary

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English, Spanish, Ukrainian, Arabic, Dari

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION

Canada

FESTIVAL REQUESTS

**THE FILM COLLABORATIVE**

Jeffrey Winter, Co-Executive Director

[jeffrey@thefilmcollaborative.org](mailto:jeffrey@thefilmcollaborative.org)

OTHER REQUESTS

Matthieu Rytz, producer

[matt@rytz.co](mailto:matt@rytz.co)

PRESS MATERIALS

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/jg3voopbryj4zv78clnfh?rlkey=vaz8iggcmi68fjlvcw0zt037&dl=0>

**WWW.TOWELL.FILM**

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## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

For 40 years, Magnum photographer Larry Towell has documented the plight of the displaced around the world. In *The Man I Left Behind*, he captures the universal longing of people looking for a place to call their own.

## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

Larry Towell's business card reads: 'Human Being'. And for the past 40 years, the celebrated Magnum photographer has chronicled humankind's deepest struggles. In *The Man I Left Behind*, the Canadian artist and folk musician reflects on his relentless pursuit of stories shaped by conflict and displacement.

In *The Man I Left Behind*, Towell pulls from a vast archive of photos, videos, songs, and poetry to contrast the turmoil of conflicts over territory with the serenity of his own family farm. The film poignantly explores how losing land can mean losing self and is a testament to the power of bearing witness. The film ultimately portrays the profound absurdity of war.

## **BIOGRAPHIES OF THE DIRECTORS**

### **LARRY TOWELL**

Larry Towell, born in 1953 in Ontario, Canada, is a prominent documentary photographer and musician renowned for his work on conflict, human rights, and issues related to land. After completing his visual arts studies and spending a unique period of creativity on a raft, Towell documented conflicts in Nicaragua and Guatemala before joining Magnum Photos in 1988. His significant projects include in-depth explorations in El Salvador, Palestine, among Mennonites, and in Afghanistan.

Towell has received numerous accolades for his work, including the prestigious World Press Photo of the Year. His documentation of historical events, human rights issues, and conflicts, along with his personal projects, have been featured in leading publications such as The New York Times Magazine, Life Magazine, Rolling Stone, Geo, Stern, The Atlantic, and The New Yorker. His contributions to the field have culminated in the publication of sixteen books, several music projects, and *The Man I Left Behind*, his debut film.

### **Filmography :**

THE MAN I LEFT BEHIND • 83 minutes • documentary • World Premiere at Vision du Réel 2024

## **MATTHIEU RYTZ**

Matthieu Rytz is a producer, curator, photographer, and award-winning film director with a background in visual anthropology. His passion for storytelling has driven him to explore and document complex human and environmental stories around the globe. Rytz specializes in crafting multidisciplinary, multichannel projects, leveraging film, still images, and virtual reality to optimally tell these stories.

His debut feature film, *Anote's Ark*, was met with widespread acclaim following its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in 2018, winning numerous awards. His follow-up, *Deep Rising*, presented at Sundance 2023, was shortlisted for an Academy Award and reached audiences at more than 150 festivals worldwide. Rytz's projects have gained recognition on prestigious platforms such as PBS, CBC, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Al Jazeera, BBC World News, France Télévisions, Democracy Now, El País, Canadian Geographic, IndieWire, ABC Australia, and POV Magazine. In 2024, he will premiere his third film, *The Man I Left Behind*, at Visions du Réel.

Matthieu was born in 1980 in Switzerland. He currently resides in Bali.

### Filmography :

THE MAN I LEFT BEHIND • 83 minutes • documentary • World Premiere at Vision du Réel 2024  
DEEP RISING • 85 minutes • documentary • World Premiere at Sundance Film Festival 2023  
ANOTE'S ARK • 74 minutes • documentary • World Premiere at Sundance Film Festival 2018

## **HUBERT HAYAUD**

After completing his cinema studies in Paris, Hubert Hayaud moved to Montreal, where he has lived for twenty-five years. He splits his professional life between editing feature-length documentaries, fiction films, and photography.

He is a frequent contributor to the francophone newspaper *Le Devoir*, and his photographic work has been featured in publications such as *Le Monde*, *Leica Fotografie International*, *Géo*, *The Guardian*, *Libération*, and *The New York Times*. The short and feature-length films, fiction, and documentaries he has contributed to have been showcased at various prestigious festivals, including those in Venice, Karlovy Vary, TIFF, and Hotdocs. *The Man I Left Behind*, his debut film, is set to premiere at Visions du Réel in 2024.

### Filmography :

THE MAN I LEFT BEHIND • 83 minutes • documentary • World Premiere at Vision du Réel 2024

(OPENING)

(KNOWLEDGE ORIGINALS OPENING CREDIT)

(OPENING CARDS)

THE MAN I LEFT BEHIND  
Images and Words Larry Towell

(END CARDS)

THE MAN I LEFT BEHIND

A film by Larry Towell  
Matthieu Rytz  
Hubert Hayaud  
Edited by Hubert Hayaud  
Produced by Matthieu Rytz

(ROLLING CREDITS)

Narrated by Larry Towell  
Written & Directed by Larry Towell  
Matthieu Rytz  
Hubert Hayaud  
Video & Stills by Larry Towell  
Sound Design by Sylvain Bellemare

Artificial Intelligence was not involved in the making of any part of this film.

Produced with the financial participation of



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## THE CREW

Executive Producer    Matthieu Rytz  
Murray Battle - Knowledge Network  
Patrice Ramsay - Knowledge Network  
Fabrice Puchault - ARTE FRANCE / La Lucarne  
Rasha Salti - ARTE FRANCE / La Lucarne

Associate Producer    Denis McCready

Story Consultant    Michael-Oliver Harding

Image Post Production    Post-Moderne  
Project Manager, Postproduction    Jérémy Gendron  
Assistant Editors    Philippine De Sars  
Philippe Goulet  
Alex Corej  
Color grading    Ismael Ouattara  
Online Editor    Annaël Beauchemin  
Quality Control    William Gendron Rousseau  
Online    Musta Zaoui

Sound Edit Studio    Film Sly  
Sound Design    Sylvain Bellemare  
Fx Sound Editor    Paul Col  
Dialogue Editor    Stan Sakell  
Mix Studio    Premium Sound  
Re-recording Mixer    Joey Simas  
Coordinator Premium Sound    Camille Goulet-Brisson  
Manager Premium Sound    Steve Gurman

Translation    Transcription City LTD

Legal    Vanessa Loubineau / ARTEM  
Sarah Ismert / ARTEM

Music rights clearance TRAM7  
Insurance Provided by Globalex/Front Row  
Production manager Alexandrina Torres de Figueiredo  
Ian Jaquier  
Marina Serrao  
Accounting Isabelle Côté CPA

#### MUSIC

*Opening Scene* Don Rooke - slide guitar  
*Home Is Where Your Friends Are* Gwen Swick- background vocals  
Anne Lindsay- violin  
*The Man I Left Behind* Larry Towell - Lyrics, vocals, saw  
Mike Stevens - harmonica  
Don Rooke - Kona guitar  
The Things That Time Decays Larry Towell- Lyrics, vocals, guitar  
Gwen Swick - background vocals  
Mike Stevens – harmonica  
Mennonites section: The Door Of Larry Towell - Words and reading  
Jeff Bird- bass, overtone flute  
Witolf Grabowiecki- accordion, piano  
Jaro Cerwinec- accordion  
Dyke Family- vocals  
Gwen Swick – second vocal  
*Refugee* Larry Towell - Lyrics, vocals, guitar  
Jeff Bird - bass  
Don Rooke - Kona guitar  
Gwen Swick - background vocals  
Mike Stevens – harmonica  
*El Salvador* Jose Antonio Mejia  
*Miel et Cendres* Performed by Dhafer Youssef - Courtesy of Back Beat  
Edition  
*Diaphanes* Performed by Dhafer Youssef - Courtesy of Back Beat  
Edition  
*Dawn Prayer* Performed by Dhafer Youssef - Courtesy of Back Beat  
Edition  
*I Lie* Performed by The Crossing  
(David Land) - Published by Universal Music Publishing  
Canada, Universal Music Corp.  
Courtesy of Universal Music Publishing Canada  
*Entre Nos Peaux* Performed by Ziya Tabassian - Courtesy of DAME, Ziya  
Tabassian  
*Envol* Performed by Ziya Tabassian feat. Reza Abaee -  
Courtesy of Ziya Tabassian

#### LARRY TOWELL WISHES TO THANK

Fixers and friends who helped navigate the field

In Afghanistan : Ali Ahmed, Hashim Shakoor, Habib Zohori, Arif Afzalzada. In Ukraine : Volodymyr Petrov, Anastasia Vlasova, George Mazur, Dmitry Pashchenko, Igor Chekachkov, Fedir Petrov. In Mexico : Eduardo Giralt. In Native America : Josué Rivas

Military personnel in Afghanistan: Major Taylor and Captain Stoney Portis.

Magnum Photos & staff over the years including Mark Lubell, Bob Dannin, Shannon Simon, Neil Burgess, Chris Boot, David Kogan, Alice George, Giulietta Palumbo and all my fellow Magnum photographers.

Nik Tjelios, Scott Merritt, Mike Stevens, Jeff Bird, Gwen Swick, Don Rooke, Lois Cherry, Shane Cooke, Jack Cooper, Randall Coryell and all friends who helped me create music.

The people of El Salvador, Chiapas, Palestine, Guatemala, Standing Rock, Afghanistan, Ukraine, the Mennonites of Mexico and Bolivia, friends and neighbours in Dawn-Euphemia Township, my wife Ann and children Moses, Naomi, Noah, and Isaac Towell.

The Canada Arts Council, The Henri Cartier Bresson Foundation, The Magnum Foundation, Guggenheim Foundation, The World Photo Foundation.

Stephen Bulger Gallery

Stephen Mayes, Uri Avneri, Jeremy Scahill, Alex Strick van Linschoten, Felix Keuhn, Sarah Polley, Colm Feore, Mila Aung-Thwin, and everyone else who somehow helped shape this film.

Find us online at [towell.film](http://towell.film)



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