

MISTRAL ARTIST - NEW YORK
"Salero" - International CCs

11/02/2015
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01:00:00.00
01:00:00.01
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::**.**
02:15:37.14

- 1: 00:00:22.18 00:00:25.23
#[Sounds of footsteps,#
#and tools clinking.]#
- 2: 00:00:52.13 00:00:55.05
#[Sound of polishing metal.]#
- 3: 00:01:12.04 00:01:14.19
#[Sound of pouring water.]#
- 4: 00:01:16.15 00:01:19.10
#[Sound of wire being twisted.]#
- 5: 00:01:20.03 00:01:23.02
#[Sound of truck motor.]#
- 6: 00:01:31.21 00:01:34.00
I don't know much
about Armstrong but
- 7: 00:01:34.06 00:01:38.04
when he got to the moon, he saw
something white on the Earth.
- 8: 00:01:41.18 00:01:43.17
Maybe it was sparkling.
- 9: 00:01:45.09 00:01:47.10
He must have been surprised.
- 10: 00:01:48.10 00:01:51.16
#[Theme music comes up.]#
- 11: 00:01:52.07 00:01:53.22
He froze,
- 12: 00:01:54.08 00:01:56.03
paralyzed.
- 13: 00:01:58.16 00:02:01.06

"What is that?" he wondered.

- 14: 00:02:03.18 00:02:07.07
He didn't realize
that it was a salt flat...
- 15: 00:02:07.13 00:02:10.07
the Salar de Uyuni.
- 16: 00:02:14.09 00:02:17.15
#[Theme music comes up stronger.]#
- 17: 00:03:45.20 00:03:49.05
#[Theme music fades out.]#
- 18: 00:03:55.21 00:03:59.03
#[Sound of wind blowing.]#
- 19: 00:04:11.15 00:04:15.02
#[Sound of pickaxe#
#digging into salt flat.]#
- 20: 00:04:24.09 00:04:27.07
#[Sound of shoveling salt.]#
- 21: 00:04:37.18 00:04:39.07
The Salar is my whole life.
- 22: 00:04:39.13 00:04:40.16
It's my work.
- 23: 00:04:41.12 00:04:45.00
#[Sound of salt landing#
#in truck.]#
- 24: 00:04:45.19 00:04:49.01
Harvesting this precious element,
salt.
- 25: 00:04:51.14 00:04:56.10
#[More sounds of shoveling salt.]#
- 26: 00:05:01.16 00:05:04.18
There's no other place
like the Salar.
- 27: 00:05:06.07 00:05:09.03
And there never will be.
- 28: 00:05:11.21 00:05:14.23
It's the most peaceful place
on earth.
- 29: 00:05:20.01 00:05:23.03
#[Theme music comes back up.]#
- 30: 00:05:40.19 00:05:43.19
Colchani is the gateway

to the Salar.

- 31: 00:05:45.01 00:05:48.04
#[Sounds of children playing.]#
- 32: 00:05:48.18 00:05:52.19*
It has always been a place that
minerals passed through.
- 33: 00:05:55.06 00:05:58.12
When they were building
the train line,
- 34: 00:05:58.18 00:06:02.06
two trains collided
right where Colchani is today.
- 35: 00:06:05.00 00:06:07.15
And they built Colchani's
first house here
- 36: 00:06:07.21 00:06:10.02
at the site of the crash.
- 37: 00:06:15.17 00:06:18.18
#[Sounds of women#
#and children chattering.]#
- 38: 00:06:19.00 00:06:21.02
My life has been here
since my childhood
- 39: 00:06:21.16 00:06:25.07
with my brothers,
my sons and my wife.
- 40: 00:06:27.00 00:06:28.14
We've gone through so much,
- 41: 00:06:28.20 00:06:30.22
so much happiness
and so much sadness.
- 42: 00:06:32.13 00:06:35.21
And we have to keep going,
for better or worse.
- 43: 00:06:36.03 00:06:37.00
Always.
- 44: 00:06:37.06 00:06:38.20
#[Laughter.]#
- 45: 00:06:40.19 00:06:42.18
Who wants to be a Salero?
- 46: 00:06:43.00 00:06:44.18
Me! Me! Me!

47: 00:06:46.20 00:06:47.09
Good.

48: 00:06:48.02 00:06:49.05
Is the pile done?

49: 00:06:49.11 00:06:50.05
Yes.

50: 00:06:51.03 00:06:53.06*
Who knows how to sing
in Quechua?

51: 00:06:53.12 00:06:54.16
#[Child singing.]#

52: 00:06:54.22 00:06:56.23
Cristian doesn't, does he?

53: 00:06:58.04 00:07:01.14
#The sun is rising,#
#The sun is brightening.#

54: 00:07:01.20 00:07:05.18
#It's time to herd the sheep,#
#Out of the corral onto the land.#

55: 00:07:07.00 00:07:07.19
Now Maykel alone.

56: 00:07:08.01 00:07:10.17
#The sun is rising,#
#The sun is brightening.#

57: 00:07:10.23 00:07:14.15
#It's time to herd the sheep,#
#Out of the corral onto the land.#

58: 00:07:14.22 00:07:17.01
That's it. Champ!

59: 00:07:18.12 00:07:20.23
Your grandmother, my mother,
she taught that to me.

60: 00:07:21.05 00:07:22.19
Can you do it, Cristian?

61: 00:07:23.01 00:07:23.21
No.

62: 00:07:24.03 00:07:25.21
Just do what you can.

63: 00:07:30.02 00:07:32.19
Here, I'll start it for you.

64: 00:07:33.03 00:07:35.16
#[Sound of older boy singing.]#

65: 00:07:36.16 00:07:39.14
#[Younger boy singing.]#

66: 00:07:44.01 00:07:45.14
#[Laughter.]#

67: 00:07:45.23 00:07:46.21
He can do it!

68: 00:07:51.10 00:07:55.10
#[Sound of father chatting#
#with children.]#

69: 00:07:59.23 00:08:02.12
#[Theme music comes up softly.]#

70: 00:08:09.18 00:08:13.01
My work is like an inheritance,

71: 00:08:13.07 00:08:15.19
passed down from
my great-grandfather,

72: 00:08:16.01 00:08:18.17
to my grandfather,
to my father, to me.

73: 00:08:19.06 00:08:22.01
#[Sounds of children playing.]#

74: 00:08:27.04 00:08:29.06
Ten years ago, everybody,

75: 00:08:29.12 00:08:32.20
all the men from the village
worked on the Salar.

76: 00:08:39.19 00:08:43.23
#[Sound of wind whistling#
#through shell of building.]#

77: 00:08:48.17 00:08:51.02
The salt processing plant,

78: 00:08:51.08 00:08:53.21
it was Colchani's future.

79: 00:08:58.17 00:09:01.16
But it has already passed
into history.

80: 00:09:02.00 00:09:05.10
Today, it can't even mill
a single kilo of salt.

81: 00:09:08.01 00:09:12.06
#[Soft sound of newspaper#
#flapping in wind.]#

82: 00:09:13.20 00:09:18.08
Colchani is the only town that
still produces salt on the Salar.

83: 00:09:18.16 00:09:21.22
We still do it
the old-fashioned way.

84: 00:09:22.10 00:09:24.20
#[Sound of salt being refined.]#

85: 00:09:34.13 00:09:37.00
Nico is my older brother.

86: 00:09:39.00 00:09:41.18
He has
a salt-processing workshop.

87: 00:09:42.09 00:09:45.09
We've always worked together.

88: 00:09:46.04 00:09:48.06
Always together.

89: 00:09:52.10 00:09:55.07
There aren't many of us left.

90: 00:09:55.13 00:09:59.18
We are the only ones who can
still call ourselves "Saleros".

91: 00:10:03.11 00:10:07.05
We're the sons of this land,
and we should be proud.

92: 00:10:07.17 00:10:11.01
#[Sound of machinery fades out.]#

93: 00:10:20.01 00:10:22.23
#[Sound of TV in distance.]#

94: 00:10:24.18 00:10:28.10
#[Sound of TV show for kids.]#

95: 00:10:33.08 00:10:35.13
Colchani is really quiet.

96: 00:10:35.19 00:10:37.19
I'm pretty bored here.

97: 00:10:39.13 00:10:41.18
We don't even have
a market here,

98: 00:10:42.00 00:10:44.13
or anything to entertain us.

99: 00:10:45.03 00:10:47.00
I'm either shut up here
in the house,

100: 00:10:47.06 00:10:48.21
or I go help Moises work.

101: 00:10:49.13 00:10:52.17
#[Sound of soap opera music.]#

102: 00:10:52.23 00:10:55.00
That's why I like
watching "telenovelas,"

103: 00:10:55.06 00:10:57.07
they're about life in the city.

104: 00:10:59.06 00:11:01.06
There's one about
a girl who's poor.

105: 00:11:01.12 00:11:03.03
She sells flowers.

106: 00:11:05.07 00:11:07.14
#[Sounds of soap opera.]#

107: 00:11:08.23 00:11:12.17
She runs away with her boyfriend,
who is a millionaire.

108: 00:11:12.23 00:11:16.21
And becomes a famous singer
named Rosalinda.

109: 00:11:25.12 00:11:26.22
Is there meat in this?

110: 00:11:27.04 00:11:30.02
Just hush up and eat it,
Cristian.

111: 00:11:31.15 00:11:36.04
So are your cousins
going to come visit?

112: 00:11:38.11 00:11:40.17
No, they're busy.

113: 00:11:42.15 00:11:45.18
Mommy, don't talk
with your mouth full.

114: 00:11:46.01 00:11:47.14
#[Sound of mother laughing.]#

115: 00:11:47.20 00:11:49.00
Did you teach him that?

116: 00:11:49.06 00:11:50.11
Yeah, I did.

117: 00:11:51.12 00:11:53.06
Typical Cristian.

118: 00:11:53.16 00:11:55.20
#[Sound of father laughing.]#

119: 00:11:57.15 00:12:00.13
#[Sound of child playing.]#

120: 00:12:10.21 00:12:14.00
The life of every person
is already written

121: 00:12:14.06 00:12:17.00
with a starting point
and a destination.

122: 00:12:19.05 00:12:22.20
My destiny is like a voice
that comes from within me.

123: 00:12:28.22 00:12:32.05
#[Theme music comes up.]#

124: 00:12:36.21 00:12:38.11
#Mother Earth, Mother Earth#

125: 00:12:38.17 00:12:40.21
#Cusuña, Cusuña,#
#the three mountains#

126: 00:12:41.03 00:12:43.19
#May you always share#
#your rain with the Salar#

127: 00:12:44.01 00:12:45.11
#and with us.#

128: 00:12:46.20 00:12:49.00
#[Sound of man#
#blowing into fire.]#

129: 00:12:52.21 00:12:55.12
#[Sound of crackling flames.]#

130: 00:12:58.20 00:13:00.21
One night,
I dreamt that I crashed

131: 00:13:01.03 00:13:03.13
into a tourist car

with my truck.

- 132: 00:13:05.04 00:13:08.09
A lot of time passed,
two or three years.
- 133: 00:13:08.17 00:13:11.00
Then one day,
a car was driving towards me,
- 134: 00:13:11.06 00:13:13.19
and almost crashed into me.
- 135: 00:13:18.22 00:13:20.23
#[Sound of pickaxe#
#striking ground.]#
- 136: 00:13:21.05 00:13:23.05
Suddenly, I remembered
the dream I had.
- 137: 00:13:23.11 00:13:25.17
And I thought,
"This is that moment!"
- 138: 00:13:26.21 00:13:29.06
I swerved off the road,
almost falling out,
- 139: 00:13:29.12 00:13:31.19
and the other car
barely missed me.
- 140: 00:13:32.01 00:13:34.09
#[Booming sound of pickaxe.]#
- 141: 00:13:36.00 00:13:38.17
"That was my dream!" I thought.
- 142: 00:13:39.18 00:13:44.10
And I came to the realization
that it may take time,
- 143: 00:13:44.18 00:13:47.07
but my dreams will happen.
- 144: 00:13:50.15 00:13:53.20
#[Theme music fades out.]#
- 145: 00:13:57.16 00:13:59.13
#[Sound of SUV passing.]#
- 146: 00:14:03.06 00:14:05.13
#[Sound of shoveling salt.]#
- 147: 00:14:13.02 00:14:16.19
#[Sound of shoveling#
#water and salt.]#

148: 00:14:19.10 00:14:22.16
#[Sound of pickaxe and shovel.]#

149: 00:14:25.22 00:14:28.16
#[Sound of far-off voices.]#

150: 00:14:40.12 00:14:43.23
#[Theme music comes up.]#

151: 00:14:54.05 00:14:57.07
#[Sounds of a gathering crowd.]#

152: 00:14:57.15 00:14:59.18
#[Sounds of caravan arriving.]#

153: 00:15:08.15 00:15:11.07
#[Sound of SUV honking.]#

154: 00:15:13.03 00:15:14.22
#President Evo Morales#
#arrives today#

155: 00:15:15.04 00:15:17.11
#to commence exploration#
#of the vast reserves of lithium#

156: 00:15:17.17 00:15:21.22
#beneath the Salar de Uyuni,#
#the world's largest salt flat.#

157: 00:15:29.02 00:15:32.02
#Bolivia has the largest untapped#
#lithium reserve on the planet,#

158: 00:15:32.08 00:15:35.11
#more than#
#100 million metric tons,#

159: 00:15:35.17 00:15:37.13
#a reserve that could supply#

160: 00:15:37.19 00:15:39.16
#the entire world#
#for years to come.#

161: 00:15:40.02 00:15:42.10
#[Journalists speaking#
#in different languages.]#

162: 00:15:42.16 00:15:44.14
(Reporter) #International#
#competition is intense.#

163: 00:15:44.20 00:15:47.12
#Companies from France,#
#South Korea, Japan,#

164: 00:15:47.18 00:15:49.12
#they all want to get involved.#

165: 00:15:49.18 00:15:53.16
#[Reporters speaking#
#in different languages.]#

166: 00:15:55.07 00:15:57.11
(Reporter) #If Bolivia#
#does this right,#

167: 00:15:57.17 00:16:01.20
#Bolivia could be the Saudi Arabia#
#of the 21st century.#

168: 00:16:07.17 00:16:10.12
#[Sound of a military#
#marching band.]#

169: 00:16:19.13 00:16:21.09
#[Sound of woman laughing.]#

170: 00:16:26.13 00:16:27.11
Just think:

171: 00:16:27.17 00:16:33.07
I predicted in 2006 that
Uyuni was going to be a big city.

172: 00:16:33.19 00:16:35.10
That's why we planned ahead

173: 00:16:35.16 00:16:37.18
in building
an international airport,

174: 00:16:38.00 00:16:41.12
so that any flight,
domestic or international,

175: 00:16:41.19 00:16:45.17
could arrive at any time of day
at Uyuni International Airport.

176: 00:16:46.04 00:16:47.01
Secondly,

177: 00:16:47.07 00:16:50.17
we're expanding the electrical
grid in the region.

178: 00:16:50.23 00:16:52.16
That's underway now,

179: 00:16:52.22 00:16:54.22
and will be done
by the end of November.

180: 00:16:55.11 00:16:58.06
And this is for the benefit
of future generations.

181: 00:16:58.12 00:16:59.18
Ladies and gentlemen,

182: 00:17:00.00 00:17:01.13
this land of ours provides us

183: 00:17:01.19 00:17:03.12
with so much natural wealth.

184: 00:17:03.18 00:17:05.01
Just think!

185: 00:17:05.07 00:17:07.03
It is clear that Bolivia has

186: 00:17:07.09 00:17:09.09
the largest lithium reserve
in the world,

187: 00:17:09.15 00:17:12.16
beneath the Salar de Uyuni.
What does this mean?

188: 00:17:12.22 00:17:15.19
It means we are going to build
industries of the future here.

189: 00:17:16.01 00:17:18.07
This must be our goal!

190: 00:17:18.14 00:17:20.05
#[Sound of shoveling.]#

191: 00:17:20.20 00:17:23.20
Bolivia awaits the world.

192: 00:17:24.17 00:17:28.12
Ladies and gentlemen,
we must begin changing today!

193: 00:17:29.09 00:17:31.19
#[Sound of people applauding.]#

194: 00:17:32.01 00:17:35.13
#[Military marching band#
#strikes up music.]#

195: 00:17:52.07 00:17:54.14
#[Marching music stops abruptly.]#

196: 00:17:55.12 00:17:57.15
#[Total silence.]#

197: 00:18:14.06 00:18:17.11

#[Sound of children#
#playing with cans.]#

198: 00:18:19.11 00:18:22.05
#[Sound of whistling wind.]#

199: 00:18:23.13 00:18:25.22
#[Sound of water#
#being poured.]#

200: 00:18:29.20 00:18:34.01
People here say it's time
to develop the lithium.

201: 00:18:37.01 00:18:38.19
"Just imagine," they say.

202: 00:18:39.01 00:18:41.23
"So much lithium for Bolivia,

203: 00:18:42.05 00:18:43.18
"and for all Bolivians."

204: 00:18:46.17 00:18:48.18
"It was a sleeping treasure."

205: 00:18:53.04 00:18:55.16
"It will benefit everyone, right?"

206: 00:19:00.10 00:19:03.03
But it can also create greed.

207: 00:19:08.17 00:19:11.14
#[Sound of a bicycle.]#

208: 00:19:11.20 00:19:15.04
To the east of the Salar,
there are mountains.

209: 00:19:15.23 00:19:18.04
Then comes the city of Potosí.

210: 00:19:19.16 00:19:22.00
That's where the Spanish came.

211: 00:19:22.06 00:19:23.18
The conquistadors.

212: 00:19:25.08 00:19:30.06
What they found was a mountain,
full of silver.

213: 00:19:33.03 00:19:36.23
They saw so much wealth,
so much silver.

214: 00:19:38.21 00:19:41.20
Something they never

could have imagined.

- 215: 00:19:42.12 00:19:45.01
#[Mysterious theme music#
#comes up.]#
- 216: 00:19:45.10 00:19:47.14
That's when the Spanish decided:
- 217: 00:19:47.20 00:19:50.23
"This has to belong to us,
and nobody else."
- 218: 00:19:57.11 00:20:01.06
#[Thunderous sound of pickaxe#
#against wall of mine.]#
- 219: 00:20:02.07 00:20:05.03
They mined all the silver
of the Cerro Rico of Potosí,
- 220: 00:20:05.09 00:20:07.14
and sent it back to Spain.
- 221: 00:20:08.00 00:20:09.04
#[Hammer striking chisel.]#
- 222: 00:20:09.10 00:20:12.15
So much that you could build
a bridge of silver
- 223: 00:20:12.21 00:20:15.20
from Potosí
all the way to Spain.
- 224: 00:20:18.02 00:20:20.08
#[Sound of crumbling rocks.]#
- 225: 00:20:21.22 00:20:24.09
Bolivia was left in ruins.
- 226: 00:20:26.16 00:20:28.21
#[Mysterious theme music#
#fades out.]#
- 227: 00:20:47.22 00:20:49.05
It's virgin territory?
- 228: 00:20:49.11 00:20:50.10
Yes.
- 229: 00:20:51.02 00:20:53.22
Then you should work
this whole area.
- 230: 00:20:54.04 00:20:56.04
It's a great spot for cutting.

231: 00:20:56.10 00:21:00.01
So we're going to dig
the industrial pools here.

232: 00:21:00.18 00:21:06.06
And this whole area is fair game.

233: 00:21:07.22 00:21:10.00
#[Sound of a SUV engine.]#

234: 00:21:10.09 00:21:16.06
I think that we've entered an era
of opportunities for everyone.

235: 00:21:18.08 00:21:20.08
Wherever we plant our seeds,

236: 00:21:20.14 00:21:22.19
we are watching them grow.

237: 00:21:24.18 00:21:28.23
We haven't even begun
to scratch the surface

238: 00:21:29.05 00:21:32.14
of what we will
eventually develop.

239: 00:21:34.05 00:21:36.00
I mean...

240: 00:21:37.01 00:21:39.03
That mountain over there
is a 100 kilometers away!

241: 00:21:40.14 00:21:42.01
Incredible, isn't it?

242: 00:21:42.07 00:21:43.21
So much wealth.

243: 00:21:44.03 00:21:45.16
Our lithium.

244: 00:21:46.02 00:21:48.04
And we have
this entire area to work.

245: 00:21:48.17 00:21:52.03*
I think we'll be here
for the next 500 years.

246: 00:21:59.06 00:22:03.15
#[Theme music comes up#
#with worker's voices.]#

247: 00:22:05.03 00:22:06.02
Here.

248: 00:22:06.14 00:22:09.15
#[Sound of pickaxe#
#striking salt flat.]#

249: 00:22:15.21 00:22:17.15
Right now, we're here.

250: 00:22:18.15 00:22:21.03
So now we have
a point of reference.

251: 00:22:21.09 00:22:22.10
This one.

252: 00:22:22.16 00:22:25.18
We can only grind
from here upwards.

253: 00:22:28.22 00:22:31.19
Now we should go to Point 15.

254: 00:22:32.01 00:22:34.01
Right?
Let's go to 15.

255: 00:22:35.02 00:22:37.04
[Sound of truck engine.]

256: 00:22:38.20 00:22:42.23
This country has been backwards,
dependent, underdeveloped.

257: 00:22:48.22 00:22:51.00
What we need to do is

258: 00:22:51.06 00:22:53.17
step on the accelerator.

259: 00:22:54.01 00:22:56.05
#[Sound of truck engines.]#

260: 00:22:56.14 00:23:00.10
Because this is the first time that
our country has the opportunity

261: 00:23:00.16 00:23:05.01
to use a natural resource
for its own benefit.

262: 00:23:06.16 00:23:09.19
So this project is historic,
symbolic.

263: 00:23:11.14 00:23:14.09
And we can do it on our own.

264: 00:23:17.18 00:23:20.17

This isn't just about lithium.

- 265: 00:23:22.15 00:23:27.00
It's about this country
saying good-bye to the past.
- 266: 00:23:28.03 00:23:31.07
#[Sound of trucks passing.]#
- 267: 00:23:52.00 00:23:54.00
Did you call Grandma?
- 268: 00:23:56.16 00:24:00.13
And what did she say?
Isn't she going to come visit me?
- 269: 00:24:02.07 00:24:05.06
C'mon!
You haven't come in a year.
- 270: 00:24:07.02 00:24:09.10
No, I haven't insisted.
- 271: 00:24:10.01 00:24:13.04
Because I already know
he doesn't want to.
- 272: 00:24:13.14 00:24:15.14
#[Sound of feminine voice#
#on the phone.]#
- 273: 00:24:15.22 00:24:17.00
#[Sound of Nelvi laughing.]#
- 274: 00:24:17.06 00:24:22.09
But I get tired of saying,
"Let's go, let's go."
- 275: 00:24:29.19 00:24:32.17
#[Sound of combing hair.]#
- 276: 00:24:34.19 00:24:36.17
Juan is moving to Chile,
did you hear?
- 277: 00:24:36.23 00:24:39.13
He's going, but you don't
want to go with him.
- 278: 00:24:40.00 00:24:42.04
I wouldn't feel
at home in Chile.
- 279: 00:24:42.10 00:24:45.13
Maybe there's work,
but I wouldn't feel happy.
- 280: 00:24:45.19 00:24:47.17

But we could change our lives.

- 281: 00:24:47.23 00:24:50.15
You want to die here
in Colchani.
- 282: 00:24:51.01 00:24:52.11
Well, not me.
- 283: 00:24:53.11 00:24:55.11
I want to go somewhere else.
- 284: 00:24:56.00 00:24:57.20
#[Sound of water spray.]#
- 285: 00:24:58.02 00:25:00.22
But if it's about improving
our lives...
- 286: 00:25:01.04 00:25:02.10
No, let's just leave.
- 287: 00:25:02.16 00:25:05.22
We could try to make
better salt. More expensive.
- 288: 00:25:06.04 00:25:08.05
How are you going to do that?
- 289: 00:25:08.11 00:25:11.11
But I have work here.
We can't just go somewhere else.
- 290: 00:25:13.15 00:25:15.21
#[Sound of brush.]#
- 291: 00:25:18.11 00:25:20.14
#[Theme music comes up softly.]#
- 292: 00:25:20.20 00:25:25.05
I don't think my wife
likes being a housewife.
- 293: 00:25:29.02 00:25:31.05
When we first met,
she told me,
- 294: 00:25:31.11 00:25:35.01
"I want to be a hairdresser,
or seamstress."
- 295: 00:25:39.22 00:25:41.04
She's always thinking about
the future,
- 296: 00:25:41.10 00:25:43.12
She says, "Moises, why don't we
go to the city?"

297: 00:25:43.18 00:25:46.13
"Our life could be like this, etc."

298: 00:25:51.12 00:25:53.05
But I always say:

299: 00:25:54.07 00:25:56.10
"This is the land
that gave me life,

300: 00:25:56.16 00:25:59.15
"and this is the land
that will take it away."

301: 00:26:01.08 00:26:04.05
#[Sound of stacking#
#plastic bags.]#

302: 00:26:08.10 00:26:11.13
#[Sound of filling#
#large plastic bad.]#

303: 00:26:12.05 00:26:14.15
I would like him
to find other work,

304: 00:26:14.21 00:26:17.07
but not on the Salar, not here.

305: 00:26:18.23 00:26:22.06
Because we have some money
saved up, I had thought

306: 00:26:22.12 00:26:25.14
about investing
in a bakery in Chile.

307: 00:26:27.04 00:26:30.21
Because Moises' cousin
opened a bakery,

308: 00:26:31.13 00:26:34.04
and our neighbor did the same,

309: 00:26:34.10 00:26:37.15
and both of them said
it's going really well.

310: 00:26:41.09 00:26:43.18
It might be the same
as here on the Salar,

311: 00:26:44.00 00:26:46.04
where he gets so wrapped up
in his work here,

312: 00:26:46.10 00:26:49.08

and I bet he could do
the same in a bakery.

313: 00:27:00.21 00:27:04.04
#[Sounds of city traffic.]#

314: 00:27:06.15 00:27:09.15
#[City street noise.]#

315: 00:27:22.07 00:27:24.01
- You've brought salt?
- Yes.

316: 00:27:24.07 00:27:25.21
How much per packet?

317: 00:27:26.06 00:27:28.01
One fifty.

318: 00:27:28.08 00:27:31.11
The bags got more expensive,
so the price is higher.

319: 00:27:31.17 00:27:33.22
Sure, but before,
it was one Boliviano.

320: 00:27:34.04 00:27:35.16
- Yes, but...
- Now...

321: 00:27:35.23 00:27:37.07
The weight is exact?

322: 00:27:37.13 00:27:38.19
Yeah, more or less.

323: 00:27:39.01 00:27:40.07
Let's weigh one.

324: 00:27:40.13 00:27:43.02
It's not bagged by machine.

325: 00:27:43.08 00:27:45.21
But at one fifty,
it has to be exact.

326: 00:27:47.09 00:27:48.21
It's short, Moises!

327: 00:27:49.10 00:27:50.17
Yes, but...

328: 00:27:51.04 00:27:53.11
You should give it to me
for one Boliviano.

329: 00:27:53.19 00:27:55.07

Yes, okay.

330: 00:28:04.18 00:28:07.20
#[Theme music comes up again.]#

331: 00:28:08.18 00:28:10.18
I don't like cities very much.

332: 00:28:11.00 00:28:13.04
They make me uneasy.

333: 00:28:20.03 00:28:23.06
Everything is money,
it's all about money.

334: 00:28:37.09 00:28:40.08
They want more,
they dream of more.

335: 00:28:48.11 00:28:51.07
They dream of
dominating the planet.

336: 00:28:52.04 00:28:56.12
If they could, they would cover
the sun with one thumb.

337: 00:29:01.17 00:29:05.02
But there are still
hidden places, full of mystery,

338: 00:29:05.08 00:29:08.19
where man hasn't made
his mark yet.

339: 00:29:09.20 00:29:11.21
#[Theme music comes up stronger.]#

340: 00:29:17.02 00:29:20.11
#[Voice of man chanting.]#

341: 00:29:27.07 00:29:30.07
#[Theme music fades out#
#to silence.]#

342: 00:29:33.08 00:29:36.08
#[Sound of whistling wind.]#

343: 00:29:48.08 00:29:50.19
#[Sound of a cellphone ringing.]#

344: 00:29:59.18 00:30:01.22
The reception is bad...

345: 00:30:04.16 00:30:07.09
Lucho, shit, it's ugly out here.

346: 00:30:07.15 00:30:09.11

It's that thing
with the trucks getting stuck.

- 347: 00:30:09.17 00:30:12.19
Two of our dumptrucks
are stuck in it.
- 348: 00:30:13.01 00:30:16.04
And beyond that,
the excavator's also stuck.
- 349: 00:30:16.10 00:30:17.18
#[Digging sounds.]#
- 350: 00:30:18.00 00:30:19.17
It's ugly, ugly.
- 351: 00:30:21.08 00:30:23.11
I don't know.
What'll we do?
- 352: 00:30:24.01 00:30:29.10
Because we've also got to get
those dumptrucks out, fucking shit.
- 353: 00:30:30.08 00:30:33.23
My boss isn't going to want
anything to do with this.
- 354: 00:30:36.16 00:30:38.12
Maybe if there's, if...
- 355: 00:30:38.20 00:30:39.20
Hello?
- 356: 00:30:43.00 00:30:44.12
Eduardo?
- 357: 00:30:54.11 00:30:57.12
There's nothing we can do,
it's buried in salt, right?
- 358: 00:30:57.18 00:30:59.21
Then just leave it for now.
- 359: 00:31:08.14 00:31:11.09
#[Sound of TV playing.]#
- 360: 00:31:20.01 00:31:23.05
#[Sounds of workers eating.]#
- 361: 00:31:24.10 00:31:28.04
So we'll install them
one by one, each month.
- 362: 00:31:30.05 00:31:32.12
Once a month?
Yeah, good.

363: 00:31:35.17 00:31:38.01
I've worked on
the construction of

364: 00:31:38.07 00:31:41.01
industrial plants
for my entire life.

365: 00:31:43.08 00:31:46.19
#[Sounds of heavy machinery.]#

366: 00:31:49.05 00:31:52.21
I worked for Coca-Cola
for ten years,

367: 00:31:53.06 00:31:57.20
doing something I didn't like,
and against my country.

368: 00:32:00.12 00:32:04.11
But here I know that the fruits
of this industrialization

369: 00:32:04.17 00:32:07.02
will help the entire country.

370: 00:32:10.13 00:32:13.13
#[Theme music comes up stronger.]#

371: 00:32:14.17 00:32:17.14
Everything has
its beginning and its end.

372: 00:32:22.19 00:32:24.23
Even out here in the desert,

373: 00:32:25.05 00:32:28.02
we will be able to
implement change.

374: 00:32:29.01 00:32:31.19
#[Sound of pickaxe#
#striking salt flat.]#

375: 00:32:41.15 00:32:46.10
The question is, how can
our neighbors in Colchani

376: 00:32:46.16 00:32:50.17
develop a vision of what they
want Colchani to be in 2050?

377: 00:32:51.06 00:32:54.12
#[Sound of children playing.]#

378: 00:32:54.20 00:32:59.09*
Because our plan for development

is long term.

- 379: 00:33:06.11 00:33:08.12
This project of ours is so large
- 380: 00:33:08.18 00:33:12.19
that I think we'll have
450 people working on it.
- 381: 00:33:14.13 00:33:18.17
And we'll have to see
how we manage the logistics,
- 382: 00:33:18.23 00:33:22.15
but I wouldn't be surprised if
sooner or later we came to you
- 383: 00:33:23.06 00:33:27.22
and said that we're going to
use Colchani's station...
- 384: 00:33:29.14 00:33:30.16
the train station.
- 385: 00:33:32.01 00:33:34.06
I read in the newspaper that
- 386: 00:33:34.12 00:33:38.13
the operation is
in the exploratory phase,
- 387: 00:33:39.11 00:33:45.09
and that you're looking to
hire people. Is that correct?
- 388: 00:33:46.22 00:33:48.18
Administratively,
- 389: 00:33:49.01 00:33:52.01
there are a lot of things
I can't do.
- 390: 00:33:55.01 00:33:58.09
We want to work
more closely with you guys,
- 391: 00:33:59.01 00:34:02.05
and it's a shame, but...
- 392: 00:34:03.01 00:34:08.02
sadly, life is about
the new replacing the old.
- 393: 00:34:08.08 00:34:10.07
And that's just life.
- 394: 00:34:11.12 00:34:15.10
But I want to be clear

about something, friends:

- 395: 00:34:15.16 00:34:19.16
This project is very good
for your communities.
- 396: 00:34:19.23 00:34:23.18
We're not yet seeing
the full benefits
- 397: 00:34:24.00 00:34:28.10
because we're at the beginning
of this process.
- 398: 00:34:29.00 00:34:33.16
But we need to leave
the old ways behind
- 399: 00:34:34.09 00:34:36.22
and come up with new ideas.
- 400: 00:34:37.07 00:34:38.23
Because if we don't,
- 401: 00:34:39.05 00:34:46.23
thirty years will go by and
things here will still be the same.
- 402: 00:34:49.15 00:34:52.05
#[Theme music comes up.]#
- 403: 00:34:55.14 00:34:58.00
#[Sound of car engine starting.]#
- 404: 00:35:10.05 00:35:13.09
#[Sounds of heavy machinery.]#
- 405: 00:35:23.16 00:35:26.18
#[Sound of materials#
#piling into dump truck.]#
- 406: 00:35:29.11 00:35:31.03
I always tell my sons:
- 407: 00:35:31.09 00:35:33.08
"Every time
you do something bad,
- 408: 00:35:33.14 00:35:36.12
"it's like hammering a nail
into a board."
- 409: 00:35:39.10 00:35:42.06
#[Sounds of men working#
#with machinery.]#
- 410: 00:35:42.21 00:35:47.12
And for every good deed,

you remove a nail.

- 411: 00:35:48.10 00:35:51.16
#[Squeaky sounds#
#of revolving axles.]#
- 412: 00:35:53.16 00:35:56.18
But when you take the nails out,
- 413: 00:35:57.00 00:35:58.16
the board isn't the same.
- 414: 00:36:00.02 00:36:03.22
#[Sounds of water draining#
#from pipe.]#
- 415: 00:36:04.05 00:36:06.07
#[Sound of approaching storm.]#
- 416: 00:36:06.16 00:36:11.00
It will never be what it
once was, in its natural state.
- 417: 00:36:17.05 00:36:21.10
#[Sounds of radio communication#
#with astronauts.]#
- 418: 00:36:29.11 00:36:31.07
#[Sound of slide show.]#
- 419: 00:36:32.20 00:36:34.23
You know what that is?
- 420: 00:36:35.05 00:36:36.06
What?
- 421: 00:36:38.12 00:36:41.12
It's the first man
to land on the moon.
- 422: 00:36:43.01 00:36:44.16
That's the moon, too...
- 423: 00:36:45.20 00:36:47.10
Up close.
- 424: 00:36:48.01 00:36:50.12
It's similiar to Earth
- 425: 00:36:50.18 00:36:54.10
but there's no water,
so there's no life.
- 426: 00:36:54.21 00:36:55.10
No life?
- 427: 00:36:55.16 00:36:57.16
There's no water or plants.

428: 00:36:57.22 00:37:02.03
Well, there were rivers and lakes,
but they all dried up.

429: 00:37:04.09 00:37:07.08
Wow, look at that one.

430: 00:37:13.12 00:37:15.13
#[Sound of changing slide.]#

431: 00:37:17.18 00:37:21.00
That's the machine
for landing on the moon.

432: 00:37:21.06 00:37:23.07
- It's like a robot?
- Yeah.

433: 00:37:23.17 00:37:25.16
#[Sound of changing slide.]#

434: 00:37:26.03 00:37:28.01
That's technology, huh?

435: 00:37:29.17 00:37:32.03
Tell me about technology.

436: 00:37:33.22 00:37:37.06
Well, they say that in China,
they created a robot

437: 00:37:37.12 00:37:40.21
that knows how to cook

438: 00:37:41.03 00:37:43.10
and how to clean your house.

439: 00:37:44.23 00:37:47.20
Do they have ones that know
how to play with children?

440: 00:37:48.02 00:37:49.17
Yeah,
they have them for everything.

441: 00:37:49.23 00:37:53.20
What about ones that can make
ice cream automatically?

442: 00:37:54.09 00:37:56.12
Yeah,
there's a machine for that.

443: 00:37:56.18 00:37:57.15
Really?

444: 00:38:04.03 00:38:07.10

#[Sound of a jet airplane#
#approaching.]#

- 445: 00:38:09.07 00:38:11.22
Look, it's coming.
Tremendous.
- 446: 00:38:12.04 00:38:13.03
Holy crap!
- 447: 00:38:13.09 00:38:14.23
So powerful, look at it.
- 448: 00:38:15.05 00:38:17.07
The other one descended less, no?
- 449: 00:38:17.13 00:38:20.11
The smaller ones are faster.
Holy crap, look at that!
- 450: 00:38:20.17 00:38:22.13
That would suit me!
- 451: 00:38:23.23 00:38:26.13
- Amazonas Airlines.
- It's braking.
- 452: 00:38:28.19 00:38:31.01
Moises, just imagine what
Uyuni will be like in 2015
- 453: 00:38:31.07 00:38:32.21
because of the lithium.
- 454: 00:38:33.11 00:38:35.14
Now,
with the international airport,
- 455: 00:38:35.20 00:38:37.22
there will be more activity
in Colchani, too.
- 456: 00:38:38.04 00:38:41.06
In two years,
the road will be fixed.
- 457: 00:38:41.12 00:38:44.07
The trucks will all go from here
straight to Oruro.
- 458: 00:38:45.06 00:38:48.04
It'll be worth it to take
your salt there yourself.
- 459: 00:38:48.10 00:38:49.19
The price of salt
will also go down.

460: 00:38:50.01 00:38:51.16
- Yeah, right?
- Way down.

461: 00:38:52.13 00:38:55.12
The more salt there is,
the cheaper it gets.

462: 00:38:56.16 00:38:58.15
It's growing so fast, huh?

463: 00:39:01.17 00:39:05.09
#[Sound of jet airplane#
#taking off.]#

464: 00:39:10.00 00:39:12.07
The ground's shaking!

465: 00:39:15.12 00:39:19.08
#[Sound of#
#heavy machinery passing.]#

466: 00:39:21.15 00:39:24.21
#[Sound of radio announcer.]#

467: 00:39:27.10 00:39:30.20
#The lithium plant will initially#
#produce 40 tons per day,#

468: 00:39:31.02 00:39:33.04
#and will eventually reach#
#100 tons!#

469: 00:39:33.10 00:39:38.11
#These resources are guaranteed#
#to generate 5.7 million dollars!#

470: 00:39:41.06 00:39:44.16
Everyone here
is thinking about how

471: 00:39:44.22 00:39:48.10
to bring in more activity,
more tourism, more money.

472: 00:39:48.18 00:39:51.03
#[Sound of pickaxe#
#and truck passing.]#

473: 00:39:51.10 00:39:53.21
President Evo Morales
is putting in the road

474: 00:39:54.03 00:39:57.01
and they're starting
to build some hotels.

475: 00:39:57.07 00:40:00.15

Over time, I think there will be
larger buildings in Colchani,

- 476: 00:40:00.21 00:40:02.08
it'll be like Uyuni.
- 477: 00:40:02.14 00:40:04.13
#[Theme music comes up again.]#
- 478: 00:40:05.01 00:40:07.19
#[Sound of locomotive passing.]#
- 479: 00:40:08.02 00:40:10.22
#[Sounds of children playing.]#
- 480: 00:40:16.12 00:40:18.11
#[Sound of child giggling.]#
- 481: 00:40:18.20 00:40:22.05
I think Moises
is going to have a hard time,
- 482: 00:40:22.17 00:40:25.20
not working anymore
with a shovel and pickaxe.
- 483: 00:40:26.23 00:40:29.22
And that's what he's used to,
being out on the Salar
- 484: 00:40:30.04 00:40:33.14
since the time of
our grandfathers.
- 485: 00:40:36.18 00:40:41.08
#[Sound of train departing,#
#train whistle sounding.]#
- 486: 00:40:44.11 00:40:47.20
#[Sound of a thunderstorm.]#
- 487: 00:40:51.06 00:40:54.09
#[Sound of people walking#
#and talking.]#
- 488: 00:40:59.21 00:41:03.16
#[Sounds of music playing#
#and children screaming.]#
- 489: 00:41:04.11 00:41:07.10
#[Sounds of children#
#playing and laughing.]#
- 490: 00:41:11.20 00:41:14.22
#[Sound of parents chatting.]#
- 491: 00:41:24.02 00:41:25.17
No, don't do that!

492: 00:41:27.02 00:41:28.22
Be gentle, right Juanita?

493: 00:41:30.02 00:41:33.13
#[Sound of family laughing#
#and chatting together.]#

494: 00:41:39.21 00:41:42.01
#[Sound of TV announcer.]#

495: 00:41:42.07 00:41:45.10
#...it isn't the salt,#
#but the lithium it contains.#

496: 00:41:45.16 00:41:48.09
#And if what#
#Evo Morales says is true,#

497: 00:41:48.15 00:41:51.10
#all the production will be#
#concentrated here in Bolivia.#

498: 00:41:51.16 00:41:54.13
#These rich reserves will return#

499: 00:41:54.19 00:41:56.19
#to the hands#
#of the Bolivian people,#

500: 00:41:57.01 00:41:59.06
#and the Bolivian government!#

501: 00:41:59.14 00:42:01.21
#[Sound of applause on TV.]#

502: 00:42:02.03 00:42:04.20
#And we're not just#
#concentrating on production.#

503: 00:42:05.02 00:42:08.14
#We're also focusing on#
#how we will transport our product#

504: 00:42:08.22 00:42:13.23
#to Europe, to Asia, to Brazil,#

505: 00:42:14.12 00:42:17.18
#on how we will produce#
#in tremendous volumes.#

506: 00:42:18.02 00:42:20.20
#[Sound of TV announcer.]#

507: 00:42:35.00 00:42:37.04
Once I went
to the Salar at 4am.

508: 00:42:37.10 00:42:38.15
Very early.

509: 00:42:46.22 00:42:50.08
I was loading my truck
with salt.

510: 00:42:50.14 00:42:53.19
I'd loaded two piles,

511: 00:42:54.01 00:42:56.09
when I heard a baby crying.

512: 00:42:56.18 00:42:59.11
#[Theme music comes up softly.]#

513: 00:43:00.13 00:43:03.22
There's an abandoned
house out on the Salar.

514: 00:43:05.07 00:43:09.07
The crying came from over there,
screaming and screaming.

515: 00:43:09.22 00:43:11.19
The baby kept crying.

516: 00:43:15.23 00:43:17.09
"What's happening to me?"
I said.

517: 00:43:17.15 00:43:21.00
"I should just ignore it,
load up, and leave."

518: 00:43:22.11 00:43:25.14
#[Theme music comes up stronger.]#

519: 00:43:26.00 00:43:28.18
I think
if I had gone over there,

520: 00:43:29.00 00:43:32.13
I would have met the Devil.

521: 00:43:36.23 00:43:40.18
Because the Devil always wants
to tempt you, always.

522: 00:43:41.03 00:43:44.11
In the mines,
or where there's gold.

523: 00:43:49.11 00:43:51.05
It's like a magnet.

524: 00:43:51.11 00:43:52.17
"Come to me," money says to you,

525: 00:43:52.23 00:43:54.06
"Here I am."

526: 00:43:54.12 00:43:56.13
"Take more of me."

527: 00:43:59.22 00:44:04.11
#[Crescendo of theme music,#
#then silence.]#

528: 00:44:06.17 00:44:08.17
#[Sound of truck motor starting.]#

529: 00:44:12.22 00:44:17.01
#[Sound of truck turning over,#
#idling, then stopping.]#

530: 00:44:19.12 00:44:22.17
#[Sound of truck motor#
#turning over again.]#

531: 00:44:25.14 00:44:29.03
#[Sound of motor#
#conking out again.]#

532: 00:44:32.06 00:44:34.15
#[Sound of#
#siphoning off gasoline.]#

533: 00:44:35.13 00:44:38.19
#[Sound of gasoline#
#pouring into crank case.]#

534: 00:44:42.19 00:44:45.15
What else do you need
for your truck, anything?

535: 00:44:45.21 00:44:49.07
We need to have it checked,
the cables may have burned out.

536: 00:44:50.07 00:44:52.03
How much will it cost us?

537: 00:44:52.09 00:44:54.19
This week we've barely
earned anything.

538: 00:44:55.05 00:44:59.03
We have to fix it
because it has to work.

539: 00:44:59.09 00:45:03.22
If we leave it,
it'll cost even more.

540: 00:45:06.17 00:45:07.18

Right.

- 541: 00:45:09.05 00:45:10.17
I need to buy things for school.
- 542: 00:45:10.23 00:45:12.04
For my classes.
- 543: 00:45:12.10 00:45:13.16
How much?
- 544: 00:45:14.08 00:45:15.18
How many things?
- 545: 00:45:16.11 00:45:19.06
This is the list.
It's all crumpled up.
- 546: 00:45:20.16 00:45:21.21
Here it is...
- 547: 00:45:22.05 00:45:24.16
Some cleanser, face peels.
- 548: 00:45:25.11 00:45:26.20
This cream...
- 549: 00:45:27.19 00:45:29.10
Blush...
- 550: 00:45:31.23 00:45:33.19
Concealer...
- 551: 00:45:34.12 00:45:36.13
Powdered blush, see?
- 552: 00:45:37.14 00:45:38.06
It's a lot, isn't it?
- 553: 00:45:38.12 00:45:40.11
One, two, three...
- 554: 00:45:42.03 00:45:44.05
But with my work now,
- 555: 00:45:44.11 00:45:46.06
it's going to be
a little difficult.
- 556: 00:45:46.12 00:45:48.17
You need
to understand this because...
- 557: 00:45:48.23 00:45:52.03
Right, that's what you say.
I say something else.
- 558: 00:45:53.22 00:45:56.13

#[Sound of exasperation.]#

559: 00:45:58.12 00:46:01.10
#[Sound of rain falling.]#

560: 00:46:04.04 00:46:07.23
#[Sound of pushing water#
#with rake.]#

561: 00:46:16.10 00:46:17.19
Two or three years ago,

562: 00:46:18.01 00:46:19.22
Nelvi was always out
on the Salar with me.

563: 00:46:20.06 00:46:22.04
She would help me out a lot.

564: 00:46:23.16 00:46:26.01
But not anymore.

565: 00:46:27.16 00:46:30.21
#[Music comes up stronger.]#

566: 00:46:32.20 00:46:37.10
My wife says, "While I'm young,
I want to study hairdressing."

567: 00:46:43.00 00:46:46.00
First, she'll get
her technical degree.

568: 00:46:47.09 00:46:48.21
There are two opportunities.

569: 00:46:49.03 00:46:51.11
One in Cochabamba,
and the other in Chile.

570: 00:46:59.08 00:47:02.04
Sometimes I think
destiny has sent

571: 00:47:02.10 00:47:05.00
Nelvi and me on different paths.

572: 00:47:05.10 00:47:08.07
#[Sound of women laughing.]#

573: 00:47:08.21 00:47:12.05
I'm really afraid of losing her.

574: 00:47:16.02 00:47:20.07
But I know what I'm doing
and what I have to do.

575: 00:47:29.10 00:47:31.17

#[Sound of pencil against paper.]#

576: 00:48:00.23 00:48:03.13
#[Sounds of repairing machinery.]#

577: 00:48:06.01 00:48:08.07
#[Sounds of welding metal.]#

578: 00:48:20.04 00:48:22.18
#[Sounds of turning jack.]#

579: 00:48:27.05 00:48:29.16
#[Sound of passing motorbike.]#

580: 00:48:31.15 00:48:33.13
#[Sound of hammering metal.]#

581: 00:48:33.19 00:48:36.11
I decided to call it
"the Magnifico."

582: 00:48:37.05 00:48:39.13
It's a great idea.

583: 00:48:40.09 00:48:43.08
#[Sound of truck accelerating.]#
Easy!

584: 00:48:44.04 00:48:47.10
#[Sound of scraping ground.]#

585: 00:48:50.00 00:48:51.12
That's good!

586: 00:48:53.09 00:48:55.18
#[More scraping.]#

587: 00:48:57.11 00:48:59.23
#[Whistling#
#and truck door slams.]#

588: 00:49:02.08 00:49:04.20
#[Sound of men laughing.]#

589: 00:49:05.03 00:49:06.02
Shit!

590: 00:49:06.14 00:49:08.04
It's too much!

591: 00:49:08.17 00:49:10.10
It's too good!

592: 00:49:12.01 00:49:15.13
#[Theme music comes up, sound#
#of scraper against salt flat.]#

593: 00:49:20.19 00:49:24.19

With the pickaxe, I could do
twelve piles per day.

- 594: 00:49:26.11 00:49:28.04
But with this machine, I can do
- 595: 00:49:28.10 00:49:31.02
four or five times
as much, maybe more.
- 596: 00:49:36.11 00:49:39.02
People will think: "Look at the
Quechuas, these simple people,
- 597: 00:49:39.08 00:49:41.13
"they can advance
with technology!
- 598: 00:49:41.19 00:49:43.19
"They can improve their lot!"
- 599: 00:49:57.07 00:50:01.22
#[Theme music fades out,#
#sound of soccer game comes up.]#
- 600: 00:50:06.20 00:50:09.06
#[Sound of family laughing.]#
- 601: 00:50:23.17 00:50:26.21
#[Sounds of scraping new wall.]#
- 602: 00:50:27.14 00:50:30.02
#[Sound of mixing white wash.]#
- 603: 00:50:31.01 00:50:33.07
I'm building two more rooms
on my house.
- 604: 00:50:33.13 00:50:36.07
It'll be something good
for my family.
- 605: 00:50:38.19 00:50:40.23
Building a house
is for the future.
- 606: 00:50:45.00 00:50:47.22
It's to declare:
"I belong in this place."
- 607: 00:50:52.07 00:50:56.01
#[Sound of small motor idling.]#
- 608: 00:51:27.23 00:51:32.08
Whenever I go to a new place
the same thought occurs to me:
- 609: 00:51:32.17 00:51:37.04

"No, I'm not going
to stay here very long."

610: 00:51:38.09 00:51:40.19
Because when I came here,

611: 00:51:41.06 00:51:46.05
I was totally ignorant
of what we were going to do here.

612: 00:51:49.07 00:51:51.15
I didn't know the Salar.

613: 00:52:03.11 00:52:07.07
There are rivers upon rivers
beneath the Salar.

614: 00:52:09.14 00:52:12.18
An endless supply of elements.

615: 00:52:18.04 00:52:21.23
An entire universe
we are just beginning to discover.

616: 00:52:23.12 00:52:26.12
The great secrets of the Salar.

617: 00:52:29.05 00:52:33.02
#[Theme music comes up stronger.]#

618: 00:52:35.16 00:52:39.15
We are creating a sort of family
between man, science,

619: 00:52:39.21 00:52:42.02
and the landscape.

620: 00:52:48.07 00:52:50.16
At the same time
as we develop this place,

621: 00:52:50.22 00:52:53.09
we must also bring it to life.

622: 00:53:10.16 00:53:13.10
#[Sound of water gushing.]#

623: 00:53:23.00 00:53:26.13
In ten years, this whole
area should be green...

624: 00:53:26.19 00:53:27.23
a garden.

625: 00:53:30.13 00:53:31.17
Here you go...

626: 00:53:32.19 00:53:34.13

This one's good!

- 627: 00:53:34.19 00:53:37.11
These will grow
70 centimeters tall.
- 628: 00:53:47.06 00:53:50.07
Bolivia is no longer dreaming.
- 629: 00:53:54.02 00:53:57.11
Now, in every ambition,
- 630: 00:54:00.23 00:54:04.16
we are moving
from dreams into reality.
- 631: 00:54:05.12 00:54:08.00
#[Sound of welding metal.]#
- 632: 00:54:15.23 00:54:18.21
#[Sounds of#
#building construction.]#
- 633: 00:54:26.12 00:54:29.19
#[Sound of chiseling rock.]#
- 634: 00:54:39.01 00:54:40.01
Hello?
- 635: 00:54:40.07 00:54:43.17
No, no, no!
My dad doesn't have time!
- 636: 00:54:46.23 00:54:51.07
I'm making llama sculptures
to sell to tourists
- 637: 00:54:51.13 00:54:53.17
that come from
all over the world.
- 638: 00:54:54.10 00:54:57.10
And this is where I'll present
- 639: 00:54:57.16 00:55:01.14
all the sculptures
from the entire region.
- 640: 00:55:02.03 00:55:05.16
This will be the first
handicraft shop on the Salar.
- 641: 00:55:06.04 00:55:07.16
And in five years,
- 642: 00:55:07.22 00:55:10.17
I'll also have a salt hotel.

643: 00:55:10.23 00:55:13.08
But a rustic hotel,

644: 00:55:13.14 00:55:16.18
not some 10 or 20 star hotel.

645: 00:55:17.00 00:55:20.05
A truly unique hotel.

646: 00:55:23.00 00:55:24.14
What's that?

647: 00:55:24.20 00:55:26.10
Those are his feet.

648: 00:55:27.07 00:55:28.12
Watch your hand.

649: 00:55:31.22 00:55:33.22
This is the future of salt.

650: 00:55:35.15 00:55:38.21
And once the salt shop is open,

651: 00:55:39.03 00:55:44.19
all the cars passing by
every day will stop here.

652: 00:55:45.01 00:55:47.22
- Because...
- Hello? Where's the Salar?

653: 00:55:48.04 00:55:49.07
Straight ahead.

654: 00:55:49.13 00:55:51.01
Yes, that way.

655: 00:55:52.00 00:55:55.00
He didn't know
where the Salar is.

656: 00:55:55.06 00:55:57.03
He was asking,
"Where's the Salar?"

657: 00:55:57.09 00:55:59.07
#[Sound of laughter.]#

658: 00:56:01.02 00:56:02.11
Sculptures,

659: 00:56:02.17 00:56:04.03
crystals,

660: 00:56:04.09 00:56:06.17
bits of jewelry, ashtrays...

661: 00:56:06.23 00:56:08.23
And on the walls,
we're going to have statues

662: 00:56:09.05 00:56:12.02
of llamas, condors, flamingoes....

663: 00:56:12.08 00:56:16.06
All the folklore of the region.

664: 00:56:16.13 00:56:18.03
The doors are already installed.

665: 00:56:18.09 00:56:19.08
It's already done, right?

666: 00:56:19.14 00:56:22.04
It's all there:
bathroom, sinks, everything.

667: 00:56:23.10 00:56:26.17
That's why, I think, you know...

668: 00:56:26.23 00:56:30.08
I've basically left the Salar
because it's...

669: 00:56:30.15 00:56:32.16
Because the Salar
doesn't pay much, right?

670: 00:56:32.22 00:56:35.03
So I think, look at tourism,
tourism is growing.

671: 00:56:35.09 00:56:37.03
There are more and more coming.

672: 00:56:37.09 00:56:39.13
Every day, they come.
More people.

673: 00:56:40.21 00:56:42.23
- You know?
- Fine.

674: 00:56:49.00 00:56:51.15
#[Sound of doors opening.]#

675: 00:56:52.07 00:56:55.04
My brother Nico is doing
artisanal crafts

676: 00:56:55.10 00:56:58.19
and I don't think he'll be going
to the Salar anymore.

677: 00:57:03.16 00:57:05.16

He sold off the machinery.

- 678: 00:57:06.18 00:57:08.18
It pains me to say it
- 679: 00:57:09.13 00:57:13.02
because he'd worked on the Salar
since he was a little boy.
- 680: 00:57:16.23 00:57:19.05
But nothing lasts forever.
- 681: 00:57:20.22 00:57:24.01
#[Sounds of hoeing salt.]#
- 682: 00:57:27.08 00:57:31.10
Now what I do is gather raw salt
- 683: 00:57:31.16 00:57:34.05
and sell it to the cooperative.
- 684: 00:57:41.08 00:57:43.07
You have to sign.
- 685: 00:57:43.19 00:57:45.02
For the salt.
- 686: 00:57:52.14 00:57:54.01
#[Sound of bank notes.]#
- 687: 00:57:54.07 00:57:56.09
Sales are terrible this year,
aren't they?
- 688: 00:57:56.21 00:57:58.02
They keep going down, right?
- 689: 00:57:58.08 00:58:01.20
What is it, one sale a month?
- 690: 00:58:02.02 00:58:04.04
- Barely.
- Barely.
- 691: 00:58:04.22 00:58:06.12
Here's your pay.
- 692: 00:58:08.03 00:58:09.10
All set?
- 693: 00:58:18.23 00:58:22.14
#[Theme music comes up,#
#sound of SUV passing.]#
- 694: 00:58:33.21 00:58:38.22
Just two years ago, the ways of
our ancestors still mattered.

695: 00:58:39.20 00:58:43.23
The idea was that we must
protect what they gave us.

696: 00:58:47.19 00:58:49.08
For me it's like a promise.

697: 00:58:49.14 00:58:54.15
Because this earth gave me life,
and made me into a man.

698: 00:59:01.07 00:59:05.04
But this town is no longer about
the work of a Salero.

699: 00:59:06.16 00:59:09.17
#[Sound of fire crackling.]#

700: 00:59:10.00 00:59:14.18
It's because people realize
they can earn money more easily.

701: 00:59:18.14 00:59:20.13
That's why I ask myself

702: 00:59:20.19 00:59:22.17
what things will look like
in ten years.

703: 00:59:22.23 00:59:25.21
Will there still be people
working on the Salar?

704: 00:59:31.10 00:59:32.20
Slowly...

705: 00:59:37.03 00:59:38.23
Your teacher teaches you well?

706: 00:59:39.05 00:59:39.11
Yes.

707: 00:59:39.17 00:59:41.05
She's patient? Or no?

708: 00:59:41.11 00:59:42.18
Yes, she is.

709: 00:59:43.01 00:59:43.22
Very patient.

710: 00:59:44.04 00:59:44.18
Yes.

711: 00:59:47.13 00:59:48.10
So, Maykel...

712: 00:59:48.16 00:59:49.14

What?

713: 00:59:49.20 00:59:53.02
When you're big, what career
do you want to have?

714: 00:59:53.08 00:59:55.01
What profession?

715: 00:59:59.00 01:00:01.13
Work on the Salar.

716: 01:00:03.16 01:00:05.00
Really?

717: 01:00:06.18 01:00:08.23
But no, son...

718: 01:00:09.10 01:00:11.10
What do you want to do
in your life?

719: 01:00:11.16 01:00:12.02
What?

720: 01:00:12.08 01:00:14.11
Because being a Salero,
it's a profession,

721: 01:00:14.17 01:00:18.02
but it's not like being a doctor

722: 01:00:18.08 01:00:21.01
or having a degree or something.

723: 01:00:31.11 01:00:33.15
- Are you sleepy?
- No.

724: 01:00:33.21 01:00:35.07
Then why are you...?

725: 01:00:35.13 01:00:37.18
It's the heat. The wind.

726: 01:00:40.20 01:00:44.01
#[Theme music comes up softly.]#

727: 01:00:47.03 01:00:50.10
Every second that passes
never returns.

728: 01:00:51.15 01:00:54.17
That's why I always say,
"Time is gold."

729: 01:01:00.15 01:01:04.00
#[Sound of shoveling salt.]#

730: 01:01:13.09 01:01:16.09
Everything breaks down,
everything dies.

731: 01:01:24.17 01:01:27.20
You can't turn back time.

732: 01:01:34.03 01:01:36.09
I may be a Salero,
but not my son.

733: 01:01:36.15 01:01:39.03
It ends with me.

734: 01:02:24.18 01:02:27.05
#[Gurgling sound of water.]#

735: 01:02:27.13 01:02:30.14
Finding bubbles...

736: 01:02:31.15 01:02:34.00
at low temperatures...

737: 01:02:35.06 01:02:37.23
demonstrates that there's
an internal dynamic

738: 01:02:38.05 01:02:40.07
below the salt crust.

739: 01:02:43.08 01:02:45.03
The Salar...

740: 01:02:46.19 01:02:48.06
is full of life.

741: 01:02:53.17 01:02:58.07
I think that
our imagination fails us

742: 01:02:59.06 01:03:02.11
when we try to describe
places that are so...

743: 01:03:02.19 01:03:03.23
unique.

744: 01:03:06.05 01:03:09.11
How could we write
a poem about this?

745: 01:03:10.03 01:03:13.20
How could we describe,
in a stanza,

746: 01:03:14.02 01:03:15.20
that there is this place,

747: 01:03:16.02 01:03:18.16
that would astonish
the great poets

748: 01:03:18.22 01:03:23.20
and unsettle
the great scientists?

749: 01:03:28.15 01:03:30.19
#The Bolivian Mining Enterprise#
#announced#

750: 01:03:31.01 01:03:33.12
#it has begun producing#
#lithium this week#

751: 01:03:33.18 01:03:34.19
#on the Salar de Uyuni,#

752: 01:03:35.01 01:03:37.19
#where it celebrated the opening#
#of its first pilot plant.#

753: 01:03:38.01 01:03:41.03
#They plan to ramp up production#
#in the years ahead,#

754: 01:03:41.09 01:03:45.03
#eventually producing batteries#
#for bicycles and electric cars.#

755: 01:03:45.09 01:03:47.07
#President Morales#
#issued a statement#

756: 01:03:47.13 01:03:50.14
#congratulating Marcelo Castro#
#and his engineering team....#

757: 01:03:51.15 01:03:54.18
#[Theme music comes up.]#

758: 01:04:17.14 01:04:20.16
#[Sounds of industrial machinery.]#

759: 01:04:46.19 01:04:49.13
We're surrounded by lithium.

760: 01:04:50.06 01:04:52.15
Here we have lithium.

761: 01:04:53.02 01:04:56.04
And here we have it by the ton.

762: 01:04:58.10 01:05:03.02
And we've begun producing
in huge quantities.

763: 01:05:05.13 01:05:09.04
With our own minds,
our own hands,

764: 01:05:09.10 01:05:11.06
our own energy.

765: 01:05:12.15 01:05:17.03
And if we can produce lithium,
we can produce anything.

766: 01:05:33.16 01:05:36.04
With each day,
and each month that goes by,

767: 01:05:36.10 01:05:39.00
we are entering a new era.

768: 01:05:44.18 01:05:47.05
Right now,
this looks like the finish line.

769: 01:05:47.11 01:05:50.03
But actually, it's a stepping
stone to something greater.

770: 01:05:56.16 01:05:59.13
#[Soft sound of lithium#
#being shoveled.]#

771: 01:06:03.20 01:06:07.09
#[Harsh sound of salt#
#being shoveled.]#

772: 01:06:15.16 01:06:18.04
I gave up working on the Salar.

773: 01:06:19.21 01:06:21.10
That was my life before.

774: 01:06:21.16 01:06:24.07
Today it has changed.

775: 01:06:26.18 01:06:30.17
Now I'm transporting
gravel, straw and wood,

776: 01:06:30.23 01:06:32.20
so they can build the hotels.

777: 01:06:34.22 01:06:38.10
But always close to my Salar,
always.

778: 01:06:41.02 01:06:43.18
#[Sound of wind whistling.]#

779: 01:06:45.02 01:06:47.16
#[Sound of a truck#
#starting up.]#

780: 01:07:06.16 01:07:09.20
#[Sounds of town people#
#at market.]#

781: 01:07:12.04 01:07:15.23
#WELCOME TO UYUNI#

782: 01:07:38.23 01:07:42.00
In November,
I'm going to graduate.

783: 01:07:43.18 01:07:46.18
I'm happy that
I've completed the courses.

784: 01:07:48.13 01:07:52.14
And come December, I want
to travel abroad to specialize.

785: 01:07:53.10 01:07:56.01
I'm not exactly sure where yet.

786: 01:07:59.06 01:08:02.04
Moises and I have agreed that

787: 01:08:02.10 01:08:05.07
it's time to look for
other opportunities.

788: 01:08:14.05 01:08:17.03
#[Sound of passing train]#

789: 01:08:18.08 01:08:21.16
#[Sound of bell ringing.]#

790: 01:08:23.17 01:08:26.05
What letter is Maykel writing?

791: 01:08:27.04 01:08:29.16
Capital "G," very good.

792: 01:08:29.22 01:08:31.07
What do you call that letter?

793: 01:08:31.13 01:08:32.13
"G"!

794: 01:08:44.23 01:08:48.00
#[Sounds of people at market,#
#traffic.]#

795: 01:08:56.16 01:08:59.14
#[Sound of passing cars.]#

796: 01:09:09.01 01:09:10.09
Colchani is growing,

797: 01:09:10.15 01:09:13.10
things are getting
better in the village every day.

798: 01:09:13.16 01:09:17.01
They put in a new school
and installed potable water.

799: 01:09:19.17 01:09:22.23
And now, thanks to the airport,
tourism has increased.

800: 01:09:23.20 01:09:26.01
Every day there are more tourists,
two flights a day,

801: 01:09:26.07 01:09:28.12
and on Thursdays, three flights.

802: 01:09:34.23 01:09:38.01
Before, we'd only see
a couple of cars

803: 01:09:38.07 01:09:40.09
pass by each month.

804: 01:09:41.13 01:09:43.20
But now, every day, 50 cars!

805: 01:09:44.02 01:09:45.18
That's a lot more.

806: 01:09:50.22 01:09:55.00
At the village fiesta,
we used to dance on the earth.

807: 01:09:55.08 01:09:58.12
But now we can dance on cement.

808: 01:10:04.03 01:10:06.22
We have a better life already.

809: 01:10:21.09 01:10:23.08
Something appears today,

810: 01:10:23.14 01:10:25.22
and tomorrow
it passes into history.

811: 01:10:27.01 01:10:29.11
#[Sound of sharpening tool.]#

812: 01:10:29.19 01:10:33.21
But there are some things that
can never pass into history.

813: 01:10:34.07 01:10:36.12
Like the pickaxe.

814: 01:10:39.07 01:10:41.11
It will never pass into history.

815: 01:10:41.17 01:10:45.07
You'll always need
a pickaxe around the house.

816: 01:10:48.22 01:10:51.03
It's elemental.

817: 01:10:53.15 01:10:56.14
#[Theme music comes up softly.]#

818: 01:11:07.06 01:11:11.23
Armstrong was the first person
to travel to the moon.

819: 01:11:12.05 01:11:15.07
#[Echoing sound of pickaxe#
#striking ground.]#

820: 01:11:16.11 01:11:19.05
But instead of
discovering the moon,

821: 01:11:19.11 01:11:22.09
he discovered something else
on Earth.

822: 01:11:24.12 01:11:29.17
It was the Salar, shining back
brilliantly, like a mirror.

823: 01:11:33.08 01:11:36.12
And a connection was formed.

824: 01:11:38.20 01:11:41.07
#[Sound of pickaxe#
#piercing the Salar.]#

825: 01:11:42.01 01:11:44.11
Life may take me away
from this place.

826: 01:11:44.17 01:11:47.05
But I accept whatever comes.

827: 01:11:47.15 01:11:51.16
Because if you are a Salero,
you are part of the Earth.

828: 01:11:56.07 01:11:59.07
So in a way,
we will always be here.

829: 01:11:59.13 01:12:02.04
That will never change.

830: 01:12:03.01 01:12:06.21
#[Continuing sound of pickaxe#
#digging into the salt.]#

831: 01:12:10.14 01:12:13.15
#[Theme music comes up stronger.]#