



AN INITIATIVE OF SOLIDARITY TO REVIVE A DREAM BURIED BY THE VOLCANO OF LA PALMA

- Today marks the premiere of the film, “The Dream that Conquered a Volcano,” the comeback story of Vicente Leal, a resident of La Palma who fights to reclaim his house buried by the Cumbre Vieja volcano.
- Macaronesian Stories is a project that inspires us to fight for our dreams and look towards the future, with the collaboration of fellow Canary Islanders Caco Senante, Kira Miró, NIA and the chef Víctor Suárez.



La Palma, December 13, 2024. Today marks three years since the end of the eruption of the Cumbre Vieja volcano in La Palma, Canary Islands. In the 85 agonizing days of its activity, it carried away 1,300 houses and **almost put an end to Vicente Leal's lifelong dream.**

His house - the closest to the crater of the Cumbre Vieja volcano - **was buried under meters of ash**, and became a symbol of the resistance against the volcano among the inhabitants of La Palma.

Three years later, Vicente is closer to reclaiming his dream. Today, the [Macaronesian Stories](#) initiative is launched with the premiere of the film "**The Dream that Conquered a Volcano**," which tells the story Vicente's renewal, solidarity and resilience **in an effort to raise funds to help him and other neighbors affected by the aftermath of the volcano.**

A group of **well-known figures from the Canary Islands** have joined the initiative and held a very special gathering at Vicente Leal's house -the first since the eruption- to support him. The scenes of this meeting make up part of the film.

The story of this dream began 30 years ago. **During that time, Vicente invested all his time and savings into building a house** on land inherited from his father in the middle of an incredible Canarian forest overlooking the sea. His efforts involved spending every day off transforming this little paradise into a house that would welcome travelers attracted by the natural beauty of La Palma. In September 2021, everything was in place. The land, however, had different plans.

The Cumbre Vieja volcano erupted literally behind his house and Vicente saw how the lava flow was just a few meters away, covering it under several meters of ash. The volcano was about to take away his lifelong dream, yet he was going to do everything he could to avoid it. Together with his children and some friends, he went straight to the area in the middle of the eruption -with the only help of a shovel- in an attempt to **dig out the chimney so as to never lose sight of the house.**

Last summer, Vicente was still struggling by himself to remove meters of ash that covered his house. Just as he was about to give up, he **decided to record a video to seek help, and Macaronesian Gin**, the only gin from the Canary Islands filtered with water from volcanic rock, **answered the call. The Macaronesian Stories project was then born, an initiative to fight for your dreams.**

"Everything can suddenly be lost and it always takes a long time to recover. The message we want to convey from Macaronesian Gin is one of hope, because dreams can come true. We hope that many people will be encouraged to share Vicente's story and help him fulfill his dream of recovering his home. And let this be the first of many," explains **Ángel García Recuero**, spokesman for Macaronesian Gin.

"Months went by and I saw that I couldn't get my house back and that's why I posted a video asking for help. With the help of Macaronesian Gin, I sent out an invitation to well-known people in the Canary Islands to organize a meeting at my house and ask them for their support. To my surprise, several responded and we celebrated a meal that ended with a Canarian parranda with Caco Senante, NIA and Kira Miro singing and dancing. I am eternally grateful and now I know that I'm closer to getting my dream back," says **Vicente Leal** with great enthusiasm.

Actress **Kira Miró** is one of the figures who attended the meeting to support Vicente.
"Living in the area really moves you. Meeting Vicente, seeing images of what the house was like, with only the chimney sticking out, and how he, little by little along with his children and family, has been digging it out, puts you into action: we have to keep going forward and carry on with our dreams. It's inspiring.

Others who participated along with Kira included Canary Island singers Caco Senante, NIA and Ariann, along with Michelin-starred chef Víctor Suárez, all of whom took in some very emotional moments over a "puchero," a traditional Canary Island stew.

The images of that special meeting form part of the film "The Dream that Conquered a Volcano," available at MacaronesianStories.com and on social networks.

Today, Vicente Leal's "miracle house" is closer to rising from the ashes, thanks to the solidarity of all of us who believe that dreams can come true.

More information:

The film The Dream Conquered a Volcano is available at
MacaronesianStories.com

You can download images and video of the project here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V9PllKcOGqIBmBku8VEVbEaDKlf9DpPM?usp=sharing>

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