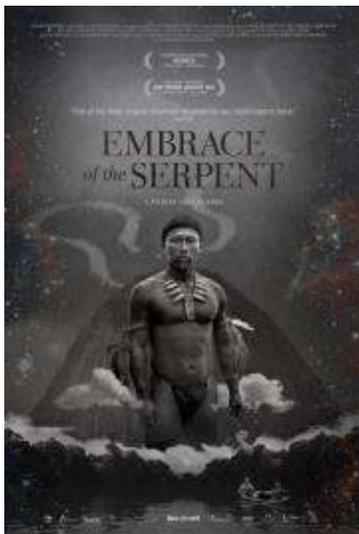




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*Life of legendary ethnobotanist and Synergetic Press author, [Richard Evans Schultes](#), portrayed in Academy Award nominated film, Embrace of the Serpent, starting March 11 in Albuquerque at the Guild Cinema and March 25 in Santa Fe at the CCA.*



## Embrace of the Serpent

*Academy Award Nominated for BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM* inspired by the real-life journals of two explorers: Theodor Koch-Grünberg and *Richard Evans Schultes* who traveled through the Colombian Amazon during the last century in search of the sacred and difficult-to-find psychedelic Yakruna plant.

Filmed in stunning black-and-white, SERPENT centers on Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman and the last survivor of his people, and the two scientists who, over the course of 40 years, build a friendship with him.

[The Guild Cinema, Albuquerque](#)

Mar 11 to Mar 14

[The CCA, Santa Fe](#)

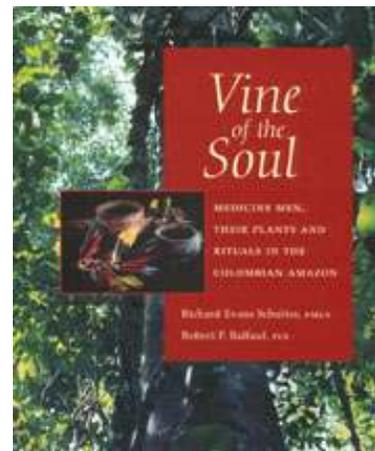
Starts March 25

Richard Evans Schultes classic book, [Vine of the Soul](#), is published by Santa Fe based Synergetic Press.

**VINE OF THE SOUL: MEDICINE MEN, THEIR PLANTS AND RITUALS IN THE COLOMBIAN AMAZONIA**

By Richard Evans Schultes & Robert F. Raffauf

Preface by Wade Davis



## About the Book

This book is the story of a time that was—a time when the Amazon Indian was free to roam the forest and rivers, happy with their social institutions, unencumbered by acculturation or the cultural destruction of their ancient societies and virgin forests. The story is told through over 160 black & white photographs taken by renown Harvard ethnobotanist, Richard Evans Schultes during the '40s and '50s when he spent fourteen uninterrupted years living with the Indian tribes of the Amazon. Combining his scientific eye for documentation with a photographers eye for lighting, composition and character, he created an extraordinary record of the medicinal plants and flora of the Colombian Amazon.

Co-authored by Robert F. Raffauf, an outstanding plant chemist, VINE OF THE SOUL contains some of the most significant photographs on this subject ever taken accompanied by detailed descriptions of the Amazon Indians use of medicinal and other sacred plant substances, with information on the bioactive chemistry and medicinal properties of the plants.

VINE OF THE SOUL (or ayahuasca) is a sacred drink used for millennia by shamans throughout the Amazon basin. This book is not just for readers interested in ayahuasca, and other psychoactive drugs; it is a remarkable record of a rich heritage that is in danger of disappearing altogether and should be examined by anyone interested in preserving the Amazon rainforest and the cultural heritage of its people. Thanks to attention drawn to the Amazon Indians by Schultes and others, the former President of Colombia, Virgilio Barco, in 1988 returned over six million hectares of land to the Indians for their exclusive use. The Colombian government further created a number of biological reserves, bringing the total area under protection to more than 20,000,000 hectares.

The second edition contains a Preface by Wade Davis, Explorer-in-Residence for the National Geographic Society; a Foreword by Sir Ghillean Prance, Former Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, England (Emeritus); and Epilogue by Michael Balick, Director of Institute of Economic Botany, NY Botanical Gardens.

Recipient of numerous national and international awards including the annual World Wildlife Fund Gold Medal, Schultes was awarded in 1983 the Cross of Boyacá, the highest honor offered by the Republic of Colombia. In 1992, Dr. Schultes was awarded the Linnean Gold Medal, the highest award a botanist can receive. Possibly more famous on the streets of Bogotá, Schultes was nevertheless the quintessential Harvard man, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Bostonian, a gentleman and a scholar.

Co-authors Drs. Schultes and Raffauf passed away in recent years. This reissue is in commemoration of the authors life's work. Remarkable plants; remarkable people; remarkable men.



*"The medicine men of the Kamsa and Inga tribes of the valley of Sibundoy have an unusually extensive knowledge of medicinal and toxic plants. One of the most renowned is Salvador Chindoy, who insists that his knowledge of the medicinal plants has been taught to him by the plants themselves through the hallucinations he has experienced in his long lifetime as a medicine man. It is such knowledge, fast disappearing, that we must salvage for the potential benefit of all mankind."*

**ISBN 0 907791 31 X**

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### More info at:

<http://www.synergeticpress.com/vine-of-the-soul-and-embrace-of-the-serpent/>

Who knows what plants of potential medical or other value, quite apart from their scientific interest, have already gone the way of the dodo?

**R. Darnley Gibbs (1974)**

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