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A Year of Cold

a film by Min Bahadur Bham



cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE

Technical Information

Working Title: A Year of Cold

Director: Min Bahadur Bham

Screenplay: Min Bahadur Bham

Nationality: Nepalese

Genre: Drama / Adventure

Format: Digital 4K

Length: 100 min

Shooting location: Northern Nepal
(Altitude 4500 - 7200 Meters)

Production Company: Shooney Films

Producer: Debaki Rai

Email: shooneyfilm@gmail.com

Min Bahadur Bham

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Director's Filmography and Biography

Filmmaker from Nepal, Min Bahadur Bham graduated in Filmmaking, Literature and Masters in Political Sciences and Buddhist Philosophy. His short film **The Flute** (2012) was selected in Competition at Venice Film Festival. His first film, **The Black Hen** (2015), premiered in Venice Critics Week. It was awarded the FEDEORA Best Film and was the Nepal's entry to the Oscars in 2016.

Main previous works:

The Black Hen – FEDEORA Best Film at Venice Int. Film Festival Critics Week – 2015

The Flute – Official Selection at Venice Int. Film Festival – 2012

Festival de Cannes

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

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Synopsis

A pregnant young Tibetan refugee, Pema is forced to find her missing Nepali husband, Tashi, for legal reasons as she is on the verge of being ousted from her husband’s family home. A monk, Karma, her brother-in-law who becomes her *de facto* husband by local custom, accompanies her on a journey to the roof of the world, the Himalayas, to locate Tashi who can authenticate their marriage and thus her citizenship. Their long voyage transforms their lives and brings them ‘awakening’. Together, they find the way out of ‘suffering’ to ‘liberation’ and Pema will come to realize the true value of love, family, home and survival.

Intention Note

In the pristine landscape of Nepal, beauty prevails – from the lush flat plains to the mountains rising till eternity. I can never get tired admiring the beauty of my hometown. However, beneath the serene beauty hides dark undercurrents of patriarchy, with its discrimination, marginalization, and social injustice. The main protagonist is a girl, newlywed and pregnant whose husband(s) are missing under various circumstances. Here, my intention is to portray the struggles of a girl in exile and her coming of age as a woman against all odds and complexities in the patriarchal society. This story portrays everyday hardship and struggles for a home and identity in exile. It also demonstrates the harsh life in the Himalayas and the plight of mountain communities in their struggle for subsistence. The film is about love, compassion, and the sacrifices – that a woman goes through in my part of the world.

Synopsis

Pema, jeune réfugiée tibétaine enceinte, est forcée de retrouver Tashi, son mari népalais disparu, pour des raisons légales car elle est sur le point d’être expulsée de la maison familiale de son mari. Un moine, Karma, son beau-frère qui devient son mari de facto selon la coutume locale, l’accompagne dans un voyage sur le toit du monde, l’Himalaya, pour localiser Tashi qui peut authentifier leur mariage et donc sa citoyenneté. Leur long voyage transforme leur vie et les amène à « s’éveiller ». Ensemble, ils trouvent le chemin de la « souffrance » à la « libération » et Pema en viendra à réaliser la vraie valeur de l’amour, de la famille, du foyer et de la survie.

Note d’intention

Dans le paysage parfait du Népal, la beauté prévaut – des plaines luxuriantes aux montagnes s’élevant jusqu’à l’éternité. Je ne me lasserai jamais d’admirer la beauté de ma ville natale. Cependant, la beauté sereine cache d’obscures tendances au patriarcat, avec sa discrimination, sa marginalisation et son injustice sociale. Le protagoniste principal est une fille, nouvellement mariée et enceinte dont le ou les époux sont portés disparus dans diverses circonstances. Mon intention est de représenter les luttes d’une fille en exil et sa maturité en tant que femme contre les attentes et complexités de la société patriarcale. Cette histoire dépeint les difficultés quotidiennes et les luttes pour trouver un foyer et une identité lorsqu’on est en exil. Il montre également la dureté de la vie dans l’Himalaya et le sort des communautés de montagne dans leur lutte pour subsister. Le film parle d’amour, de compassion et des sacrifices, de ce qu’une femme traverse dans ma partie du monde.