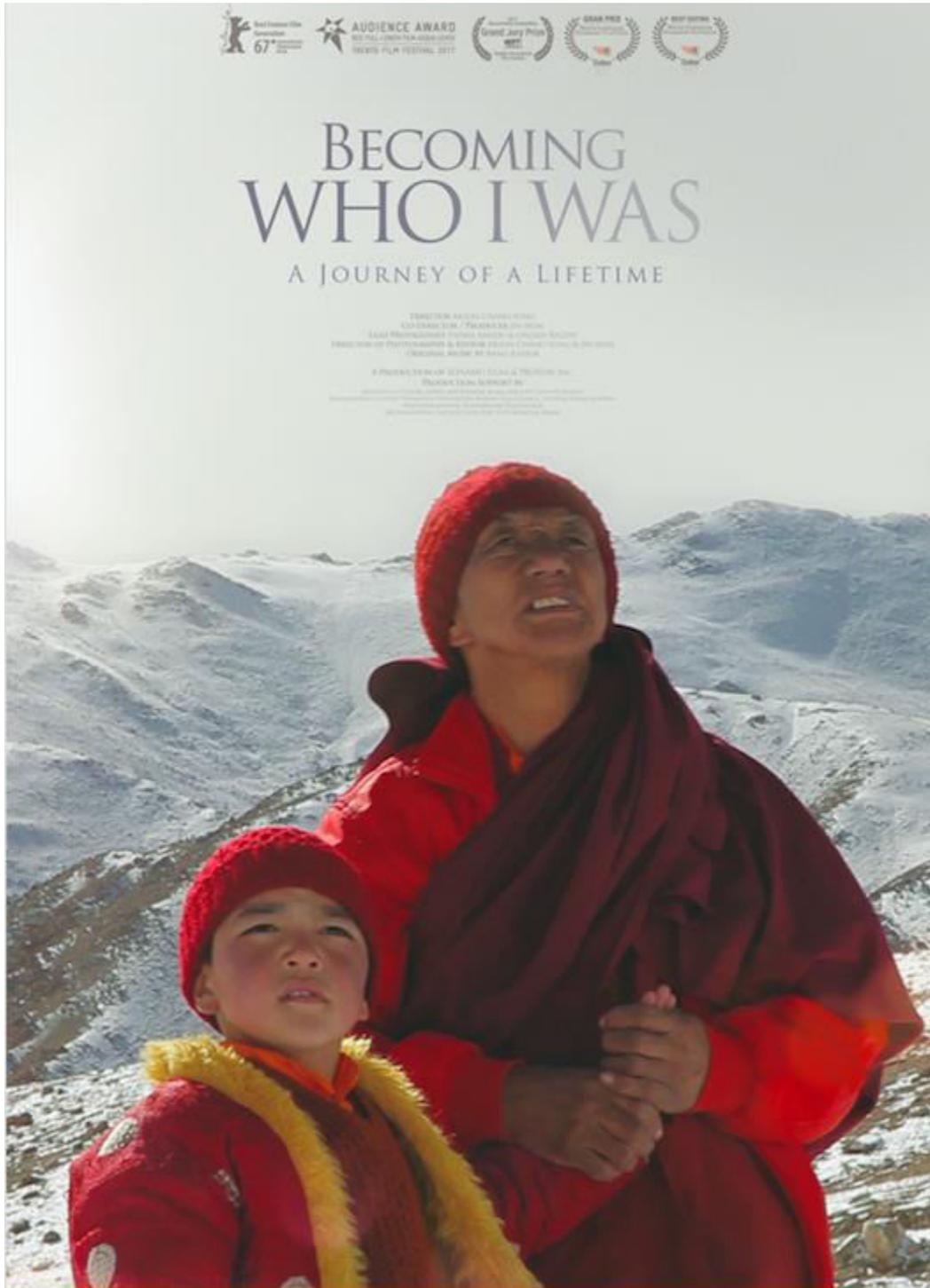


BECOMING WHO I WAS/South Korea/2017/ 96 min. /Ladakhi & Tibetan with English subtitles/Non-fiction



Directors: Moon Chang-Yong and Jeon Jin.

Logline:

After a boy discovers that he is the reincarnation of a centuries-old Tibetan monk, his godfather takes him on an epic journey to discover his past in a story of profound faith and unconditional love.

Synopsis: In northern India's sparsely populated and mountainous Ladakh region, an impoverished young boy is discovered to be the reincarnation of an esteemed, high-ranking Tibetan monk. Born displaced from his original monastery in Tibet, the boy is denied his rightful place. Amid growing doubts and mounting expectations in the community, the boy and his elderly godfather embark on a gruelling, improbable trek across India to return the young monk-to-be to his rightful monastery before it becomes too late. Filmed over eight years, we witness an incredibly intimate bond of friendship between the future religious leader and his godfather, whose devotion and selflessness in care for the boy is truly touching. The film has a stirring and awe-inspiring air of serenity that befits its subject. Striking drone shots use the powerful magnitude of the natural landscape, particularly in the final touching moments in the snowy mountains. An evocative exploration of culture, tradition and identity, *Becoming Who I Was* artfully captures the universal truths of unconditional love, family bonds and sacrifice.

Director's Bio

Moon Chang-Yong is South Korea's multi award-winning director and cinematographer who has been creating documentaries for Korea's major broadcasters since 1998. His awards include EBS Prize for Excellence (2009); KIPA Best Documentary Award Grand Prize (2011); KCTTA Work of Art Prize (2012); and KBS Prize for Excellence (2013).

Jeon Jin is a producer/director, raised in Africa and currently producing documentaries in South Korea for a global audience. Her credits include *1 Hectare of Happiness* (2013), awarded the KBS Prize for Excellence.

Director's Statement

At the core of this heart-warming tale of two characters living in the harsh, barren land of Ladakh, is the undeniable love and sacrifice that is universal. Despite having been miles away from home, it moved me deeply and conjured up familiar feelings of the unconditional love that I received from my mother. With the sense of hope amidst the trials and tribulations that our characters face, this film recaptures the most valuable human feeling we have long forgotten in our modern world.

AWARDS:

BERLINALE: **WINNER**, Grand Prix of the Generation Kplus International Jury. **NOMINATED** for Crystal Bear.

SEATTLE International Film Festival: **WINNER, Best Documentary**

MOSCOW International Film Festival: **WINNER, Best Documentary & Best Editing;**

65th TRENTO Film Festival: **Winner of Audience Award;**

DMZ International Documentary Film Festival: **Beautiful New Docs Award;**

Hot Docs: **Top 20 Audience Favorite.**

