

My Son Tenzin/USA/2017/ 70 min/Tibetan & English/Narrative

Directors: Tashi Wangchuk and Tsultrim Dorjee



Synopsis

A monk from Tibet arrives in Oakland in California on an unlikely mission: to meet his son after more than twenty years of separation. The son, Tenzin, however, is untraceable. Alone and helpless, a stranger in a strange land, the monk, Rabga, finds rescue in another Tenzin, a Tibetan taxi driver, who offers help in locating his son. The two embark on a journey – chasing clues, connecting dots, putting together pieces – and, along the way, discover things about themselves and each other that put in sharp relief the inescapable realities of their common fate: as a people of imperiled identity and vanishing culture. The story of loss and longing is infused with pathos and, at times, humor, arising from the clashing worlds of Buddhist heritage, Yellow Cab business, and Oakland's Homelessness, among others.

TWO FILMMAKERS

Tsultrim Dorjee & Tashi Wangchuk:

Tsultrim Dorjee co-directed, co-produced and cinematographed three feature films, two documentaries and several shorts under Seykhar Films. Earlier Tsultrim served Tibetan Govt. in Exile for about twelve years in numerous capacities. He is a man of resources and knowledge when it comes to the functioning and bureaucracy of the Tibetan exile world. In 2003, to pursue his dream of becoming a filmmaker, Tsultrim took a leave from his full-time job and studied Digital Film Production at Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan, Bangalore, India. His final project for the Diploma was an interesting short story about a young monk, 'Little Monk' which is appreciated not only by his classmates but also by the professors and teachers at the Institute. Tsultrim's keen interest in technology traces back to his childhood days when he used to open radio set, disassemble and then reassemble the parts by himself.

Tashi Wangchuk co-directed, co-produced and co-wrote three feature films, three documentaries and several shorts under Seykhar Films. After completing his Master in Economics (MA) from Dehradun, Tashi Wangchuk worked for the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts, TIPA, Dharamsala as a Public Relation Officer cum Teacher for about two years. It was here where he had received inspiration about arts and theatre. Soon he would be directing as well as acting in some of the well-known plays of the institute's youth wing- RTYC. In 2003, Tashi won a Fulbright Scholarship to study MFA (Filmmaking) at the State University of New York, USA. He now works for the Voice of America's Tibetan Service as a TV Producer, host and video editor.

CAST

Gey Rabga TSERING DORJEE BAWA
Tenzin, TASHI WANGDEN
Homeless man TENPA JAMYANG
Nyima SAMPHEL DORJI
Tenzin's former girlfriend TSERING DOLKER
Tenzin's friend in India TENZIN LUNGTOK
High Peaks Owner LOBSANG KHETSUN
Jeff MARTIN NEWMAN
Police Officer GIOVANNI VASSALLO
Mr. Singh DEEPAK REDDY
Tibetan Nanny-1 TENZIN CHIME
Tibetan Nanny-2 TENZIN CHOEZOK
Mr. Singh DEEPAK REDDY

CREW

Directed & Produced by TSULTRIM DORJEE & TASHI WANGCHUK

Director of Photography TSULTRIM DORJEE

Written & Edited by TASHI WANGCHUK

Assisted Produced by TENZIN GYALTSEN

Music POND5

Casting TSULTRIM DORJEE & TSERING DORJEE BAWA

Screenplay RINZIN LHAMO & DICKYI WANGMO

Storyboard TENZIN SANGPO

Graphics THINLAY DORJEE & YESHI CHODON

Script Consultants BARBARA GREEN, SONAM TASHI, HEIDI HEGWER & TSERING DHONDUP

Project Advisors BARBARA GREEN, SONAM TASHI, HEIDI HEGWER & TSERING DHONDUP

Lighting RINZIN DORJEE

Sound TENZIN GYALTSEN