Bhutan Film Days in Zurich
Innovative films from the Himalaya
27.1. - 29.1.2017

PROGRAMME
Ethnographic Museum University of Zurich
Vorwort


Mehrere Filmschaffende sind anwesend und werden mit dem Publikum über ihre Filme diskutieren.

Am Sonntagmorgen steht zudem mit einem Podiumsgespräch die heutige Rolle der Frauen in Bhutan auf dem Programm.


In der hauseigenen Cafeteria des Völkerkundemuseums serviert ein Team der bhutanischen Botschaft in Genf schmackhafte Gerichte aus Bhutan.

Wir freuen uns auf Ihren Besuch, Tashi Delek!

Society Switzerland-Bhutan

Preface

Until 1999 there was neither television nor the internet in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan. Outside the popular Bollywood-style movies an independent Bhutanese film scene was able to develop only after this date. The Bhutan Film Days in Zurich pay homage to some of these imaginative films, focusing on diverse aspects of life in a changing society. Many times they are centred around a love story, often connected to another main theme: the good and bad effects of modernisation. The films often use religious and spiritual metaphors and their narrative structures are associative or even circular. The audience has the opportunity to an immersion not only into a different world, but also into a different way of thinking. Many of the films shown have been screened at festivals around the world and have won prestigious prizes.

Several filmmakers are present to discuss their work with the audience. On Sunday morning a panel discussion will take place about the role of women in Bhutan today.

The films are shown in their original language with English subtitles. All discussions are held in English. That’s why the programme booklet is written in English.

In the cafeteria of the museum a crew from the Bhutanese embassy in Geneva serves a variety of delicious Bhutanese dishes.

We are looking forward to your visit, Tashi Delek!

Society Switzerland-Bhutan
"Gyalsey: The Legacy of a Prince" is a dramatic feature film that was shot in and around Thimphu, Bhutan. Bhutan is the last surviving Vajrayana Buddhist kingdom in the world. The essence of the Buddhist theme of the bodhisattva vow (person who wish to attain Buddhahood) is artfully woven into this modern love story. For a bodhisattva, the eradication of one’s suffering is joined with the desire to aid in the eradication of all others’ suffering as well. The story of Jamyang and Sangay is a classical love story. They meet while she is jogging in the park. The characters deviate from traditional stereotypes. The initially funny and easy going story develops into a dramatic end. The narrative includes aspects of destiny, class issues and personal determination.

**Director**

Jamyang Jamtsho Wangchuk *1982*

Jamyang Jamtsho Wangchuk played the 14-year old Dalai Lama in Jean-Jacques Annaud’s film "Seven years in Tibet" (1997). Before making films he worked as a tour guide where he was introduced to the rich, age-old oral traditions of the country. This inspired him to tell stories. "Gyalsey - The legacy of a prince" is his first feature film. In 2013 "Gyalsey" won the Award of the “Best Newcomer Male” during the National Film Awards. The director later decided to edit a shorter version of the same film.

**The Red Door**

Bhutan 2014, 15 min., Short Film

A man wakes up to the sound of water drops leaking from the sky. A contact with the outside world comes through a mobile phone. Then his journey begins with the man carrying a red door through a lush, green field and a maze of trees. He crosses a bridge to the second half of life where he clammers up a rugged and withering landscape. He comes to a world of mute, standing stones and finally reaches the mountaintop tired. He enters the door, and says, ‘Mother, I am home’ and goes to sleep. May be death is as mundane as opening a door.

**Director**

Tashi Gyeltshen *1972*

Tashi Gyeltshen started his career as a journalist before delving into filmmaking. He is a self-taught filmmaker. His third short film "The Red Door" premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (2014). Tashi is equally passionate about poetry and his poems have been published in several magazines. With the support of Locarno’s Open Doors programme he is presently producing his first long feature film. He lives and works in Thimphu.

**Screening:**

Friday 27.1.2017 - 18.30
Q&A with Director

**Feature Film**

"Gyalsey: The Legacy of a Prince" Bhutan 2012, 102 min., Feature Film

**Script:** Jamyang Jamtsho Wangchuk

**Cinematography:** Rinzang

**Editor:** Rinzang, Zachary Kinzinger

**Sound:** Karma, Scott Burns

**Producer:** Aine Carey, Jamyang Jamtsho Wangchuk

**Screening:**

Friday 27.1.2017 - 21.30

Q&A with Director

**Short Film**

"The Red Door" Bhutan 2014, 15 min., Short Film

**Screening:**

Friday 27.1.2017 - 21.30
A semi-romance genre film, „Karma – The destiny” portrays a journey of a young man, Karma. Set at a far flung village in Bhutan, Karma lives a good life with his old father. His life is however incomplete without his childhood-love, Dechen. Only shortly before Karma leaves for a higher education in the city they find a momentary happiness. Karma’s act of pretence and deception wins the heart of a rich family girl. This episode of romance goes until he finds himself in loneliness... The film was produced in Bhutan by a Bhutanese only cast and crew.

Director
Karma Tshering *1982
Karma Tshering is one of Bhutan’s first artists trained in the field of filmmaking from film institutes in India, Japan and USA. He is also one of the founding members of the Motion Pictures Association of Bhutan and later served as its Vice-President. He won “Best Film Director Award” in 2001 and several other awards and he is also a social activist. He has been active in many different roles in film production as well as in other functions in the film business, e.g. as jury member.

Karma the Destiny
Bhutan 2013, 95 min., Feature Film

Home Alone
Bhutan 2014, 9 min., Short Doc.

Meme Tshering, a 95 years old man living alone in his birth place in a remote village reflects on his children leaving the village, a diminishing community. He also reflects on his life as a whole. “Home Alone” highlights the bitter truth and effects of rural-urban migration, the loss of vitality in rural areas and modernisation. It is one of the few documentaries internationally known from Bhutan shot in observational cinema style.

Rent and Grains
Bhutan 2013, 3 min., Short Film

An old woman sets out from her village to collect edible food. Suddenly she finds herself in a new and terrifying world with high buildings and a lot of traffic. She must return home empty handed, confused and devastated. The film addresses the dichotomy between tradition and modernity, industrialisation and nature conservation in Bhutan. It won the price of “The Best Film” in 2013 at the Beskop Tshechu, a short film festival held in Thimphu, Bhutan.

Director
Loday Chophel *1980
Loday Chophel was a casting assistant in “Travellers and Magicians” and assistant director in “Hema Hema”. Since 2009 he worked as a visual editor, writer, cameraman, director and actor in more than ten films. He was awarded the “Best Student of the Year” from the Asian Academy of Film and Television, New Delhi, India in the year 2008-2009. He is a dynamic, hardworking and motivated filmmaker and has worked on many of the films in this festival. He derives his stories from deep reflective inspiration from Buddhism.

SCREENING:
Friday 27.1.2017 - 21.30
Q&A with Director

SCREENING:
Saturday 28.1.2017 - 17.00
Q&A with Director
Feature Film

A young administrative officer, Dondup, is posted in a remote village. Tired of the quiet village life, he wants to emigrate to America and hurries to Thimphu to get a visa. However, the village head and traditional rituals delay him and he misses the bus. He has to hitchhike to the capital to achieve his goal. He is not alone. A farmer wants to get along to sell apples, a paper-maker with a young daughter, Sonam, wants to go too for business - and a young monk is travelling too. During the journey the perceptive but mischievous monk tells a story about a certain Tashi, a mystical fable of lust, jealousy and murder, which he sets up as a mirror to the restless Dondup and his dawning love for the beautiful and innocent Sonam. The surprise ending of the monk’s story leaves Dondup with a dilemma.

The Melting World

In the impermanent world, people are entrapped in the suffering of emotions, of jealousy, greed, lies, anger and ignorance. As we develop our lifestyles with material advancement through technology and infrastructure it is our earth that pays the cost and takes the toll. The filmmaker tells his story in a clear and impressive animation.

Travellers and Magicians

A young administrative officer, Dondup, is posted in a remote village. Tired of the quiet village life, he wants to emigrate to America and hurries to Thimphu to get a visa. However, the village head and traditional rituals delay him and he misses the bus. He has to hitchhike to the capital to achieve his goal. He is not alone. A farmer wants to get along to sell apples, a paper-maker with a young daughter, Sonam, wants to go too for business - and a young monk is travelling too. During the journey the perceptive but mischievous monk tells a story about a certain Tashi, a mystical fable of lust, jealousy and murder, which he sets up as a mirror to the restless Dondup and his dawning love for the beautiful and innocent Sonam. The surprise ending of the monk’s story leaves Dondup with a dilemma.

The Melting World

In the impermanent world, people are entrapped in the suffering of emotions, of jealousy, greed, lies, anger and ignorance. As we develop our lifestyles with material advancement through technology and infrastructure it is our earth that pays the cost and takes the toll. The filmmaker tells his story in a clear and impressive animation.

Director

Karma

Karma has a B.Sc. in Visual Communications from the Alpha Arts and Science College of Madras University (India) where he focused on graphic design, photography and filmmaking. After college he interned for one year with the national TV station (Bhutan Broadcasting Services) under the Graphics Creative Unit. He is currently working as a freelance artist with friends on other animation works. He did also the sound on „Gyalsey: The Legacy of a Prince”.

SCREENING:
Saturday 28.1.2017 - 20.30

Khyentse Norbu *1961
also known as Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche

Khyentse Norbu is a Buddhist monk and made the first feature film entirely shot in Bhutan. He was recognised as the reincarnation of a 19th century Tibetan Lama. Trained in all main schools of Tibetan Buddhism, he had his academic pursuit in the USA, studying politics and filmmaking. He was consultant of Bernardo Bertolucci when the later was making the film “Little Buddha”, where he also played a part. In 1999, Khyentse Norbu made his directorial debut with “The Cup”. His second film „Travellers and Magicians” was a big success, his third film „Vara” and his last film are considered films that consequently search a non-western, idiosyncratic way of storytelling.

SCREENING:
Saturday 28.1.2017 - 17.00
Feature Film

Khyentse Norbu *1961

Khyentse Norbu is a Buddhist monk and made the first feature film entirely shot in Bhutan. He was recognised as the reincarnation of a 19th century Tibetan Lama. Trained in all main schools of Tibetan Buddhism, he had his academic pursuit in the USA, studying politics and filmmaking. He was consultant of Bernardo Bertolucci when the later was making the film “Little Buddha”, where he also played a part. His second film „Travellers and Magicians” was a big success, his third film „Vara” and „Hema Hema” are considered films that consequently search a non-western, idiosyncratic way of storytelling.

Hema Hema: Sing Me a Song While I Wait

Bhutan 2016, 96 min., Feature Film

Somewhere deep in a forest of Bhutan, there is a gathering of men and women every twelve years to enjoy a few days of anonymity. Masked silhouettes participate in rituals, performances and dances. Faceless, the men and the women allow themselves to be lascivious, playful and daring. One man attends this event for the first time and enters the experience like a new born. He stumbles through the first days, but quickly adapts, and when he spots a certain woman, he becomes totally intoxicated with her. But his desire leads him down a dangerous path. Narratively challenging, the film invites the western viewer to seek in his own culture reflections on the liberating, yet unstable notion of collective identity, like e.g. Carnival in Switzerland. The visually stunning film was very well received at its world premiere in Locarno.

Director

Khyentse Norbu *1961

Assistant Director

Loday Chophel *1980

Assistant Director - Loday Chophel *1980

Loday Chophel (see biography page 7) has worked on many films in this programme. He is a person of trust of the director and the producers of “Hema Hema”. In their absence he will be glad to answer any questions concerning the film.

SCREENING:

Saturday 28.1.2017 - 20.30
Q&A with Assistant Director

Cinematography: Jigme T. Tensing
Sound: Tu Duu Chih
Editing: Tian Zhuangzhuang
Producers: Jeremy Thomas, Sarah Chen, Pawo Choyning Dorji

Director - Khyentse Norbu *1961

Khyentse Norbu is a Buddhist monk and made the first feature film entirely shot in Bhutan. He was recognised as the reincarnation of a 19th century Tibetan Lama. Trained in all main schools of Tibetan Buddhism, he had his academic pursuit in the USA, studying politics and filmmaking. He was consultant of Bernardo Bertolucci when the later was making the film “Little Buddha”, where he also played a part. His second film „Travellers and Magicians” was a big success, his third film „Vara” and „Hema Hema” are considered films that consequently search a non-western, idiosyncratic way of storytelling.

Assistant Director - Loday Chophel *1980

Loday Chophel (see biography page 7) has worked on many films in this programme. He is a person of trust of the director and the producers of “Hema Hema”. In their absence he will be glad to answer any questions concerning the film.
# Bhutan Film Days in Zurich

Innovative films from the Himalaya

**FRIDAY 27.1.2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>Official Opening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.30</td>
<td>Gyalsey: The Legacy of a Prince</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.30</td>
<td>The Red Door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.30</td>
<td>Karma the Destiny</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUNDAY 29.1.2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>A Woman’s Place (Das Tal der Frauen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.30</td>
<td>Zebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.30</td>
<td>The Melting World</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SATURDAY 28.1.2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>Special Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Home Alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.30</td>
<td>Hema Hema: Sing Me a Song While I Wait</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INFO**

- **Prices:**
  - Single entry Fr. 12.-/8.-
  - Day pass Fr. 20.-/15.-
  - Film Day pass Fr. 50.-/40.-
  - Reduction for SSB members, AHV and students.

- **Ordering of tickets:**
  - musethno@vmz.uzh.ch
  - Tel. 044 634 90 11
  - or directly at the reception

- **Contact:**
  - Ethnographic Museum at the University of Zürich
  - Pelikanstrasse 40
  - 8001 Zürich

- **Web:**
  - [www.musethno.uzh.ch/de/museum/news](http://www.musethno.uzh.ch/de/museum/news)
  - [www.bhutan-switzerland.org](http://www.bhutan-switzerland.org)

An event organised by the Society Switzerland-Bhutan and the Ethnographic Museum at the University of Zurich.
Films and Panel Discussion on Gender: «Women - Power - Politics - Change»

In the West, Bhutan is known for its concept of Gross National Happiness and its strong women. Like with all catchwords, this is only partially true. The cliché of the strong women is rooted in Bhutan’s rural areas, where women used to own house and land and their daughters inherited the properties. This power, as we can see in „A Woman’s place“ has always had a negative downside: women work very hard and carry great responsibilities, but have no say in religious matters. The film „Heart in the Mandala“ about a young orphaned woman in the city, fighting for a decent life, touches upon similar topics.

The custom of matrilineal heritage failed to translate into a strong position of women in society as a whole. This is reflected by the fact that there are very few internationally known female filmmakers from Bhutan.

Bhutan’s Constitution and laws treat men and women equally. But the political process is still largely dominated by men. In the country’s first national election in 2008 fourteen percent of politicians elected were female. That number dropped to a mere eight percent in the subsequent vote. Only six women out of 72 members of parliament are women and there is just one female minister. So what are the perspectives of women in this country grappling with modernity and brisk cultural change? Based on the films, two filmmakers and a politician and civil servant try to find answers.

Women Panel Guests:
Marianne Pletscher, Director
Director of “A Woman’s Place” (see biography at page 15)

Lhaki Dolma, Director and Actress
Director and Actress of “Drugi Boomro” (see biography at page 17).

Tshewang Tashi, Panel Guest
Tshewang Tashi was a public officer from 1989 to 2012 starting from Tax Officer to become the only female Regional Director in the Ministry of Finance. She was deputed to the World Bank, offered employment there but chose to serve her country as the head of the Internal Audit Service. She resigned from public office to co-found a political party in 2012 of which she was elected the Vice President but resigned in 2015. She is presently volunteering for Bhutan Red Cross while preparing for a full-time occupation in social service.

Moderation: Bettina Spoerri

A Woman’s Place
(Das Tal der Frauen)
Switzerland 1994, 57 min., Documentary

Tina, a farmer from Switzerland, is invited to visit a magical remote valley in Bhutan, where women are said to have more power than men. She quickly befriends the strong and hard-working peasant women living there, especially one of them, Dorje Doelma. Beyond their cultural and religious differences the two women develop a deep friendship, not least based on their common interest in farming.

Half a year later, Dorje Doelma visits her friend in Switzerland, a world of wealth and abundance with a very different set of values. Most of it seems strange to her and she decides western life is too superficial and noisy for her – but the strong friendship between the women remains. „A Woman’s Place“ was one of the first films ever to be shot in Bhutan.

Director
Marianne Pletscher *1946
Marianne Pletscher has worked as a documentary filmmaker for over 30 years in many parts of the world and has won more than ten national and international prizes. Her work includes about 50 one-hour documentaries, many of them on women’s issues. She is also working as a documentary film teacher in Switzerland, Cuba, Nepal and Sri Lanka and her aim has always been helping young filmmakers to develop their skills without following western traditions. She also published several books on topics related to her films.
When an orphaned cabaret bar dancer strikes up a romantic relationship with an older businessman, she pictures a happier future for herself and her handicapped brother, only to be suddenly confronted by a dark past. Using a non-linear approach and the Buddhist wheel of life, the mandala as a motif, the film explores the interconnectedness of love, fate, choice, divinity and the universe.

**Heart in the Mandala**
Bhutan 2013, 39 min., Feature Film

**Script:** Dechen Roder  
**Cinematography:** Tshering Wangdi  
**Editor:** Dechen Roder  
**Sound:** Benjamin Hörbe  
**Production:** Dhondup Roder, Dakinny Productions

**Director**  
*1980*

Dechen Roder is one of the first female directors from Bhutan. She has been producing short films and documentaries since 2005. Her most recent short film “Lo Sum Choe Sum” (“3 Years 3 Month Retreat”) competed in the Berlinale Shorts 2015 and was later screened at various festivals around the world. She is also the co-founder and organiser of Beskop Tshechu, Bhutan’s only film festival. When not working on her own films, she works as an editor on other projects and as a producer/writer/director for commissioned work. Her debut feature film „Honeygiver among the Dogs” premiered at the Busan International Film Festival in Korea and has also been invited to the prestigious Berlinale 2017.

This short film was commissioned by the Election Commission of Bhutan to encourage Bhutanese women to come forward to participate in local elections as voters or even candidates. Besides directing, Lhaki Dolma is also starring in the film.

**Drugi Boomro**  
(Daughters of Bhutan)  
Bhutan 2016, 4 min., Corporate Film

**Director and Actress**  
Lhaki Dolma

A popular national award winning actor-writer from Bhutan, Lhaki Dolma has acted in over 16 movies till today and has won numerous awards and accolades. She is known for her versatile acting skills and has carved out a style and status of her own. She is the recipient of the first “National Award for Best Actor (female)” in 2001 for her memorable role as ‘Yee Wong in the blockbuster movie „Chepai Bu”. She has also produced and directed two films. In addition Lhaki also volunteers her time and effort for several charitable organisations. She recently joined the board of directors of the Bhutan Film Trust.
Feature Film

When an ancient Buddhist scripture is discovered, a senior Buddhist monk embarks on a long journey in search of a young boy who is prophesied to be a reincarnate Lama (teacher) destined to propagate Buddhadharma for the benefit of all sentient beings. After Rigzen Lingpa is recognized as the one who will fulfil the prophecy, he spends his life mastering the teachings of the Buddha. When he is a young Lama presiding over a monastery in eastern Bhutan, a young girl from Thimphu returns home to her ailing mother. When she takes her mother to receive blessings from the Lama, they experience a powerful connection. Together, they embark on an incredible journey in search of the real meaning of the Terma (treasure). What they discover will change their lives forever that will defy and challenge the conventional belief and accepted social values.

Director
Zuri Rinpoche *1972
The Venerable 8th Zuri Rinpoche was recognized by His Holiness the 16th Karmapa at two months and he is the successive incarnation of the Zuri Rinpoche of Thrangu Monastery in Qinghai (Tibet). Since childhood, he has had a strong passion for arts and culture and great interest in the appreciation of photography and sculpture. “Prophecy” is the first film he has directed in the hope of showing the intrinsic aspect of Bhutan and it is a sincere and an imposing attempt to challenge conventional beliefs. Rinpoche does it with a crafty script rich in Buddhist allegory.

The Prophecy
Bhutan 2016, 84 min., Feature Film

SCREENING:
Sunday 29.1.2017 - 14.30

When an ancient Buddhist scripture is discovered, a senior Buddhist monk embarks on a long journey in search of a young boy who is prophesied to be a reincarnate Lama (teacher) destined to propagate Buddhadharma for the benefit of all sentient beings. After Rigzen Lingpa is recognized as the one who will fulfil the prophecy, he spends his life mastering the teachings of the Buddha. When he is a young Lama presiding over a monastery in eastern Bhutan, a young girl from Thimphu returns home to her ailing mother. When she takes her mother to receive blessings from the Lama, they experience a powerful connection. Together, they embark on an incredible journey in search of the real meaning of the Terma (treasure). What they discover will change their lives forever that will defy and challenge the conventional belief and accepted social values.

Director
Zuri Rinpoche *1972
The Venerable 8th Zuri Rinpoche was recognized by His Holiness the 16th Karmapa at two months and he is the successive incarnation of the Zuri Rinpoche of Thrangu Monastery in Qinghai (Tibet). Since childhood, he has had a strong passion for arts and culture and great interest in the appreciation of photography and sculpture. “Prophecy” is the first film he has directed in the hope of showing the intrinsic aspect of Bhutan and it is a sincere and an imposing attempt to challenge conventional beliefs. Rinpoche does it with a crafty script rich in Buddhist allegory.

Zebra
Bhutan 2016, 2 min., Short Animation

A street in modern Thimphu - a zebra-crossing and a bank. Two friends are animated by it and have the most sophisticated idea how to become rich. A delightful small animation film by a young designer crew in modern Bhutan, who does not only do corporate-films but also art films.

Director
Pema Wangyel *1982
Pema Wangyel graduated in Information Technology from Delhi, India in 2015. He now works as the creative head in a company he and his brother started, called Wangyel Studio. There he deals with all kinds of graphic designing and animation. Zebra was his debut at the Beskop Tshechu film festival and his first attempt to make an animated short.

SCREENING:
Sunday 29.1.2017 - 14.30

Zebra
Bhutan 2016, 2 min., Short Animation

A street in modern Thimphu - a zebra-crossing and a bank. Two friends are animated by it and have the most sophisticated idea how to become rich. A delightful small animation film by a young designer crew in modern Bhutan, who does not only do corporate-films but also art films.

Director
Pema Wangyel *1982
Pema Wangyel graduated in Information Technology from Delhi, India in 2015. He now works as the creative head in a company he and his brother started, called Wangyel Studio. There he deals with all kinds of graphic designing and animation. Zebra was his debut at the Beskop Tshechu film festival and his first attempt to make an animated short.

SCREENING:
Sunday 29.1.2017 - 14.30

Monk in the Forest
Bhutan 2016, 11 min., Short Film

A fearful and lonely monk lost in a forest meets himself as his inner fear takes on a new external manifestation. The film has no dialogue and is a colourful and meditational journey.

Director
Karma Wangchuk *1975
Karma Wangchuk has written and directed a short film and a documentary, both of which were broadcast on national television. He has also worked as a host, in a Bhutanese travel show, and a new documentary from India. As an artist, Karma is part of a small group of pioneering Bhutanese contemporary artists, trying to fuse tradition with modernity and abstract elements through their paintings. His works have been exhibited in group exhibitions in Bhutan, Japan, Thailand, and Bangladesh.

SCREENING:
Sunday 29.1.2017 - 14.30

Monk in the Forest
Bhutan 2016, 11 min., Short Film

A fearful and lonely monk lost in a forest meets himself as his inner fear takes on a new external manifestation. The film has no dialogue and is a colourful and meditational journey.

Director
Karma Wangchuk *1975
Karma Wangchuk has written and directed a short film and a documentary, both of which were broadcast on national television. He has also worked as a host, in a Bhutanese travel show, and a new documentary from India. As an artist, Karma is part of a small group of pioneering Bhutanese contemporary artists, trying to fuse tradition with modernity and abstract elements through their paintings. His works have been exhibited in group exhibitions in Bhutan, Japan, Thailand, and Bangladesh.

SCREENING:
Sunday 29.1.2017 - 14.30

The Prophecy
Bhutan 2016, 84 min., Feature Film

When an ancient Buddhist scripture is discovered, a senior Buddhist monk embarks on a long journey in search of a young boy who is prophesied to be a reincarnate Lama (teacher) destined to propagate Buddhadharma for the benefit of all sentient beings. After Rigzen Lingpa is recognized as the one who will fulfil the prophecy, he spends his life mastering the teachings of the Buddha. When he is a young Lama presiding over a monastery in eastern Bhutan, a young girl from Thimphu returns home to her ailing mother. When she takes her mother to receive blessings from the Lama, they experience a powerful connection. Together, they embark on an incredible journey in search of the real meaning of the Terma (treasure). What they discover will change their lives forever that will defy and challenge the conventional belief and accepted social values.

Director
Zuri Rinpoche *1972
The Venerable 8th Zuri Rinpoche was recognized by His Holiness the 16th Karmapa at two months and he is the successive incarnation of the Zuri Rinpoche of Thrangu Monastery in Qinghai (Tibet). Since childhood, he has had a strong passion for arts and culture and great interest in the appreciation of photography and sculpture. “Prophecy” is the first film he has directed in the hope of showing the intrinsic aspect of Bhutan and it is a sincere and an imposing attempt to challenge conventional beliefs. Rinpoche does it with a crafty script rich in Buddhist allegory.
We are delighted to present the following Bhutanese Guests:

Jamyang Jamtsho Wangchuk
"Gyalsey: The Legacy of a Prince", director [Fr. 18.00]

Many of our visitors might have seen him as an actor before: he was playing the 14-year old Dalai Lama in the film "Seven Years in Tibet" (1997). He directed, produced and acted in "Gyalsey: The Legacy of a Prince" and reedited the first version of the film with the help of Hollywood filmmakers. His aim was to achieve international distribution with this film. It is very important for him to see the Bhutanese film industry grow and to be part of this growth. He also acted recently in the new and already very successful Bhutanese feature film "Honeygiver among the Dogs".

For more information see: http://jamyangwangchuk.wixsite.com/gumarfilms/biography

Loday Chophel
"Home Alone", writer, cinematographer and director [Sa. 17.00], "Rent and Grains", writer, cinematographer and director [Sa. 17.00], "Travellers and Magicians", casting assistant [Sa. 17.00], "Hema Hema: Sing Me a Song While I Wait", assistant director [Sa. 20.30], "Monk in the Forest", actor [Su. 14.30], "Prophecy", actor [Su. 14.30]

Among our guests he is certainly the most present in all the films shown here, as editor, writer, cinematographer, director, assistant director and actor. He describes himself as a man who is driven by passion of filmmaking and says: "I love story telling, I want to tell stories that will bring positive change. I want to make films for the mass. I believe in art there should not be restriction on border, cast, status, colour, religion or culture".

Info: http://facebook.com/LChophel

Karma Tshering
"Karma the Destiny", director [Fr. 21.30]

To reach out with authentic Bhutanese films to an international arena is very important for him. He is one of Bhutan's first artists trained in the field of filmmaking from film institutes outside of Bhutan and one of the founding members and later Vice President of the Motion Pictures Association of Bhutan. He received the very first "Best Film Director Award" for the film "Chepai Bu" during the first National Film Awards in 2001, followed by another "Best Film Director Award" for the film "6 Boys" based on a true story in 2002. To enhance his skill in the field of filmmaking, he has also worked in a Bollywood film project “Badhai Ho Badhai”. The following year, he was awarded a life membership by the International Film and Television Club.

For more information see: https://www.facebook.com/mpckarmatshering

Lhaki Dolma
"Drugi Boomro", Director, actress and participant in the Panel Discussion [Su. 10.30]

Lhaki Dolma is a very popular actress in Bhutan and has been female lead in 16 Bhutanese feature films, many of them Bollywood style. She also holds different degrees in development and management as well as in Bhutanese language and culture and has also been working as writer/producer on other Bhutanese films and directed two feature films. She is also very active in different civil society organisations, has been a jury member for the national film award and recently joined the board of directors of the Bhutan Film Trust. She is also very active in women’s issues and volunteering her time and effort for several NGOs.

https://sites.google.com/site/bhutankcdproductions/women-in-the-spotlight/lhaki-dolma

Tshewang Tashi
Participant in the Panel Discussion [Su. 10.30]

Tshewang Tashi does not watch Bhutanese movies very often as she sees them as mostly Bollywood-like song and dance entertainment and prefers the creative art value provided in the films screened here. She believes that support to the fledgling Bhutanese film industry is instrumental in its meaningful development into a mass media platform that entertains in ways that are educational and thought provoking. She believes she has lived the realistic side of her personality working as a civil servant and politician and would now like to indulge the idealistic and artistic side and is presently volunteering for Bhutan Red Cross.
Organisation
The Bhutan Film Days are organised by the Society Switzerland-Bhutan (SSB) (www.bhutan-switzerland.org)

Members of the preparatory working group:
Society Switzerland-Bhutan:
Marianne Frei, Rosmarie Frey, Benedikt Holzer, Marianne Pletscher and Dieter Zürcher.
Ethnographic Museum at the University of Zurich: Martina Wernsdörfer, Wolfgang Wohlwend, Grazia Cantele and Michèle Dick.

Catering:
The delicious traditional Bhutanese dishes are prepared and served by Aum Kesang Singye from the Bhutan Embassy and her crew.

Graphic concept
Sarah Bonavia

Thanks to:
The Bhutan Film Trust in the Netherlands has been helpful in obtaining films and providing contacts (http://bhutanfilmtrust.org)

If you want to become member of the Society Switzerland-Bhutan please go to:
http://www.bhutan-switzerland.org/index.php/contact
Bank details: IBAN CH49 0070 0110 0004 1518 0 - SWIFT / BIC: ZKBKCHZZ80A
Special Guests From Bhutan

Jamyang Jamtsho Wangchuk: director (see screening Friday 18.30)
Karma Tshering: director (see screening Friday 21.30)
Loday Chophel: director and assistant director (see screenings Saturday 17.00 and 20.30)
Lhaki Dolma: actress and director (see screening and Panel Discussion Sunday 10.30)
Tshewang Tashi: civil servant and politician (see Panel Discussion Sunday 10.30)

Patronage Committee:
H.E. Ambassador Kinga Singye (Ambassador of Bhutan in Geneva), This Brunner (Cultural Actor), Ruth Dreifuss (former Federal Counsellor), Sylvia Egli von Matt (former Director of MAZ, the Swiss School of Journalism), Mario Fehr (President of the Government Council of the Canton of Zurich), Walter Fust (former Director of SDC - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), Annemarie Huber-Hotz (President of the Swiss Red Cross), Elmar Ledergerber (President of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation), Corine Mauch (Mayor of the city of Zurich)

Thanks go to the following Sponsors and Donors:
Background Tours / Globotrek, Bern
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
Reflecta AG, Managementdienstleistungen, Bern
SüdKulturFonds
This Brunner, Zurich
Roger Chevallaz, Ersigen
Sabine Liebherr, Vevey
Patrick Vogel und Dechen Wangmo Tshering, Hinterkappelen
Anonymous donors