

True-Walker Productions, INC.
P.O. Box 250237 | New York, NY 10025 | USA
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www.KhamFilmProject.org | info@KhamFilmProject.org

SUMMER PASTURE

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TRUE WALKER PRODUCTIONS presents in association with RABSAL
a film by LYNN TRUE NELSON WALKER and TSERING PERLO
a KHAM FILM PROJECT production
Supervising Sound Editor PAUL BERCOVITCH Cinematographer NELSON WALKER
Editor LYNN TRUE Co-Producer/Co-Director TSERING PERLO
Directed and Produced by LYNN TRUE and NELSON WALKER

2010, U.S.A., Running time: 85:40 & 56:45
16:9, Color, Dolby LtRt
available screening formats: HD Cam, DigiBeta, Blu-Ray, DVD
Tibetan w/ English subtitles



INDEPENDENTLENS 

Premiering May 10, 2012 on the Emmy-winning series
Independent Lens on PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/summer-pasture/>

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Select Reviews

“enthralling...”

- Stephen Holden, The New York Times (Critics' Pick)

<http://movies.nytimes.com/2011/08/15/movies/summer-pasture-documentary-on-tibetan-nomads-review.html?ref=movies>

“...beautiful and important. For me, the best documentary of 2010.”

-Albert Maysles, Filmmaker (*Grey Gardens*, *Gimme Shelter*)

“... has an earthy intimacy and compassion for its subjects that will have you thinking about their plight long after they've packed up and moved on.”

- Robert Abele, The Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/la-et-capsules-summer-pasture-20110916,0,7441301.story>

“consistently compelling...”

- Stephanie Merry, The Washington Post (Critics' Pick)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/movies/summer-pasture,1206336/critic-review.html>

“austerely beautiful and deeply intimate...”

- New York Magazine (Critics' Pick)

<http://nymag.com/listings/movie/summer-pasture/?mid=376129&rid=422560298>

“A remarkably intimate docu(mentary) woven out of tradition and change...”

- John Anderson, Variety

<http://www.variety.com/review/VE1117943285?refcatid=31>

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Synopsis

Summer Pasture is a feature-length documentary about a young nomadic couple living with their infant daughter in the high grasslands of eastern Tibet. Filmed during the summer of 2007 with rare access to an area seldom visited by outsiders, **Summer Pasture** offers an unprecedented window into a highly insular community and a sensitive portrait of a family at a time of great transition. Locho and his wife Yama live in Dzachukha, eastern Tibet – nicknamed “5-most” by the Chinese for being the highest, coldest, poorest, largest, and most remote area in Sichuan Province, China. They depend on their herd of yaks for survival, just as their ancestors have for generations. In recent years however, Dzachukha has undergone rapid development, which poses unprecedented challenges to nomadic life.

Summer Pasture evolves as an intimate exploration of Locho and Yama's personalities, relationship, and the complicated web of circumstances that surrounds them. Over its course we witness their travails with illness, infidelity, and the dissolution of their community. In the face of mounting obstacles, Locho and Yama gradually reveal the personal sacrifice they will make to ensure their daughter's future. Through its subtle observation of Locho and Yama's character, **Summer Pasture** provides a deeply personal account of what it means to be a nomad in a swiftly modernizing world, and a universal story of family survival.

Principle Subjects



Lozon Chopel “Locho”: 30 years old. Father, husband, and herder, Locho is the cousin of co-filmmaker Tsering Perlo. Friendly and unreserved, he is a well-known member of the nomadic community.

Sangchip Wangmo “Yama”: 27 years old. Locho’s wife, Yama, is the primary producer of the tenthold, and works tirelessly to process yak milk into the family’s chief commodities of butter and cheese. She battles a chronic illness that may jeopardize her ability to have children in the future.

“Jiatomah” (Pale Chubby Baby): 5 months old. Locho and Yama’s infant daughter, who is still awaiting a name from the local lama. Locho and Yama are questioning whether they will raise her as a nomad or send her to school in the township.

Filmmaker Statement

Summer Pasture is a collaborative project, initiated by American filmmakers Lynn True and Nelson Walker who partnered with emerging Tibetan filmmaker Tsering Perlo. A lifelong resident of Kham, Perlo grew up in the nomadic areas depicted in the film and granted our team rare access to film in a community seldom visited by outsiders. Our aim was to create a film that honestly and intimately shares the everyday challenges and experiences of nomadic life, and in doing so, offer a unique alternative to the abundance of purely religious or politicized films about Tibetans.

Due to the difficulties of filming in Tibet, there are relatively few films that depict the perspectives of local Tibetans. The overwhelming majority of Tibet-related films tend to focus on the Tibetan Diaspora, and often lead viewers (even if unintentionally) to equate the exile experience with that of Tibetans living in Tibet.

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Summer Pasture offers viewers a rare opportunity to see Tibet from the inside. Locho and Yama were extraordinarily generous in sharing their lives with us. We are grateful for their honesty and compassion, and as filmmakers, we feel compelled to treat their story with the same open-heartedness and respect. Our aim is to find the moments of drama and humor that permeate Locho and Yama's daily lives. By juxtaposing these moments with their thoughts and reflections, we gradually arrive at a more nuanced understanding of the broader circumstances shaping their reality. Though Locho and Yama's challenges may be unfamiliar to many viewers, their charm and sincerity transcend cultural difference, and remind us of our shared qualities as human beings.

Filmmaker Bios



Lynn True (Director/Producer/Editor)

Lynn True is a New York based filmmaker and editor with a particular interest in nonfiction storytelling. After growing up in South Korea, India, Chicago, Washington D.C., Arizona's Hopi reservation and suburban Oregon, Lynn settled in New York City. She received a joint degree in Urban Studies & Architecture from Brown University and began her film career as an assistant editor at NBC News and PBS. She has since gone on to make independent films including *iThemba|Hope* (Sundance Channel, 2005) and *LUMO* (Student Academy Award winner, PBS's P.O.V. series, 2007). Lynn is also an independent film programmer at New York's Maysles Cinema in Harlem where she and Nelson Walker are co-founders and directors of the *Tibet in Harlem* and *Congo in Harlem* film festivals.



Nelson Walker (Director/Producer/Cinematographer)

Nelson Walker began his career working on documentaries for Discovery Channel, History Channel, and PBS's NOVA. His directorial debut, *iThemba|Hope* – a documentary about an HIV+ choir from South Africa – aired on Sundance Channel in 2005. Nelson has worked extensively in Tibet, as a visiting instructor at Tibet University in Lhasa and contributor to the Tibetan & Himalayan Library. His most recent film, *Lumo* – about a young Congolese woman recovering from a traumatic fistula – won a Student Academy Award for Best Documentary, the President's Award at the Full Frame Film Festival and aired nationally on PBS's P.O.V. series in 2007. Nelson holds a B.A. from Brown University and an MFA in Film Directing from Columbia University.



Tsering Perlo (Co-Producer/Co-Director)

Tsering Perlo founded Rabsal, a local Tibetan NGO that engages Tibetans in filmmaking to preserve and regenerate Tibetan culture and customs. He lives in Dzachukha (Shiqu) County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and graduated from the Sichuan Province Tibetan School (SPTI). Perlo has worked with numerous organizations, including the Tibet Fund, The Bridge Fund and the Tibetan & Himalayan Library at the University of Virginia. Perlo is the first recipient of the Machik Fellowship, a program designed to support dynamic Tibetan change-makers working to strengthen their communities and environments. *Summer Pasture* is his first film.

Project funders include:

Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program, Cinereach, Center for Asian American Media with funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, NY State Council on the Arts, The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, IDA Pare Lorentz Finishing Fund, and the NY Community Trust.

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Select Screenings/Awards

Full Frame Documentary Film Festival (*Winner, Inspiration Award Special Jury Mention*), Durham, NC
Nantucket Film Festival, Nantucket, MA
IDA DocuWeeks: IFC Center, New York, NY
IDA DocuWeeks: ArcLight Cinemas, Los Angeles, CA
Locarno International Film Festival, Switzerland
Dallas Video Fest (*Recipient, Albert Maysles Award*), Dallas, TX
Aspen Film Festival, Aspen, CO
Camden International Film Festival, Camden, ME
Dok Leipzig, Germany
Tokyo International Film Festival, Japan
Banff Mountain Film Festival (*Winner, Best Feature*), Canada
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
2010 IFP Gotham Independent Film Awards (*Nominee, "Best Film Not Playing at a Theater Near You" Award*)
Plus Camerimage Film Festival, Poland
Palm Springs International Film Festival, (*Winner, John Schlesinger Award*), Palm Springs, CA
2010 Film Independent Spirit Awards (*Nominee, "Truer Than Fiction" Award*)
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Missoula, MT
San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (*Winner, Jury Prize for Visual Achievement*), San Francisco, CA
Ashland Independent Film Festival, Ashland, OR
DocAviv, Tel Aviv, Israel
Royal Anthropological Institute International Film Festival (*Winner, Special Jury Commendation*), England
Trento International Film Festival (*Winner, Grand Jury Prize*), Italy
Jean Rouch International Film Festival (*Winner, Grand Prix Nanook*), France

Distribution information:

World broadcast sales

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Film Festival & Non-theatrical screenings

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