A film by Christophe Boula

TIBET – MONGOLIA – SIBERIA
RELEASE France : 2015

The last nomadic cultures...
Three true stories...
A unique feature in the heart of the large steppes of Central Asia...
Director: CHRISTOPHE BOULA
Writers: CHRIS BOULA / T.KUNCHAP
Production: PIGMENTS FILMS / SESAMA
Year of shoot: 2013
Intended release: 2015
Genre: DRAMA / ADVENTURE
Length: 93’
Country of origin: FRANCE
Country of shoot: TIBET / SIBERIA / MONGOLIA
Language: TIBETAN / IAKUT / MONGOLIAN
Subtitles: ENGLISH / FRENCH
Shooting camera: EPIC 5K - DIGITAL CINEMA
Format: CINEMASCOPE 2:39
Line producer: LAURENT BILOT
Budg.: 0,7 mE
Standard copy delivery date: 04/2014
«Nomadic Childhood» tells three stories in which children are the main characters. Each story is complementary to the two others and they are all linked by the same continuity that exists between those people living in the same world of Asian steppes. In each story children are at a critical moment of their lives. They are caught in the cycle of life and death and they respond to the forthcoming destiny. The film completely accepts their point of view, and little by little spectators discover their desire, their belief and imagination... The steppe becomes a land full of spirits, music, games, improvisation. At the moment of choice some people appeal to their internal vital forces, others are subject to dangerous temptations...

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Most of nomad people have seen their traditional world inexorably disappearing. They have come to understand that their children won’t be able to go on their traditional way of life and are confused in front of drastic changes when comes the time to make a choice: should they send their children to school, sell their herds, buy lands and live in a city? Once became part of the city society, they still have huge difficulties in accepting fixed time-tables and accumulating goods. But their children have their future ahead of them: will they retain something from their heritage and their traditions or renounce their past?

«Nomadic Childhoods» is a portrait of Asian nomadic societies in Tibet, Mongolia and Siberia. Above all this film is a series of adventures in a very actual world. Children are forced to live like modern citizens but in the same time they discover their nomadic identity. These stories express their love of nature and huge landscapes, a very particular way of conceiving time and what we are mostly concerned about: their absolute thirst for freedom.
In the middle of breath-taking landscapes in Central Asia, children fill a hostile world with their wishes and their dreams. Amraa, the Mongolian herder; Apo, the Siberian baby; and Lhamo, the young Tibetan girl, all share the same destiny: like their own people, they arrive at major cross-roads in their lives, when they are confronted by love, danger and death.

**TIBET - "The death of Lhamo"**
Lhamo is a young Tibetan girl living with her parents on a remote Tibetan plateau. Under the pressure of the communist government, she is sent to a village school where she lives a violent experience through the lessons of a teacher obsessed by cleanliness, respect and order. Returning to her family, Lhamo’s behavior becomes strange...

**SIBERIA - "The name of Apo"**
In the north of Siberia an Even village is visited by a administrator from the city. He verifies identification records and notices that a new-born baby hasn’t got any name. The very young mother is called at the village. But on her way on the frozen river she loses her baby in the snow. The destiny of the child now depends on reindeers breeders, the only inhabitants of iced taiga...

**MONGOLIA - "Love nests"**
Amraa and Chimge meet each other at noon in Oulan-Bator’s suburbs. The couple of young lovers is looking for a quiet place to make love. But that’s not so easy when you are surrounded by friends, families and many other people... Especially when a bit of misfortune comes in addition ! In that crazy town everything is more complicated than in the wild nature...
The original aspect of «Nomadic Childhoods» consists in the participation of real nomads in every part of the project. A group of families follows the shooting and actively participate in the filming process, playing roles very close to their daily life. Their unique experience lets them modify the mise-en-scène and dialogues. They also participate in the search of locations, decoration, costumes and accessories.

CAST & CREW

Dir. Photography  Arnaud Hemery / Fred Vallet
Cameraman  Jean Vanzo / Paul Chauvin / Munkhtulga Gantsetseg
Sound Engineer  Clément Maleo / Nassim El Mounabbih / Emilie Maj
Director’s assistant  Tsering Lhamo / Lyubov Borisova / Khoroldorj Choijoovanchig
Editing  Chris Boula
Sound mixer  Jean De Sagey
Music  German Khatylaev / Fred Nograv
Executive producer  Laurent Bilot

Sonam Wangmo  LHAMO
Sampel Gyatso  GYATSO
Kalsang Dawa  DAWA
Tashi Chospel  TEACHER BHARI
Pempa Norbu  THUNGZE
Dacha Uvarovskaya  DACHA
Sasha Uvarovskaya  APO
Irina Nikolaevna Ivanova  DACHA’S MOTHER
Kolya Fedotov  MASSILY
Irka Erdene Baatar  AMRAA
Otgonjargal Huygbaatar  CHIMGE
Dorjnam  AMRAA’S FATHER
DIRECTOR / CHRIS BOULA
Chris Boula first worked as a documentary director with different TV channels such as France Télévisions, Arte, Mezzo, Canal+, France Ô, and TV5. In 2008, he directed a docu-drama about Buddha’s life. He is presently concentrating on writing and directing feature movies. His short “Child of yak” was selected in more than 20 international festivals around the world and received several prizes.

FILMOGRAPHY
« l’Infedelta Delusa », Opera Haydn 105’, 60th Aix-en-Provence festival, MEZZO.

DOCUMENTARIES :
« A nomadic Buddhism », documentary 26’, FRANCE 2.
«A Valley between Two Worlds », documentary 52’, FRANCE 2.

PRODUCTION COMPANIES : PIGMENTS / SESAMA
Founded in 2000, SESAMA Production mainly develops author film projects, both short movies and feature films, bringing a new vision of the subjects. The company also provides consultation services for digital cinema around the RED and EPIC cameras (co-productions, technological innovations, technical, post-production, colour science, DCPs...). PIGMENTS Films is now dedicated to World cinema projects.
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