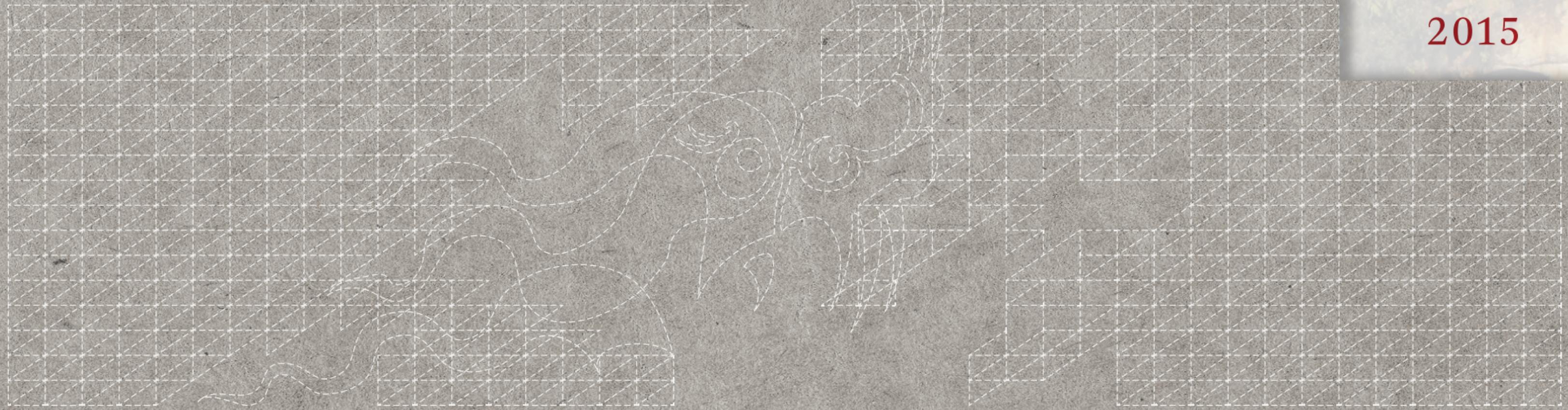
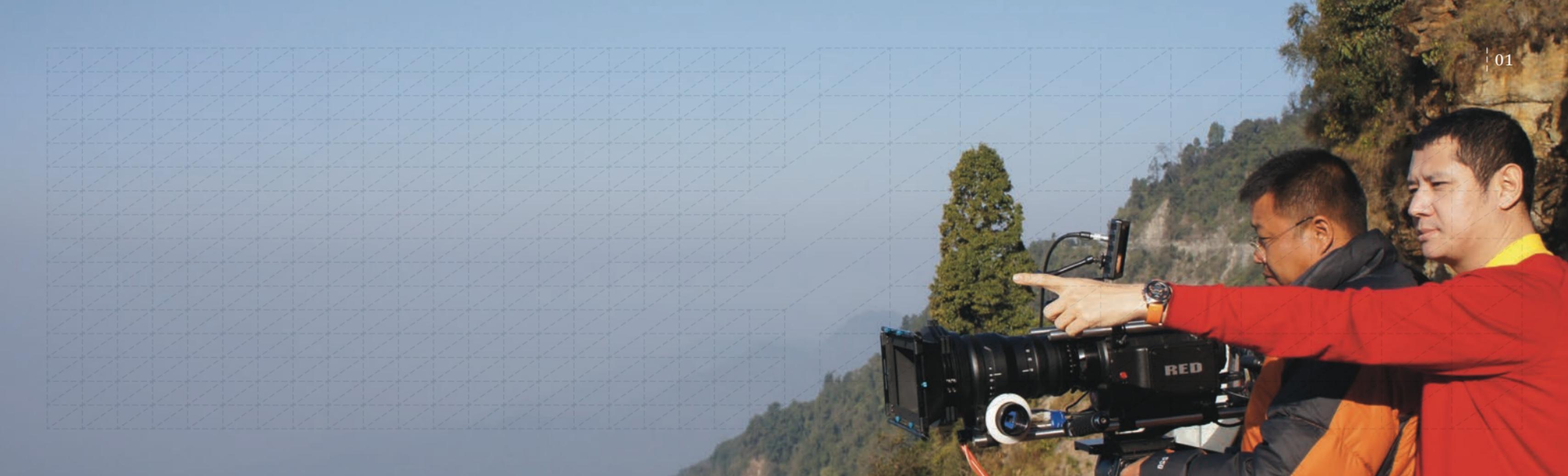


2015







*The Bhutan Film Trust invites your involvement in the fascinating world of the Bhutan film industry.*

The Bhutan film industry, although in its infancy, is growing rapidly. Each year over 20 films are made in Bhutan, filled with intriguing stories and breathtaking sceneries.

Most Bhutanese films are made for the local audience, however film makers, actors and scriptwriters are eager to bring their films to a wider public and enter the international film world.

The Bhutan Film Trust supports these film makers and we invite you to join us with your expertise, networks, investments and funding opportunities.

On the next pages we give you an impression of the foremost recent productions from Bhutan, how you can support the Bhutan Film Trust and become part of our film community.

*Mrs. Lem van Eupen*  
Chairperson Bhutan Film Trust

*Bhutan* is a small country that modestly takes its role in the world by telling stories on our lives, on our history and how we deal with an ever changing environment. All of us are passionate about making films and getting the best out of ourselves, our crew, our casts and our suppliers. Bhutan is beautiful and within our country, its history and people lies a wisdom of compassion and contentment that is still easy to touch and to revive.

We know that the world is changing fast and so is ours. Maybe that is why we love to make films on our ancestors, deities, modern developments and social issues that touch and inspire us.

We know that we are still at the beginning of making excellent films. For this matter we work hard to further develop our talents. We want to improve our scripts and our techniques. And for sure we want our films to appear in festivals, to produce more and better films and to reach out to you!

*We are happy to give you this short introduction to our aspirations and if it inspires you, please contact us and find out how you can join the Bhutan Film Community!*

*Hon'ble Kesang D. Wangmo*

actress, member of parliament Bhutan





### *Transition and transcendency*

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*Outwardly, I enjoy wine, women and song.  
And inwardly I work for the benefit of all beings.  
Outwardly, I live for my pleasure  
and inwardly I do everything in the right moment.  
Outwardly I am a ragged beggar  
and inwardly a blissful Buddha.*

This poem by *Drukpa Kunley*, the divine madman, explains the duality in the life of many Bhutanese people. How can a person be faithful and unfaithful, how can a phallus, a symbol of sex, spread wisdom and lead to enlightenment? Bhutan gets to grip with ancient stories and beliefs in a fast changing society. No wonder that many scripts of Bhutanese film makers delve into the confusion of teachings by old masters and its translation into people's life today. Transition and transcendency have become main subjects in today's films by young Bhutanese film makers.





*The Red Door, a film by Tashi Gyeltshen*

*Maybe death is as mundane as opening a door. When we die, we just enter another door, and say, 'Mother, I am home'. Perhaps we never die; we only enter another door into another world. We would only enter, enter into new life again and again and again. We never exit. If there is reincarnation, then death is birth. You are born again. There is no death.*

Film maker *Tashi Gyeltshen* made his short film *The Red Door* in 2013 as a tribute to his nephew who lost his life through a tragic event. Making the film was a way to console himself, using impressive long, slow shots of a man climbing a mountain, carrying death – the red door – on his shoulders. At the top he opens the red door and steps into an open space, entering a new life, again, again and again. The film successfully premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival 2014, and was screened in many filmfestivals arounds the globe.

Tashi, who made his first short in 2009: *The Girl with the Red Sky*, now completes the *Red Trilogy* with his first feature length film: *The Red Phallus* in which passion and death are central themes.



Still from *The Red Door* by Tashi Gyeltshen



*Lo-Sum-Choe-Sum*, a film by Dechen Roder

*The traditional '3 year - 3 month - retreat' or Lo-Sum-Choe-Sum is calculated as the time needed to achieve a higher state of clarity and motivation.*

*By cutting oneself off from the world, and delving into the inner mind, the retreat is supposed to transform the practitioner.*

*Lhamo, a young, wounded girl facing the harsh gaze of the world, finds her own dramatic form of retreat and redemption.*

Dechen Roder comes from a family of writers and artists and is a passionate film director. *Lo Sum Choe Sum*, Dechen's third short movie premiered at the Berlinale 2015. Since then the film has been screened at international film festivals (a.o. Freiburg, Palm Springs, Seoul) and has received enthusiastic critiques.

Her next film *The Honeygiver Among the Dogs* is a feature length thriller, a drama film that works loosely on classic detective and mystery genres. *The Honeygiver* is also an art film with deeper layers of mysticism, cultural determination and symbolism.

The stories in Dechen's films are culturally rooted in Bhutan and its Buddhist past, however the themes are universal: stories of love, faith, social issues, crime and compassion.

Still from *Lo-Sum-Choe-Sum* by Dechen Roder



*Kushuthara, a film by Karma Deki*

*Kushuthara – A Pattern of Love, explores the Buddhist concept of karma and the possibility of rebirth of two persons in one lifetime to accomplish what was left unrealised in a previous life.*

*While on assignment to document traditional textile production, Charlie, a photographer from Hollywood, finds himself in a small village high in the mountains of Eastern Bhutan. Chokimo a very skilled weaver, catches his eye and he feels immediately drawn to her. The relationship between the two becomes entangled and then untangled through realisation of the causes and conditions created in their previous lives. What started in the past, will continue till today.*

*Kushuthara premiered at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), 2014, and was screened in Bhutan and Fiji in 2015. Karma Deki is one of the leading film directors in the Kingdom of Bhutan.*

*She has directed four feature films: Dangphu, Kushuthara 1, Four Friends and Kushuthara pattern of love. Karma also produced/directed a short on the consequences of domestic violence, Birds in Cages and a television series about youth, My Life My Dream and The Journey of Life. Actor award of recognition at IndieFest film Awards, 2015*





*Prophecy, a film by Zuri Rinpoche*

*Prophecy begins with the discovery of an ancient Buddhist scripture. A senior Buddhist monk embarks on a journey in search of a reincarnation, destined to propagate the Buddha dharma. A young boy, Rigzen Lingpa, is recognised as the one to fulfil the prophecy. Once he is a lama, a girl from Thimphu takes her sick mother to receive blessings from the lama, and experiences a powerful connection with him. Together, they embark on an incredible journey in search of the real meaning of the prophecy. This journey completely changes their lives and challenges conventional beliefs and social values....*

*Prophecy* premiered at the International Buddhist Film Festival, California 2015. The director of *Prophecy*, Venerable 8th Zuri Rinpoche is the successive incarnation of the 7th Zuri Rinpoche of Thrangu Monastery in Qinghai. Since his childhood, he has had a strong innate passion for arts and culture and a great interest in the appreciation of photography and sculpture. *Prophecy* is Zuri Rinpoche's first film in which he pictures intrinsic and confusing aspects of the Bhutanese society and the tremendous changes with which the Bhutanese are confronted.



Still from *Prophecy* by Zuri Rinpoche

*We invite you to participate*

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The *Bhutan Film Trust* acts as an agent for the most talented Bhutanese film directors to bring their productions to major international film festivals and film markets. The Board of Trustees and committee members are well-known film experts and dignitaries from Bhutan and the Netherlands. The Bhutan Film Trust is a non-profit foundation registered under the Dutch law.

The Trust invites you to become a member of the Bhutan Film Community and to share your networks, expertise and funding opportunities with us. You may also choose to become a Maecenas to a Bhutanese film maker and support his/her career, or support us with distribution.

We offer you the latest films from Bhutan, personal updates, invitations for film screenings, premieres and meet and greets with directors and actors. We will arrange your travel to Bhutan to visit film sets and experience the beauty of the country, its people and its hidden treasures.

Visit our website and Facebook page and when contacting us we are happy to send you more information and a link to one of the films in our portfolio.

*[www.bhutanfilmtrust.org](http://www.bhutanfilmtrust.org)*

*on facebook: [bhutanfilmtrust](https://www.facebook.com/bhutanfilmtrust)*

*Contact information*

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