




HEMA HEMA
SING ME A SONG WHILE I WAIT

A Film by
Khyentse Norbu



There is a forest
where you do not have to be
who you are,
and where you can choose
who you want to be.
No one will remember.
There will be nothing to forget.
The past will be irrelevant,
the present, indulgent
and the future will wait.
Time and space,
make what you want of it.
The Forest
like the fire you seek
for warmth, will draw you close.
Some of us know when to pull back,
some of us don't.
This is a story of those who know,
and those who don't.
This is a story of today
that began Hema Hema...

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HEMA HEMA
SING ME A SONG WHILE I WAIT

Written and Directed by
Khyentse Norbu



The Filmmakers:

Director

Khyentse Norbu

Produced by

Pawo Choyning Dorji

Sara Chen

Executive Producer

Jeremy Thomas

Director of Photography

Jigme Tenzing

Editor

Tian Zhuangzhuang

Li Gen

Director of Sound

Tu Duu-Chih

Wu Shu-Yao

Production Designer


Emily Avery Yoshiko Crow

Art Director

Ugyen Tshomo

Costume Designer

Jamyang Choden



The Cast

Expressionless/The Bard
Agay

Tshering Dorji
Thinley Dorji

Red Wrathful/Hideous
Hostess

Sadon Lhamo
Zhou Xun

ABOUT THE FILM

Somewhere deep in a reticent forest of Bhutan, there is a gathering every twelve years of men and women, especially chosen by the Old Man to enjoy a few days of anonymity. Faceless, the men and women participate in rituals, performances, and dances. Masked, the men and women are lascivious, playful, and dangerous.

Expressionless attends this festival for the first time, and enters the experience like a newborn. He stumbles clumsily through his first few days, but quickly adapts. Then he spots Red Wrathful, and becomes intoxicated with desire for her. A desire that leads him down a path that totally consumes him.

After twenty-four years of knowing the consequences of his actions, Expressionless returns to the festival to seek atonement.

Hema Hema: Sing Me a Song, is celebrated director Khyentse Norbu's (The Cup, Travellers and Magicians, Vara: A Blessing) most personal film. A rich story is told without the excess of human conversation. Norbu uses masks, simple percussion instruments, and vivid Buddhist imagery as a mirror reflecting the fallibility of the human experience. A cast and crew of Bhutanese first-timers hold up Norbu's mirror supported by a small but celebrated international team (Jeremy Thomas, Executive Producer; Tu Duu-Chih, Sound Designer; Tian Zhuangzhuang, Filmmaker/ Editor).





Masked, we advance as:

Director:

Khyentse Norbu articulates his dreams to the world and the line between fiction and reality blurs. In the blurring, awards and inspiration happen. Khyentse's foray into films started with Bernardo Bertolucci's *Little Buddha* as the director's assistant. Khyentse has written and directed three award-winning films since, and perseveres in his role as dreammaker.

Producer:

Pawo Choyning Dorji is a nomad photographer- a painter of light following old footprints in the sand. His journey into filmmaking began with *Vara: A Blessing* as the Khyentse Norbu's assistant, and stills photographer.

Producer:

Sarah Chen is an award-winning television host, producer, and actress. She is a passionate storyteller, and relishes creative challenges.

Executive Producer:

Independent British producer Jeremy Thomas has made many films, including Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor*, which received nine Academy Awards including Best Picture. Jeremy met Khyentse Norbu while making Bertolucci's *Little Buddha*, and their friendship led to his involvement with *The Cup, Travellers and Magicians* and *Vara: A Blessing*.

Production Designer:

Emily Avery Yoshiko Crow is an artist, and a jewelry designer on a lifelong quest to create perfect ornaments. Her decision to pursue creativity after studying medicine has proven to be immensely useful, especially to friends dabbling in filmmaking.

Director of Photography:

Jigme Tenzing's curiosity has taken him places, and into many films. Stranger things





have happened in almost a decade of filmmaking, and strange things continue to happen in front of his lens.

Directors of Sound:

Duu-Chih Tu the sound magician, has been a professional in the movie industry for over 30 years. He began his recording career in 1981, working on the 'Winter in 1905'. Over the past few decades, Tu has been awarded The Best Sound Effects in the Golden Horse film festival ten times, while also winning the 54th Cannes International Film Festival's Technical Grand Prize for 'Millennium Mambo' and 'What time is there'.

Wu Shu-Yao a shorthaired vegetarian, and lover of earth, believes that one single sound can unite many different voices. She is, therefore, forever in pursuit of sounds that trigger common memories in those who listen.

Editors:

Tian Zhuangzhuang is an acclaimed filmmaker, pusher of the envelope, and rider of challenges. As first-time editor, Zhuangzhuang proves he is a more than just an able pusher and rider.

Li Gen is a graduate from the Beijing Film Academy, having studied Directing and Editing. Several film festivals, such as Cannes, Berlin, Calcutta and Shanghai, selected to feature his short film 'One Night'. Hema Hema is his first feature film.

Art Director:

Ugyen Tshomo was the production assistant for Travelers and Magicians. In between films and otherwise, Ugyen devotes her time to the Khyentse Labrang in Bhutan.

Costume Designer:

Jamyang Choden, the seamstress, threads her needle while taking pictures of clouds. She stitches dreams together, even if they are made of coarse wool and number in the hundreds.



The Cast



Tshering Dorji: Expressionless and The Bard

Tshering Dorji has acted in several independent films, and is passionate about theatre and singing. He shares a deep connection with masks, and hopes that the connection will endure even in the Hema Hema afterlife.



Sadon Lhamo: Hideous and Red Wrathful

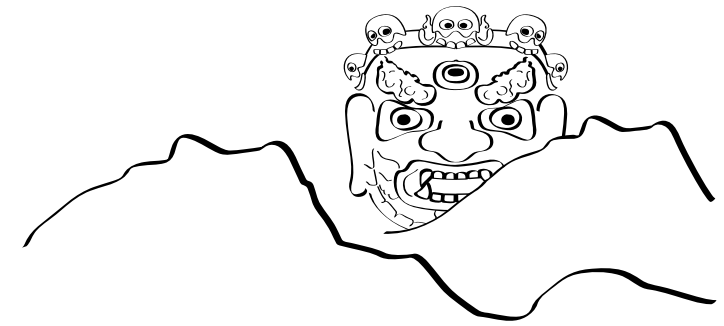
Sadon Lhamo is the owner of a cup randomly autographed by Khyentse Norbu while both were in the air. Neither knew then that there would be an opportunity for their paths to cross again, this time on land. Sadon, the flight attendant, makes her debut as one of the principal characters.



Thinley Dorji: Agay (Old Man)

Thinley Dorji is a former diplomat, and a nostalgic for his younger performances in school plays. The grateful first-time actor says devotion steered him in the direction of acting.





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