

Festival Accès Asie is pleased, in collaboration with Le Gesù, to invite you to the screening of a

DOCUMENTARY FILM
TIBET : LAND of the BRAVE
by Geneviève BRAULT

Thursday, May 17, 2012
at 7:30 pm

at Le Gesù
1200, Bleury street
(Subway Place-des-Arts station, Bleury exit)



Entrance cost : \$7

Photos credits : Gyamtso SOTSE, the family of Gyamtso Sotse.

Montreal, March 1st, 2012 – This unique documentary is a cinematographic journey into the nomadic lives of Tibetans as well as an excursion of the daily lives of these ancient peoples. Presented in French by **Festival Accès Asie** at **Le Gesù**, this documentary is filmed over a span of several years and explores the lives of a family formed by Marijo Demers, a Quebecker, and Gyamtso Sotse, her husband of Tibetan origins. With Yangchen, their daughter, and expecting a second child, the couple visits Gyamtso's family with the wish to see their son born in the home of their ancestors.

Taking place in one of the most remote regions of the world, the film brings the audience in the everyday lives of Tibetan nomads from the perspectives of Marijo, Gyamtso, and Yangchen. According to the Tibetan-Canadian couple, *Tibet : Land of the Brave* (www.tibetterredesbraves.net/fr) explores the dangers that threaten tradition, the way of life, the culture of this nomadic people and how radical reforms of turning China into a market economy have created devastating consequences. Through a personal and unique viewpoint, this documentary from Multi-Monde Productions directed by Geneviève Brault serves as a reflection on the conditions and the future of Tibetan nomads. It is a lens into their lives, giving a choice and an image to a people whose way of life is under threat. At the same time, the film allows us to observe how the politics of the Chinese settlements have affected the existence of the nomadic lives.

This screening at **Le Gesù** will include a panel discussion with the presence of producer Lucie Pageau, from Multi-Monde Productions (<http://www.pmm.qc.ca/>) and director Geneviève Brault. We will be equally honoured to welcome the protagonists of this documentary, Gyamtso Sotse, Marijo Demers and their daughter Yangchen, who will be present at the panel screening to answer questions both in English and French. Gyamtso will perform live some of the songs that he sang in the film.

gesù

Located in the heart of the Quartier des Spectacles and downtown Montreal, le Gesù is an organization dedicated to welcome artists and to promote the dissemination of arts. Its mission is to provide to the audience and artists experiences that challenge them, push them to meet and generate dialogue between them. By giving priority to the connections between creators and audience, le Gesù intends to continue the tradition that has founded this place, making of this historical and cultural heritage a living space for meetings and creation. Every year, le Gesù hosts over 300 cultural and artistic activities. With more than 50,000 visitors a year; it is a key player in Montreal's cultural life and it is working with major events that are the hallmarks of the city (the International Jazz Festival, the Just for Laughs Festival, the Francofolies,...). For more details and ticket sales conditions, please visit the website of le Gesù.



Geneviève BRAULT – Film Director

As a graduate in journalism, Geneviève Brault is a young director interested in exploring social issues. Her focus on the Tibetan question resurfaced during the 2000's, which led her to produce a report on the topic that was submitted to *Culture Choc/Shok*. Realizing this documentary is a continuation of the relationships that were developed with Brault and the Tibetan community in Quebec. During two instances of reporting between 2001 and 2003, Brault met Marijo Demers and the seed was sown. From this trusting relationship, Brault had a chance to accompany the family to Tibet twice, gradually learned the details of this small family which became the story and eventually, made the production possible. In 2005, she resided with a nomadic community located in the mountains for several months. It is from this experience that lead to the idea of creating the documentary, *Tibet: Land of the Brave* and to portray the conditions and the future of the Tibetan nomadic people.



Gyamtso SOTSE

Gyamtso Sotse presently lives in Canada with his wife, Marijo Demers, a young Quebecker who is passionate about Tibetan culture and language. It was in 1992, fresh out of his adolescence, that Sotse made the stern decision to leave his country. He then embarked on a journey across the Himalayas on foot and took refuge in Dharamsala, the land of exile for many Tibetans. It was there that he met his wife, Marijo. In 2000, they immigrated to Canada only to become overwhelmed with a culture shock. Having emigrated for several years, his biggest wish was to be able to return, see his family, relive those few months he spent across the mountains, and find again, the daily lives of nomads, step foot on his native land. Extremely proud of his origins, Gyamtso also performs his musical compositions and several traditional pieces presented in the film. He shares his culture with wisdom and emotion.



Marijo DEMERS

Marijo Demers is a Quebecker fascinated by everything about Tibetan culture. Curious in discovering a new way of life far from her own, she decided to live in Dharamsala, India for six months to learn the Tibetan language. It was there that she met Gyamtso Sotse. Now that she is mother of two children, Marijo is still very active in the Tibetan community. She is currently completing her PhD in Political Sciences at the University of Ottawa. For the past couple of years, she has focused her research on Tibetan nomads, particularly in the native region of her husband. Marijo also regularly gives lectures on this subject showing and spreading her passionate love for this country, Tibet.



Yangchen Dolma SOTSE

Yangchen is the daughter of Marijo and Gyamtso. She is currently nine years old and she continues to immerse herself in Tibetan culture. She has learned to write Tibetan from her father and participates in a number of events organised by the Tibetan Cultural Association of Quebec. At school, Yangchen discovers her culture through photos and souvenirs from travelling, in addition to trying out unique Tibetan cuisine. She cannot wait to return to Tibet again.

