

LABOUR OF LOVE PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS

“AM I HAPPY?” 我快乐吗？

# ETHEREAL ECHOES

## 羌塘空响

ALL THINGS ARE CONNECTED 万象联于一念

崔子秋 作品

A CUI AUTUMN ZIQU FILM

ཨཱ་ཁྱུ་འཕུམ་ཟིའུ་ཕིལ་



**PRESS KIT**



## OVERVIEW

**Genre:** Documentary Feature

**Running Time:** 121minutes

**Director/Writer/Narrator:** CUI Autumn Ziqiu

**Year of Production:** 2023

**Country of Origin:** China

**Format:** 4k, 16/9, 24fps, Stereo

**Languages:** English, Chinese, Tibetan

**Subtitles:** English, Chinese (optional)

**Film Locations:** China, United Kingdom

**Contact:** Labour of Love Productions

Allen Alulim E-mail: [etherealechoes2023@gmail.com](mailto:etherealechoes2023@gmail.com)

### Links:

Website: <https://www.labourofloveproductions.com/etherealechoes>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/753242002>

WeChat Platfrom: 





## **LOGLINE**

A young filmmaker returns to capture Tibet three times over three years and along the way experiences a paradigm shift in her values and beliefs.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

A young Chinese filmmaker Autumn sets out on a trip with an idea for a short documentary on education that takes her from London to Tibet, alone. Filming her friend Qian, who was a volunteer teacher in Lhasa, then staying at a Tibetan student, Tsezin's home deep in the Tibetan grasslands far from the conveniences of the city life she'd always known. Autumn began learning how to simply survive in an alien world at 4500 meters (15,000 ft.) - the hazardous lack of oxygen, the sudden and potentially deadly turns of weather, this mixed with Tsezin's unexpected exam results and her own complicated emotions triggered by cultural differences and physical discomfort...

Unexpected events along the way cause an overhaul of the meanings behind the values and beliefs that echo within her. She embraced a sense of peace and joy that came along with the discovery of the harsh but gentle simplicity of the grasslands and the sincerity of human relationships.

## FULL SYNOPSIS

“What can filmmakers do for kids with little to no access to schools or teachers?” This question, asked in a London film workshop, inspired CUI Autumn Ziqiu to film a volunteer teacher and her students in a Lhasa High School. There, Autumn met Tsezin, a bright, generous, hardworking student who expressed a desire to attend a modern college. With a degree in anthropology, Autumn was fascinated to learn that Tsezin’s family was still living a traditional, time-honored agrarian life herding yaks. It aroused her curiosity to know more about local families living in the Tibetan Plateau’s remote grasslands.

She volunteered to assist Tsezin with her college application and stayed in the girl’s family home deep in the Tibetan grasslands far from the conveniences of the city life she’d always known. Autumn struggles with daily life at 4500 meters (15,000 ft.) - the hazardous lack of oxygen, the sudden and potentially deadly turns of weather, this mixed with Tsezin’s unexpected exam results and Autumn’s own complicated emotions triggered by cultural differences and physical discomfort. She was learning how to simply survive in an almost alien world.

Immersed in this lifestyle and her exposure to the obstacles local students face in their pursuit of a modern education led her to reconsider the concept of education. Witnessing the inevitable changes taking place in Tibet, she felt it was important to reevaluate traditional life before it was lost to the modern world. Establishing harmonious relationships with multiple beliefs confirmed her attitude on how to deal with the differences between cultures. Observing how kids acknowledge things and encouraging them to express the world they see reminded her of a question that haunted her in a Jean Rouch film, “Are you happy?”

Following the firm sound she heard within, she embraced a sense of peace and joy that came along with the discovery of the harsh but gentle simplicity of the grasslands and the sincerity of human relationships. As she watched things unfold naturally, she saw how all things are connected. how all things are connected.





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I had no detailed plan when I started shooting in Tibet in 2019. For me, it was a chance that came about at an opportune time with a rare opportunity to film an attractive culture in an interesting place.

I simply felt I had to go.

I went back to shoot again over the next two years. Then spent the following year editing the footage and writing a script.

This film started with my personal questions about education and my passion for filmmaking. With more shooting and editing, it grew into a larger concept that connects things I observe and emotions I feel. It let me see clearly how profoundly all my experiences connected what I think and what I do.

To make this film, I needed to constantly balance the nuances within the cultures, represented by three languages, Chinese, English and Tibetan. It was a huge challenge to me; in the end it turned out to be a beautiful experience.

I'd like to share this film with people of various backgrounds in the hope it will bring about conversations that will lead to deeper communication.





## CREW'S BIO



### **CUI AUTUMN ZIQIU** (DIRECTOR, WRITER, PRODUCER, DP & EDITOR)

Born 1996 in Kunming, Yunnan, China.

A documentary film director, editor, cinematographer, and experimental filmmaker.

BSc in Ethnology, from Minzu University of China.

MA in Documentary by Practice from Royal Holloway, University of London.

Her work experiments with visual presentations exploring such topics as education, ancient and ethnic cultures, and cross- subjects.

## FILMOGRAPHY

2023 ***Ethereal Echoes***, documentary feature, China, UK.

Director, Writer, Editor, Cinematographer

2021 ***Come What May***, documentary feature, China.

Editor

2019 ***Filters***, short experimental film, UK.

Director, Cinematographer, Editor

2018 ***Who is Mark***, short documentary, UK

Director, Cinematographer, Editor

2016 ***Above the Clouds***, VR shorts, China.

Director, Cinematographer, Editor

## AWARD

***Above the Clouds*** bronze, VR Image Exhibition, Beijing Film Academy

## LINKS

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## PRODUCERS

CUI AUTUMN ZIQU, 1996 PRC. 3329ady@gmail.com

DAVID P BUCKLEY, 1942 USA. 3329ady@gmail.com

## CAST

### QIAN JINGXUAN [VOLUNTEER TEACHER]

Born 1996 in Sichuan province, China. She graduated from Minzu University of China, holds BA and MA in Minority Language and Literature. She was a volunteer teacher in a High School in Lhasa between July 2018 and July 2019.



### SONAM TSEZIN [TIBETAN GIRL]

Born 2000 in Nagqu, Tibet, China, presently, studying at a university in Hunan Province, China.



### DAWA TSRING [BOY IN RED]

Born 2018 in Nagqu, Tibet, China. Sonam Tsezin's eldest sister's youngest son.



### NYIMA CHODRON [KINDERGARTEN GIRL]

Born 2015 in Nagqu, Tibet, China. Sonam Tsezin's second brother's third kid.



### CHAUNGABAU [HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT RAPPER]

Born 2000 in Amdo, Tibet, China.



导演 | 摄影 | 剪辑 崔子秋  
写 作 崔子秋  
制片人 崔子秋  
联合制片人 杨 玥  
摄影助理 钱婧萱

巴德伟  
巴德伟  
钱婧萱  
索朗次增 琼 布

བསོད་ནམས་ཆེ་འཛིན། རྒྱུ་བ།

原创作曲 崇 文  
混 音 瑞 文  
调色监督 Junior Kat  
动 画 李秋花

翻 译  
中文 - 英文 杨 玥  
藏语 - 中文 琼 布  
中文 - 藏文 扎西顿珠  
བཞུ་ཤིས་དོན་གྲུབ།

侯秋阳

索朗次增

བསོད་ནམས་ཆེ་འཛིན།

校 对 巴德伟

杨 玥 次仁罗布 永忠拉杰

ཆེ་འཛིན་ཞེས་གྲ། གཡུང་བླང་ལྷ་ཆུལ།

Director/Cinematographer/Editor CUI Autumn Ziqui

Writers CUI Autumn Ziqui David Buckley

Producers CUI Autumn Ziqui David Buckley

Co-Producers YANG Yue QIAN Jingxuan

Second Unit Camera QIAN Jingxuan Sonam Tsezin

Chaungabau

Orginal Music Composor Zacu

Sound Mixing Jason Cuzac

Color Supervisor Junior Kat

Animation LI Dandelion

Translator

Chinese – English YANG Yue HOU Qiuyang

Tibetan – Chinese Chaungabau

Chinese – Tibetan Tashi Thondup Sonam Tsezin

Proof reading David Buckley YANG Yue

Tsring Norbu Yungdrung Lhage



QIAN Jingxuan	...	Volunteer Teacher	...	支教老师	...	钱婧萱	...	ཇག་ཅི་ཇག་ཇག་
Sonam Tsezin	...	Tibetan Girl	...	西藏女孩	...	索朗次增	...	བསོད་ནམས་ཅེ་འཛིན།
Dawa Tstring	...	Eldest Sister's son	...	大姐小儿子	...	达瓦次仁	...	དྲ་བ་ཅེ་འེ་བ་
Nyima Chodron	...	Second Brother's Daughter	...	二哥三女儿	...	尼玛曲珍	...	དེ་ལ་ཚུ་ཁྱེན།
Chaungabau	...	Student Rapper	...	唱饶舌学生	...	琼 布	...	ཅུ་བ་ཅུ་
Tstring Chotso	...	Student Interviewee	...	被采访学生	...	次仁曲措	...	ཅེ་འེ་བ་ཅེ་མཚུ་
Pema Zomge	...	Student Interviewee	...	被采访学生	...	白马宗吉	...	ཇག་མ་འཛིན་མ་ཁྱེན་
Sonam Thondup	...	Student Singer	...	唱歌学生	...	索朗顿珠	...	བསོད་ནམས་ཁྱེན་ལུ་བ།
Champa Choge	...	Student Broadcaster	...	朗诵学生	...	强巴曲杰	...	ལྷ་མཚུ་ལ་ཚུ་ཁྱེན།
Pasang Samdrup	...	Student Singer	...	唱歌学生	...	巴桑桑珠	...	ཕ་མ་བསོད་ནམས་ཅུ་བ་
Samten	...	Student Singer	...	唱歌学生	...	桑 旦	...	ས་མཚུ་ལ་ཁྱེན་
Gur Yang	...	Tsezin's Father	...	次增父亲	...	古 央	...	མཁུ་བ་འཇུ་མ།
Sampe Norbu	...	Tsezin's Second Brother	...	次增二哥	...	桑白罗布	...	བསོད་ནམས་ཅེ་འེ་ཁྱེན་
Yu Dro	...	Second Sister-in-law	...	二嫂	...	玉 卓	...	ཀུ་ལྷ་ཁྱེན།
Tstring Sonam	...	Second Brother's Daughter	...	二哥大女儿	...	次仁索南	...	ཅེ་འེ་བ་བསོད་ནམས་
Nyima Thondup	...	Second Brother's Son	...	二哥大儿子	...	尼玛顿珠	...	དེ་ལ་ཚུ་ཁྱེན་ལུ་བ།
Lhapa Droma	...	Second Brother's Daughter	...	二哥三女儿	...	拉巴卓玛	...	ལྷ་ཕ་ལ་ཁྱེན་མ་
Udrup Dorge	...	Second Brother's Son	...	二哥二儿子	...	欧珠多吉	...	འཇུ་མ་ལུ་ཁྱེན།
Tstring Dakpa	...	Second Brother's Son	...	二哥三儿子	...	次仁扎巴	...	ཅེ་འེ་བ་ཅུ་མཚུ་ལ་
Ciwan Lhamo	...	Neighbor	...	邻居	...	次旺拉姆	...	ཅེ་དྲ་བ་ལ་ ཅེ་མ།
Sithar Lhamo	...	Neighbor's daughter	...	邻居大女儿	...	色塔拉姆	...	ཅི་དྲ་བ་ལ་ མེ་མ།
Sonam Wangmo	...	Neighbor's daughter	...	邻居小女儿	...	索南旺姆	...	བསོད་ནམས་ལྷ་མ་
Citen Droma	...	Tsezin's Eldest Sister	...	次增大姐	...	次丹卓玛	...	ཅེ་ལ་ཚུ་ཁྱེན་མ།
Rinchen Namgyal	...	Eldest Brother-in-law	...	大姐夫	...	乍青朗加	...	ཇི་ཅེ་ཅེ་ནམ་ཁྱེན་
Karma Tromo	...	Eldest Sister's Daughter	...	大姐大女儿	...	嘎玛措姆	...	ཀ་ལྷ་མཚུ་མ།
Tashi Nyima	...	Eldest Sister's Son	...	大姐大儿子	...	扎西尼玛	...	བཟུ་ཤིས་ཅེ་མ།
Nyima Tstring	...	Eldest Sister's Son	...	大姐二儿子	...	尼玛次仁	...	དེ་ལ་ཚུ་ཅེ་འེ་བ་
Rolgya	...	Neighbor	...	邻居爸爸	...	罗 加	...	རྟ་ལ་ ཅུ་ལ་
Wang Due	...	Neighbor's Son	...	邻居儿子	...	旺 堆	...	དཔལ་འཇུ་མ་
Tenzin Gonpo	...	Muscle Prince	...	肌肉王子	...	丹增贡布	...	བཟུ་བ་འཛིན་ འཇུ་མ་ལ།
Samten Chosang	...	Prince's Mother	...	王子妈妈	...	桑旦曲桑	...	བསོད་ནམས་ཁྱེན་ཅེ་མ་བསོད་ནམས་
Dawa Tenzin	...	Prince's Uncle	...	王子舅舅	...	达瓦丹增	...	དྲ་བ་འཇུ་ནམ་འཛིན།
Lobsang Thondup	...	Prince's Uncle	...	王子舅舅	...	落桑顿珠	...	ལྷ་ཕ་བ་ལ་ཚུ་ཁྱེན་ལུ་བ།
Chu Gyal	...	Prince's Grandfather	...	王子爷爷	...	秋 敢	...	ཅུ་ལ་ ཅུ་ལ།
Tsewan Thondup	...	Neighbor	...	男邻居	...	次旺顿珠	...	ཅེ་དྲ་བ་ལ་ ཅེ་དྲ་ལ།
Droma Samten	...	Neighbor	...	女邻居	...	卓玛桑旦	...	ཁྱེན་མ་མ་བསོད་ནམས་ཀུ་མཚུ་
Lhapa Droge	...	Neighbor's Daughter	...	邻居女孩	...	拉巴卓吉	...	ལྷ་ཕ་ལ་ ཅུ་ལ་ ཁྱེན་
Tstring Thondup	...	Neighbor's Son	...	邻居男孩	...	次仁顿珠	...	ཅེ་འེ་བ་ཅུ་ཁྱེན་ལུ་བ།
Dawa Namdrup	...	Horse leading boy	...	牵马男孩	...	达瓦朗珠	...	དྲ་བ་ཀུ་ནམ་ ཁྱེན།
Pema Yeshe	...	Horse riding boy	...	骑马男孩	...	白马益西	...	འཇུ་ལ་ ལོ་ཤེས།

## LOCATION STILLS



## PRODUCTION STILLS





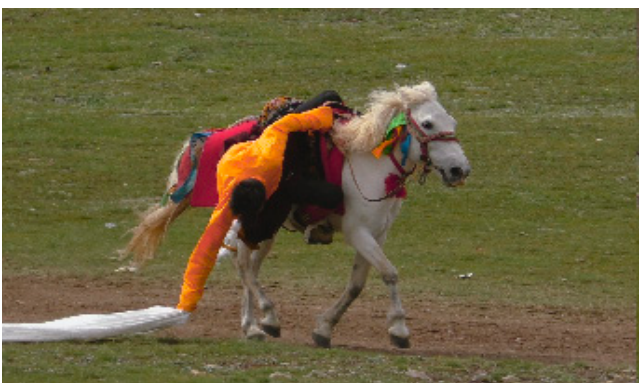
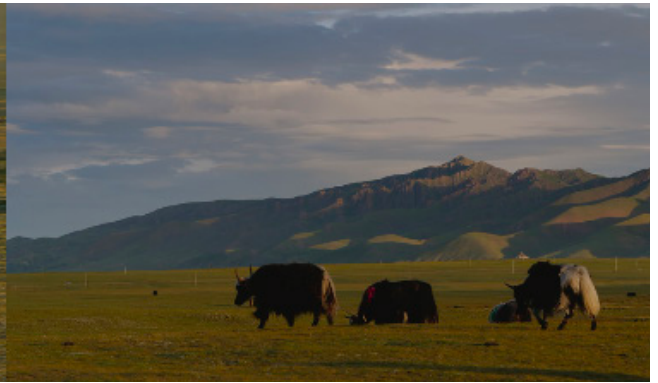




## STILLS FROM THE FILM













## REVIEWS (EXTRACTED FROM PRIVATE SCREENING COMMENTS)

It was a joy to watch. Time well spent... absolutely gorgeous.

A.E.(Teacher)

It 's naive and sophisticated

LioraYahalom (Artist)

It is suitable to watch this film a few times, it does bring me different feelings. It is rare to find a film that inspires people to think more in-depth questions that we want to discuss.

YX ( Documentary director, photographer)

Most education we receive is based on mature and systematic methodologies, the people in Tibet may have more knowledge derived from their daily lives passed on for many generations. This film reminds us that this is also an important education.

K.A.(Teacher)

Before the screening, I thought this was a film that was going to “teach us the truth” about Tibet. Then I found out it was not. You got me when I found it to be a story with a lot of intriguing points hidden in it. I can strongly feel that people in your film are such real living beings, they are real people. (This is not the result of my thinking; this is what I actually feel).

LYW (Graphic Designer)

...the kids in this film are so natural... so special...

J(Vintage shop owner)

I want to see more of your films. The way you tell a story brings peace to my heart. I wondered at first how you could stay alone so long in the mountains, I was impressed with the way you integrated yourself into this life...

KZ (Video Editor)

In your film you mentioned your camera couldn't capture the overwhelming emotions that flooded your being, and so it was with the emotions your film released in me.

YQH ( Furniture Saleswoman)

I couldn't get enough of the rodeo footage; you made me feel that I was there...

GZ (Anthropology Student)

...Towards the end of the film, your introspective thoughts melted me, love it. Especially when you said “...learning other cultures doesn't require making a decision to get rid of one for another...”

BB (Dancer)

[More reviews please visit filmOfficial WeChat platform:



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“AM I HAPPY?”

# ETHEREAL ECHOES

## 羌塘空响

PEACEFUL REFLECTIONS OF A VOICE WITHIN

崔子秋 作品  
A CUI AUTUMN ZIQU FILM  
ཁྱེད་ཀྱི་ཁྱེད་ཀྱི་

**PRESS KIT**

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