

WIP F On High Ice

in·gé·nue
PRODUCTIONS LLC



On High Ice

"We can do both"

Executive producer: Jitu Virwani | Producer: Naama Pyritz

Director: Gary Byung Seok Kam | DP: Nicole Batteke

Second Camera: Mick Van Rossum, Erik Wiedenhof

Production coordinator: Sonam Rinchen | Editor: Nili Feller

Sound Design: Daniel Meir

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Israel, South Korea

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Documentary | Digital Format | English, Ladakhi | 85 mins

DIRECTOR:

Gary KAM Byung-seok

PRODUCER:

Naama PYRITZ

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$ 550,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 300,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

The girls of Ladakh can play ice hockey for only six weeks per a year in the Himalayan desert, but their pride and hope for better tomorrow never melt away.

SYNOPSIS

At the height of 3,500 metres in a sere land of wind, high desert and remorseless sun, girls in Ladakh have been playing ice hockey for more than ten years. But in a society where girls and women used to be excluded from the sports, women's teams suffer from the shortage of equipment and support. Yet, the hope and passion of the girls never melt away. They keep playing on hard ice covered with frozen weeds. They travel to promote skating and ice hockey to young girls in the remote villages, not only to teach them how to skate but also to tell the girls that it is OK to do whatever they like to do. For them, ice hockey is something that fuels hope and transforms lives. With a few central protagonists, this film follows their struggle to uplift the stature of the women in India through sports. It will not be a typical sports documentary that mainly focuses on the sports and the competitions, but instead is an empowering film that represents the hope for a better life, and that shares the story of these courageous women, fighting gracefully for a social change.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

To be honest, I imagined a typical sports documentary about women overcoming the obstacles and achieving something when I first heard about the girls who play ice hockey in the Himalayan desert. I thought I could just follow their journey to create heroines with a camera. But I was wrong. They have already been heroines for a long time. They don't see themselves as victims. They fight with pride against hidden discrimination. Noor, the spiritual leader of the girls, is a doctoral student studying mural restoration. Rinchen, the team captain, is a teacher, and Kunzes, one of the first ice hockey players, is a news reader on a local TV. Many of the women could have had a better life if they decided to leave Ladakh. Nonetheless, they profess their love for the community and choose to live in Ladakh, playing their unbridled passion and bringing a change in the region. I believe this film has to be about their graceful way of living and fighting for a better tomorrow: hence, the film follows their journey until their compassion and love for the life of women in Ladakh bloom on the ice of the Himalayan desert.

DIRECTOR

Gary KAM Byung-seok

Gary Kam Byung-seok is a leading documentary producer in Asia who has produced award-winning documentaries including *Planet of Snail* (2011), the winner of the Best Feature-Length Documentary at the IDFA and *In the Absence* (2018, Grand Jury Prize, the DOC NYC / IDFA 2018 Official Selection). He also produced *Crossing Beyond* (2018), the official Olympic film for the International Olympic Committee. He is currently producing documentaries in Korea and Philippines while directing his first feature-length documentary, *On High Ice* and mentoring at various workshops in the Asian region.

PRODUCER

Naama PYRITZ

Naama Pyritz graduated from the School of Visual Arts NYC in 1998. For over 20 years, she has worked as a freelance independent producer producing numerous documentary films and series. Notable among these is the ongoing cooperation with International visual artist Yael Bartana whose *Polish Trilogy* (2007-2011) represented Poland at the Venice Biennale of 2011 and whose works appear in museums and galleries around the world. In 2014, Naama established her own production company, Ingenue Productions. Ingenue has since been working on 5 documentary features in different stages of production.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Ingenue Productions

Ingenue has been working on 5 documentary features in different stages of production: *One Out of Three* by Sivan Ben Ari, 2014 (Israel Channel 8); *In My Room* by Ayelet Albenda 2017 (Israel Channel 8, Norwegian TV), *The Adventures of Saul Bellow* by Asaf Galay 2018 (winner of the NEH Fund), *Army of Lovers in the Holy Land* by Asaf Galay and Naama Pyritz, 2018 (Israel Channel 8, Best film in HIFF). and *The Swimmer* by Adam Kalderon, a feature film to be filmed in 2019 (support from the Israeli Film Fund, and Best Pitch, Darom Film Festival).