

WIP M Lonely Pine



COUNTRY/REGION: Kyrgyzstan

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama | Digital Format | Kyrgyz, Russian | 95mins

DIRECTOR:

Dalmira TILEPBERGEN

PRODUCER:

Marina DESSIATKINA

WIP GOALS:

Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival Screening

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$347,100

SECURED BUDGET: US\$297,100

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2015 *Under Heaven*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A carefree eight-year-old girl who believes all her wishes come true, suffers a reversal of fortune and is forced to accept responsibility for all her words and thoughts.

SYNOPSIS

Based on true events, *Lonely Pine* tells the tragic story of Arno, an eight-year-old girl who is led to believe that the mole on her lip is a gift from God, and that all her wishes will come true. She is a high-spirited tomboy who lives a carefree life, wishing to be the son her father never had. Set in a remote pastureland within the high, majestic mountains of Central Asia, Arno's father is a horse farmer whose strongest wish is to have a son. Her mother is

pregnant and as the couple already have five daughters, they both now want a boy. This desperate desire, rooted in the old family tradition that favours sons over daughters, creates considerable tension within the family. Arno loves her father deeply and suffers from seeing him unhappy that his family lineage may not continue. Arno becomes proactive and offers an unconventional solution that, in her child's mind, should suit everyone. She will become a boy—the son her father never had. Her father refuses this absurd suggestion and the family's fragile existence is jeopardised as Arno's doubt about her father's love for her threatens to break their spiritual relationship.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Lonely Pine is based upon one of my experiences as a very young girl. My father died in the mountains when I was just seven years old. The last words I said to him were: "I wish you were dead". As a result of this, all through my life I have lived with the feeling that it was my fault. I have always felt that my words deprived him of his life and that I was responsible for putting all my family through a lifetime of sorrow and hardship. So now, with this film I want to show my father's soul how much I love him and hope that he has forgiven me. That is why for me this project is more than passion. It has been my life's work, mission and ambition. I want to promote the idea that each of us must accept the responsibility of what we think and say. My visual inspiration comes mainly from dramatic, deeply emotive Japanese films such as *The Naked Island* by Shindo Kaneto, while my musical inspiration comes from such as Northern European composers like Sebastian Zawadski, Max Richter and Thomas Bergersen.

DIRECTOR

Dalmira TILEPBERGEN

A Kyrgyz director-scriptwriter with 20 years of experience working in film. After completing a film course in Moscow, she made numerous documentaries in Russia and Kyrgyzstan. Her first feature film *Under Heaven* (2015), which was released in Kyrgyzstan on 31 August 2015, has been screened at many international film festivals. At the Montreal World Film Festival 2015, it received a Special Jury mention for Best Debut. It also won both the Grand Prix and NETPAC prize at the Bengaluru International Film Festival, and the Jury Prize at the New York International Film Festival.

PRODUCER

Marina DESSIATKINA

A graduate from the Moscow Institute of Television & Radio, Dessiatkina later completed her filmmaking training at the New York Film Academy. She has produced and directed several documentaries, of which, *The Great Arctic Adventure* (1995) was included into the United Nations' video archive. Founder of Canada-based production company Culterra

Magica, she also works as a guest Producer/Director for ECG Productions in Toronto, Canada. Dessiastkina's latest work is an on-line documentary series *Dream Big* (2018-19), funded through the Canada Media Fund. Her most recent feature documentary *Luc: Between Darkness and Light* is currently in post-production.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Arno Film

A Limited Liability Partnership registered in Almaty, Kazakhstan and set up with the sole intention of producing the film *Lonely Pine* shot in Kyrgyzstan in 2020. Company founders Marina Dessiastkina and Dalmira Tilepbergen have over 35 years of combined experience in filmmaking.

Culterra Magica

A Canadian corporation, registered in Ontario, to produce films and video. *Lonely Pine* is its first feature film project. The company's latest project, *My Little Grand World* is ready to move into production in March 2021.