

## HAF 22 Lonely Pine



**REGION:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:**

Drama | Digital Format | Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Russian | 100mins

**DIRECTOR:**

Dalmira TILEPBERGEN

**PRODUCER:**

Marina DESSIATKINA

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds, Co-producers

**BUDGET:** US\$ 529,923

**SECURED BUDGET:** US\$ 204,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2015 *Under Heaven*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

A carefree seven-year-old girl, who believes that all her wishes will 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, a seven-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. The film is 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. Arno is a high-spirited tomboy who lives a carefree life, wishing to be the son her father has never had. Her mother is pregnant and as the couple already have four daughters, they both want a boy. This desperate desire, rooted in old family traditions 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 jeopardized 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 the true story of a period in my life 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 his death 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 a 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 for what we think and say. My visual inspiration comes mainly from dramatic, deep-emotive Japanese films such as *The Naked Island* (1960) by Shindo Kaneto whilst my musical inspiration comes from North European composers such as Sebastian Zawadski, Max Richter and Thomas Bergersen.

## DIRECTOR

### Dalmira TILEPBERGEN

Dalmira Tilepbergen is a Kyrgyz film director/screenwriter with twenty 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*, which was released in Kyrgyzstan on 31 August 2015, has been screened at many international film festivals. In 2015, at the Montreal World Film Festival, it received a Special Jury mention for Best Debut. At the Bengaluru International Film Festival it won the Grand-Prix as well as the NETPAC prize and at the New York International Film Festival it won the Jury Prize.

## PRODUCER

### **Marina DESSIATKINA**

A graduate from the Russian Television & Radio Institute in Moscow, Marina later completed her filmmaking training at the New York Film Academy. She has produced and directed several documentaries, one of which, *The Great Arctic Adventure* (1995) has been included in the United Nations video archive. Founder of Culterra Magica, a Canada-based production company, she is currently working as Guest Producer/Director for ECG Productions on its on-line documentary series *Dream Big*, funded through the Canada Media Fund. Co-producers of *Lonely Pine* are Jean-Baptiste Bailey-Maitre (Alpha Violet Productions, France), Almagul Tleukhanova (Alma Pictures, Kazakhstan), and Zhyrgal Duisheev (Altyn Anar, Kyrgyzstan).

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### **Arno Film LLC**

Arno Film is a limited liability partnership, registered in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 11 December 2018 and set up with the sole intention of producing the film *Lonely Pine* which will be shot in Kyrgyzstan during 2020. The company was formed to take the advantage of Kazakhstan being a consignee of the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production, allowing it to meet the requirements to apply for European film grants and tax incentives. The company's founders, Marina Dessiatkina and Dalmira Tilebergen, have over 35 years of combined experience in filmmaking.