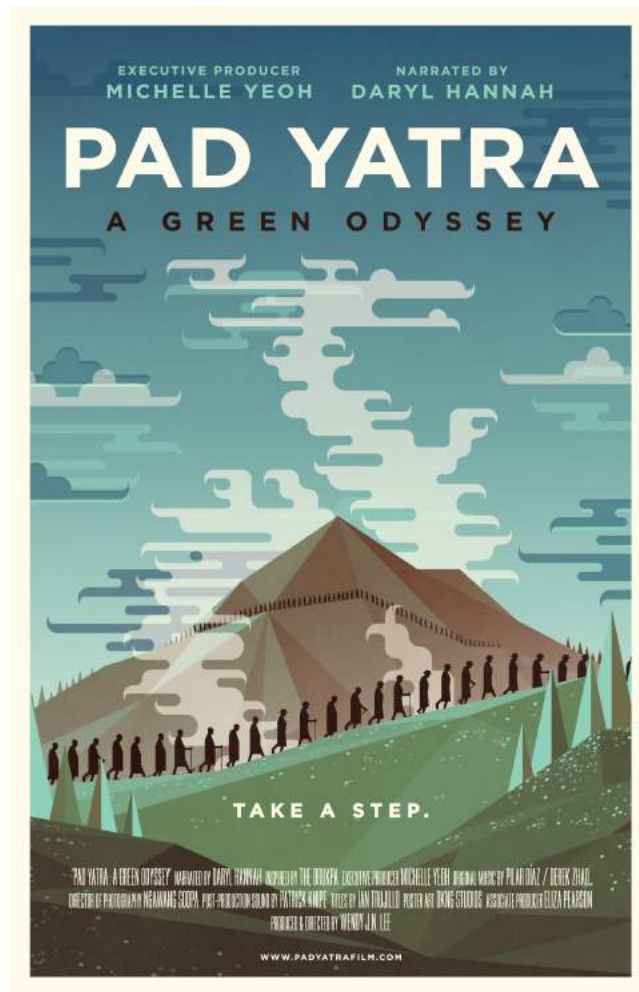


PAD YATRA

A GREEN ODYSSEY



A Documentary Feature Film – Environmental/Adventure

HD 23.98 fps / 1:1.77 / English & Tibetan (English Subtitles) / 72min / Origin: USA
Production: India, Nepal, USA / 2013 / www.padyatrafilm.com

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TAG LINE

TAKE A STEP.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

PAD YATRA: A Green Odyssey is the harrowing adventure of 700 people, trekking across the Himalayas with a call to save the planet's "3rd Pole," a glacial region now devastated by the climate chaos associated with global warming.

Battling the most treacherous terrain on earth, they spread their message of ecological compassion through human's most basic means –by walking on foot, village to village, and showing by example.

Barely surviving injuries, illness, and starvation, the trekkers emerge with nearly half a ton of plastic litter strapped to their backs, triggering an historic green revolution across the rooftop of the world.

*Shot with solar power by Himalayan monk Ngawang Sodpa, the film features United Nations MDG Honoree the Gyalwang Drukpa, and Aamir Khan. The film is executive produced by Michelle Yeoh, narrated by Daryl Hannah, and it is the debut feature documentary from director Wendy J.N. Lee.





FILM FACTS & IMPACT

- Several of the film's Award trophies are on display in the Himalayas, at schools and even monasteries in Ladakh, India. The film has become a symbol of the new green movement in the Himalayas.
- The making of the film was a miracle. Trapped in snow, the filmmakers endured near-starvation conditions, and could barely operate camera several days of the shoot. Often at 17,000ft altitude, in sub-zero temperatures, nearly a third of the footage was damaged or completely destroyed due to weather and physical trauma.
- The cinematographer, Ngawang Sodpa, is a humble Buddhist monk from the Himalayas. His only training was careful study of National Geographic programs, and a full-hearted commitment to capture the Pad Yatra. He is now the recipient of a Best Cinematography Award.
- The "Kung Fu Nuns" seen in the film can now break bricks with their bare hands. They are the subject of a BBC World News special, and in 2012, they were invited to Olympic Park in London for a demonstration.
- Supplies on the Pad Yatra were so scarce, one trekker was moved to tears when she receive two apricot seeds and a single sheet of tissue from her friends on her birthday.
- The "Eco-Pad Yatra" now continues worldwide. In 2011, the Pad Yatra took place in Mumbai India with 2,000 pounds of plastic litter collected. In 2013, the Pad Yatra took place in Sri Lanka, with future locations are rumored for Kenya, US, and Vietnam.

ONE-PAGE SUMMARY

With the largest store of glaciers outside of the polar ice caps, the Himalayas has been coined the “3rd pole” of the earth. Like the poles, the effects of rising global temperatures are drastically destabilizing the local ecosystem; amidst rapid glacial melting, usual weather occurrences have catapulted into catastrophic proportions, worsening year by year. Underreported and largely overlooked by the world, this area has become a hotbed of disasters that locals fear will obliterate their way of life within a matter of years.

This film’s story opens in Ladakh, India (“Little Tibet”), during the aftermath of a freak weather phenomenon known as a cloudburst. Several inches of rain fall in the first sixty seconds, decimating the area with an apocalyptic cascade of mudslides and flash floods. As incidences like this increase over time, entire cultures are now under threat of dispersion, not by the hand of genocide or war, but by the climate chaos associated with global warming.

A cry for survival, the “eco-Pad Yatra” seen in the film was a trek of unparalleled danger, designed to spread the modern message of environmental compassion by human’s most basic means –by walking, village to village, and showing by example. Collecting trash and plastic from water sources, the trekkers educated remote villages on reusing non-biodegradable materials, planting trees, and how to live responsibly as their traditional lives are now changing.

Fighting illness, injuries, and starvation at altitudes above 17,000 ft, the story of *PAD YATRA: A Green Odyssey* is told through the perils and adventures the trekkers face as they struggle through the most treacherous terrain on the planet. Led by H.H. the Gyalwang Drukpa, one of the main Buddhist spiritual leaders of the Himalayas and recipient of a United Nations MDG Honor (2010), the journey is punctuated by spiritual insights amidst the obstacles along the way, renewing ancient wisdom for a modern context.

The treks covered a total of 450 miles; half a ton of plastic litter was collected, hundreds of villages were educated on environmental responsibility, 50,000 trees were planted, and the journey has left the Himalayas changed forever. The result: an unprecedented environmental movement now thrives across the rooftop of the earth, a beacon of hope for the rest of the world.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Wendy J.N. Lee is a writer/director from Los Angeles, California. Her debut feature film, "PAD YATRA: A Green Odyssey," is an adventure documentary about the Himalayan environmental crisis (executive produced by Michelle Yeoh, narrated by Daryl Hannah) with over ten awards, and has screened commercially and at festivals in over 17 countries. She now speaks at universities and private events around the world on filmmaking and present-day issues of the Himalayas. Lee's first book, "Forever Ladakh," was released by Roli Books in India in September 2016.

Lee's award-winning comedy short, "Three Times Me," (sponsored by Vanity Fair and Banana Republic) screened at over 40 film festivals, and was released by Spotlight Cinema 2014 in 100 movie theaters across the US. Lee's music videos and shorts have been distributed by MTV Networks and Fox Searchlight on broadcast television, DVD, and online. Lee has also worked with Coca-Cola and Cisco Systems, along with several non-profits and NGO's.

Lee is an alumna of Film Independent's talent lab, Project:Involve (Writer/Director Fellow, 2009), USC School of Cinematic Arts (MFA, 2008), and Boston College (BA Philosophy, 2003). While she is currently writing the screenplay for her next feature film, she volunteers regularly in the Himalayas, and hobbies include surfing, tinkering with fountain pens, and performing improv & stand-up comedy.



Photo from a private screening at BAFTA London, with the H.H. the Gyalwang Drukpa and the "Kung Fu Nuns" featured in the film.

LEFT: Guest Dominic Cooper, MIDDLE: Executive Producer Michelle Yeoh, MIDDLE: Associate Producer Eliza Pearson, RIGHT: Director/Producer Wendy J.N. Lee

CREDITS LIST

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Michelle Yeoh

NARRATED BY
Daryl Hannah

FEATURING
H.H. the Gyalwang Drukpa
Aamir Khan
Carrie Lee

PRODUCER & DIRECTOR
Wendy J.N. Lee

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
Eliza Pearson

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Ngawang Sodpa

ORIGINAL MUSIC
Pilar Díaz, Derek Zhao

SOUND EDIT & MIX
Patrick Knipe

EDITOR
Wendy J.N. Lee

ADDITIONAL EDITORS
Katie Flint, Michael Greischar

TITLES
Ian Trujillo

COLORISTS
Richard Flores Jr., Azim Tirmizi

HD CONSULTANT
Bill Russell

POSTER DESIGN
DKNG Studios

AWARDS & SCREENINGS

British Academy of Film & Television Arts, London (March 2012)
Sneak Peek with Exec Producer Michelle Yeoh

Bhutan Royal Screening with King Jigme Khesar Namgyel (May 2012)

Stuttgart Indian Film Festival (July 2012)

WINNER: Audience Award

Feel Good Film Festival (August 2012)

WINNER: Audience Award

NOMINATED: Best Director

Blue Ocean Film Festival (September 2012)

Honorable Mention

Docutah Film Festival (September 2012)

WINNER: Best Cinematography

Big Bear Film Festival (September 2012)

WINNER: Audience Award/Best Environmental Film

United Nations Association of New York (September 2012)

A Hosted Screening at The Asia Society

Reykjavik Int'l Film Festival (September 2012)

Global Peace Film Festival (September 2012)

Indian Film Festival Hague (October 2012)

Indian Film Festival of Houston (October 2012)

WINNER: Best Documentary

Orlando Film Festival (October 2012)

NOMINATED: Most Inspirational Film

NOMINATED: Best Documentary

Eugene International Film Festival (October 2012)

Napa Valley Film Festival (November 2012)

Special Presentation

Baja International Film Festival (November 2012)

United Nations' Global Wake-Up Film Festival (November 2012)

Palm Springs International Film Festival (January 2013)

Trail Dance Film Festival (January 2013)

Make a Difference Film Festival, Hong Kong (March 2013)

Colorado Environmental Film Festival (February 2013)

Omaha Film Festival (March 2013)
Sedona International Film Festival (March 2013)
WINNER: Directors' Choice - Best Environmental Film
Palm Beach International Film Festival (April 2013)
Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (April 2013)
Indian Documentary Producers' Association (May 2013)
IDFA Award for Excellence
Albuquerque Film & Media Experience (June 2013)
Silent River Film Festival (October 2013)
WINNER: Best Documentary
WINNER: Best Documentary Director
Glory Award, Executive Producer Michelle Yeoh
Admiration Award, The Gyalwang Drukpa
Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival (November 2013)
Spirit Film Festival, Tel Aviv, Israel (November 2013)
Ojai Film Festival (November 2013)
Featured Presentation

