

THE TIBETAN PASSION FOR FOOTBALL !

SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY « THE FORBIDDEN TEAM »

FRIDAY 8 MAY 2009, @ 8 P.M.

Followed by a discussion with Thubten Samdup & Dawn Bramadat

Where: Maison de la culture Plateau-Mont-Royal
465, avenue Mont-Royal Est

Free admission



Festival Accès Asie is pleased to present this brilliantly touching documentary on the first-ever national Tibetan football team, *The Forbidden Team*. The projection will be followed by a discussion with the activist dedicated to the humanitarian cause **Dawn Bramadat** and **Thubten Samdup**, president of the Dalai-Lama Fondation —Canada.

THE FORBIDDEN TEAM (L'ÉQUIPE INTERDITE)

Directors: Arnold Kroigaard et Rasmus Dinesen

55 min., 2003, Denmark

Languages: Danish, Mandarin, English, subtitles in French by CTC

On 30th of June 2001, in Copenhagen, Denmark, a framework was formed for a historical football match; a match which FIFA and the Chinese government tried to prevent from taking place. The agreed upon match between Tibet and Greenland, would be the first international game ever played by Tibet. "The Forbidden Team" is an exceptional story about a group of enthusiastic Danish and Tibetan souls who share a common dream of forming a national football team composed of exiled Tibetans.

«The Forbidden Team» is about the making of the first ever-Tibetan national football team and their first International match. This is based on the actual events that occurred in the formation of the Tibetan National Football Association (TNFA). It's a story about a National team without a nation.

AWARDS

«Best Feature Film». Krasnogorski Int'l Film Festival, Moscow, Russia

«Special Mention». FID Marseille, France

«Audience Award». International Sport Movies & TV Festival, Italia

REVIEWS

★★★★★

« An unusually beautiful film about an unusual national team that just wants to play a football match. »

Claus Larsen, Cinema Online, Denmark, May 30, 2003

★★★★★

« The Forbidden Team is excellent documentary film art. »

Christian Hansen, Cinemazone, Denmark, May 30, 2003

★★★★★

« The Forbidden Team is still a moving and thrilling little flash of sunlight in an otherwise dark, tragic conflict. I hope the film travels far and wide. »

Niels Lind Larsen, Jyllands-Posten, Denmark, May 29, 2003

★★★★★

« Spinning prayer mills and whirling footballs, deep religiousness and tough training days, Buddhist philosophy and thrilling ecstasy before 5000 spectators – even though Tibet lost 4-1. This football match is elevated in importance in this fine, funny and touching documentary that will appeal to both football fans and the many who support the Tibetan cause. »

Henrik List, Berlingske Tidende, Denmark, May 28, 2003

« Entraînements sur un terrain boueux traversé par des vaches à Dharamsala, pressions de la Chine pour annuler le match (contre le Groenland), refus de la FIFA de cautionner officiellement la partie, interdiction d'afficher le drapeau tibétain à Copenhague, où a lieu l'événement: The Forbidden Team fait état de toutes les embûches de cette folle entreprise et de l'impact politique (et économique) de toute décision (même sportive) concernant le Tibet. »

Marc Cassivi, La Presse, 18 juin 2008

Links

www.forbiddenteam.com

<http://www.tibetnetwork.org/resources/filmsabouttibet/>

THUBTEN SAMDUP

Thubten Samdup serves as the National Chair of The Dalai Lama Foundation—Canada. “Sam,” as he is called by friends, is building a network of supporters to bring the movement for grass roots education in ethics and peace to communities across Canada. Samdup has recently established a new organization, “Tibet Innovations,” in order to tie professional capacity providers to small community-level livelihood initiatives within the Tibetan diaspora.

Well-known within the Tibetan community and in his adopted city of Montréal, he was named in Montréal’s “who’s who” list of prominent citizens for his many years of community work including the founding of a national advocacy group, the Canada Tibet Committee, in 1987. Samdup served as National President of the CTC for 17 years. Among his many other achievements, Samdup was presented in October 2005 with the Unsung Hero of Compassion Award, an honour that was bestowed upon him in San Francisco by the Dalai Lama himself. On September 21, 2008, he was honored as Pacifist of the Year at a ceremony in Montreal.

DAWN BRAMADAT

Born in the West Indies of Indo-European roots, Dawn was raised in the vast cultural whiteness of the prairie Winnipeg of the 50’s and 60’s. A mixture of social and spiritual consciousness called her to involvement from very young: she helped CIDA /CUSO develop curricula on the majority world for secondary schools; was very active in establishing help centres in public education and in training volunteers and health and legal professionals in the treatment of victims and perpetrators of sexual assault; developed non-racist and non-sexist ESL teaching materials; trained volunteers within the school system to tutor immigrant children and became deeply involved with the Chilean political refugee community in the early 70’s. Headed for medical school, her exposure to the abuse of women, especially first nations’ and immigrant women, within the health care system, lead her to learn and teach traditional, non-medical ways of prevention and self-healing. Her goal became to help people become responsible for their own health, free of dependency on hierarchal systems. With time and study, this has extended to the emotional, psychological and spiritual welfare of humanity and the planet.

Dawn’s first contact with the Tibetan community in exile was in the San Francisco Bay area in the 70’s. She has used whatever means have been at her disposal since that time to raise awareness of Tibet and her people.

