

# Tule of the Tibetun Momust PRESS KIT



**x** Berkeley Arts + Design

# STORY

#### Logline

A newlywed nomad experiences a terrible tragedy which contorts his dream life with reality.

#### Synopsis

A storyteller takes us on a journey to the Tibetan plateau. A newlywed nomad and his wife joyously bask in the flush of new love. When the nomad falls asleep below a tree, he awakens to discover his wife has disappeared. He embarks on a quest to find her, only to be led into a life he never dreamed of, that soon slips beyond his control. Whose life is he living? Is he inside a dream or his worst nightmare?



# **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

THE TALE OF THE TIBETAN NOMAD is about a newlywed shepherd's wandering odyssey navigating between dream and reality as he tries to capture the object of his longing. Here, we have tried to express the essence of Stan Lai's transfixing eight hour play, A DREAM LIKE A DREAM, from which TALE is adapted, and present it to audiences in a virtual reality format for the first time.

Dreams are doorways into our soul. They can reveal our deepest fears and desires about the people closest to us. When my own grandmother died recently, I was plagued by dreams of her quiet presence; her silently waiting at a cafe for me to come pick her up or wordlessly watching TV on the couch with our family dog. She had raised me in lieu of my mother, so the impact of her death was especially profound. I would jolt fully awake after an hour and a half of sleep for several weeks with an inexplicable anxiety, only to remember she was gone, *forever*. Her favorite piano music would drift in my mind as I would try to unsuccessfully fall back asleep. I eventually bought a keyboard to relearn how to play her favorite tunes, in an attempt to keep my memory of of her alive. Then, almost as suddenly, a month after her passing, which also happens to be the length of time certain religions say the soul departs into another significant aspect of their transition, I dreamt that my father I were late to meet her at her convalescent home for dinner and that we simply could not find her.

It has been a privilege to work in cooperation with Stan, who once told me that he believes dreams are absolutely our lived experiences too. My recent otherworldly encounters are a testament to the profundity of his words. I hope you will find the journey of the Tibetan nomad, a "VR adventure in the surround" much like Stan's "theater in the surround," to be fulfilling and inspire reflection of your own experiences navigating the dark waters between the world of dream and of life.

#### ~Carol Liu, VR Director & Producer

"The mysteries in your life have to be answered through other mysteries. Like some dreams have to go through other dreams to wake. You have to go through them one by one until you get out of these dreams within dreams." from THE TALE OF THE TIBETAN NOMAD



#### CAROL LIU Director / Producer / VR Writer

Carol Liu is an independent filmmaker, VR creator and founder of U-Ma Studios. She is the winner of the SFFilm Rainin Screenwriting Grant for her upcoming feature, GODDESSES OF NANKING. The original films she has written, directed and produced include award-winning humanitarian documentary RESTORING THE LIGHT (distributed by Kanopy Films, Cinema Guild, available on Amazon Prime) and screenplay LEFTOVER WOMAN (Writer's Guild of America Festival pitch finalist). Her VR experience, MARIE ANTOINETTE VR, delves into the true history behind the ill-fated, historically misrepresented queen and was presented at Cannes Film Festival's NEXT Marché, Oculus Connect, and was an official selection of Busan International Film Festival. It is now in development as a cinematic VR series, THE REDEMPTION OF MARIE ANTOINETTE.

She is excited to be working in partnership with UC Berkeley Arts + Design to adapt renowned play, A DREAM LIKE A DREAM, into VR experience, TALE OF A TIBETAN NOMAD, starring Tsering Dorjee (Oscar-nominated film, HIMALAYA) and cooperating with master playwright Stan Lai (SF Opera, "Dream of the Red Chamber") and costume designer Sandra Woodall ("Angels in America," SF Ballet). Carol has extensive experience working internationally in China and Europe and has been interviewed and profiled by the LOS ANGELES TIMES, TIME OUT, CHINA CENTRAL TELEVISION, among others. She holds a BA from Stanford University and an MFA in Film from NYU Tisch, is an inaugural fellow of Oculus Launchpad and Google's pilot Jump Start program. Carol is passionate about using film and VR to revisit history and bring to light the untold stories of marginalized figures.

### STAN LAI Acclusined Playwright & Theater Director



One of the most celebrated theatre artists in the Chinese-speaking world, Lai is artistic director of Performance Workshop in Taipei and Festival Director of China's Wuzhen Theatre Festival. According to the BBC, Lai is "the best Chinese language playwright and director in the world." The Beijing News calls his 2008 play, *The Village*, "the pinnacle of our era of theatre." After earning his Ph.D. in Dramatic Arts at UC Berkeley in 1983 Lai went on to author thirty plays and a best-selling book on creativity.

He is the writer/director of more than 30 plays, including premieres of A Dream Like a Dream; The Village; Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land; That Evening, We Performed Crosstalk; Ménage à 13; Millennium Teahouse; Like Shadows; Red Sky; Crosstalk Travelers; I Me He Him; Mumble Jumble; Sand and a Distant Star and more. Other premieres: Open the Door, SirA, Lear and the Thirty-seven-fold Path of a Bodhisattva (Hong Kong); Singapore Impromptu (Singapore); Light Years (Beijing); Dream Walk (Wuzhen Festival). Other: Journey to the West (opera), Deaflympics Opening/Closing Ceremonies, Dream of the Red Chamber (SF Opera). He has been honored by the National Arts Award, Taiwan (twice); Presidential Medal of Honor of the Republic of China; Chinese Theatre Hall of Fame; Man of the Year, Cultural Affairs, Newsweek China; and the Taipei Cultural Award.

The TALE OF THE TIBETAN NOMAD (VR) was created in cooperation with Stan Lai and will have its world premiere along with the world premiere of Stan's latest play, *Ago*, on Dec 9, 2019 at Theater Above, Shanghai.

#### SANDRA WOODALL Award Winning Eostume & Production Designer



Sandra Woodall is a visual artist and scenic and costume designer. Ms. Woodall has contributed scenic and costume designs to American Conservatory Theatre, Eureka Theatre, Magic Theater, San Francisco Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, the Bolshoi Ballet, National Ballet of Georgia, the Norwegian National Ballet, the State Opera Ballet of Austria, Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Houston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Project, Singapore Dance Theatre and many other companies around the world. Recent productions include visual design of Winter Journey in Beijing, written by Wan Fang and directed by Stan Lai, Camino Real at the Atlanta Ballet and Games at the New York's Joyce Theatre, both choreographed by Helen Pickett, and sets and costumes for the opening season of Theatre Above, in Shanghai, featuring the dramas of Stan Lai. Ms. Woodall is currently designing costumes for a 2019 world-premiere ballet by Liam Scarlett at San Francisco Ballet. She has, in addition, worked with designer Robert Israel in realizing the costumes for Philip Glass's Akhenaten and for Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival's presentation of Miracolo d'Amore by Martha Clark. Her designs have been featured as part of PBS programming.

### **TSERING DORJEE** Working with Top Tulent



Award winning artist, Tsering Dorjee (Bawa) has studied and performed Tibetan traditional performing arts for about three decades. He has a Masters in Tibetan Performing Arts from the Tibetan Institute for the Performing Arts(TIPA), Dharamsala, India. He has worked in several notable films, including the 1999 foreign-language Oscar nominated film, *Himalaya*.

Tsering has collaborated with many notable composers such as Michael Becker, with whom he created the original soundtrack for the 2009 Emmy Award-winning documentary *The Woman of Tibet - A Quiet Revolution*. During his stay at TIPA, Tsering had the privilege of learning from some of the legendary Tibetan artistic masters of our time and toured many parts of the world to perform. Tsering appeared in the off-Broadway show *The Oldest Boy*, by Sarah Ruhl at Lincoln Center Theater, NY for its world premiere. He has been nominated twice for the same play - as Outstanding Male Featured Performer. He has received the 2015 Craig Noel Award from San Diego Theater, and Outstanding Choreography Award from the 2016 Theater Bay Area Awards of San Francisco.

# CREDITS

Director, Producer, Editor Carol Liu In Cooperation with Adapted for VR by Producer **Costume & Production Design Director of Photography** Producer Sound Recordist/Mixer Makeup Artist/Stills **Rehearsal Coordinator** Music/Cultural Consultant UC Berkeley Arts + Design

Stan Lai Carol Liu Yiju Chen Sandra Woodall Sebastien Hameline Kris Hsu Ben Adams Cynthia Smalley Joe Ayers Tsering Dorjee Massimo Pacchione Shannon Jackson Paris Cotz

Cast **VR** Finishing **Post Production Supervisor VR Post Producer Online Editor VR** Documentary **Production Services Production Assistants** Jay Shenoy **Emily Hill** 

**Tsering Dorjee** Raelaine Tanaka Pulkit Gulati Light Sail VR Matthew Celia Robert Watts Josh Helferson Dillon Morris Joy Ma

## **FESTIVALS**





43,000+ views Tribeca Film Festival Over 6,500 views Tribeca Creator Panel



# PRESS

#### San Francisco Chronicle

#### "A coup"



"A cross-disciplinary experiment, a modernization of a traditional theater piece which expresses artistry in an altogether different kind of way"



"A gentle folk tale of a Tibetan nomad's life, told by a narrator. The feeling of passive observation feels like watching a diorama or a cultural play in VR"

#### UPLUAD

"Offers an engaging look into Tibetan folklore"







# **SPECIAL THANKS TO** Berkeley Arts + Design

Virtual Reality @ Berkeley

#### PRESS CONTACT

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