

Tears of mountain

Luke ASHWORTH - Yehor BONDARENKO - Alp KURDOĞLU - Romane TALVA - Ange YAJIMA

© GOBELINS Paris 2025

PITCH

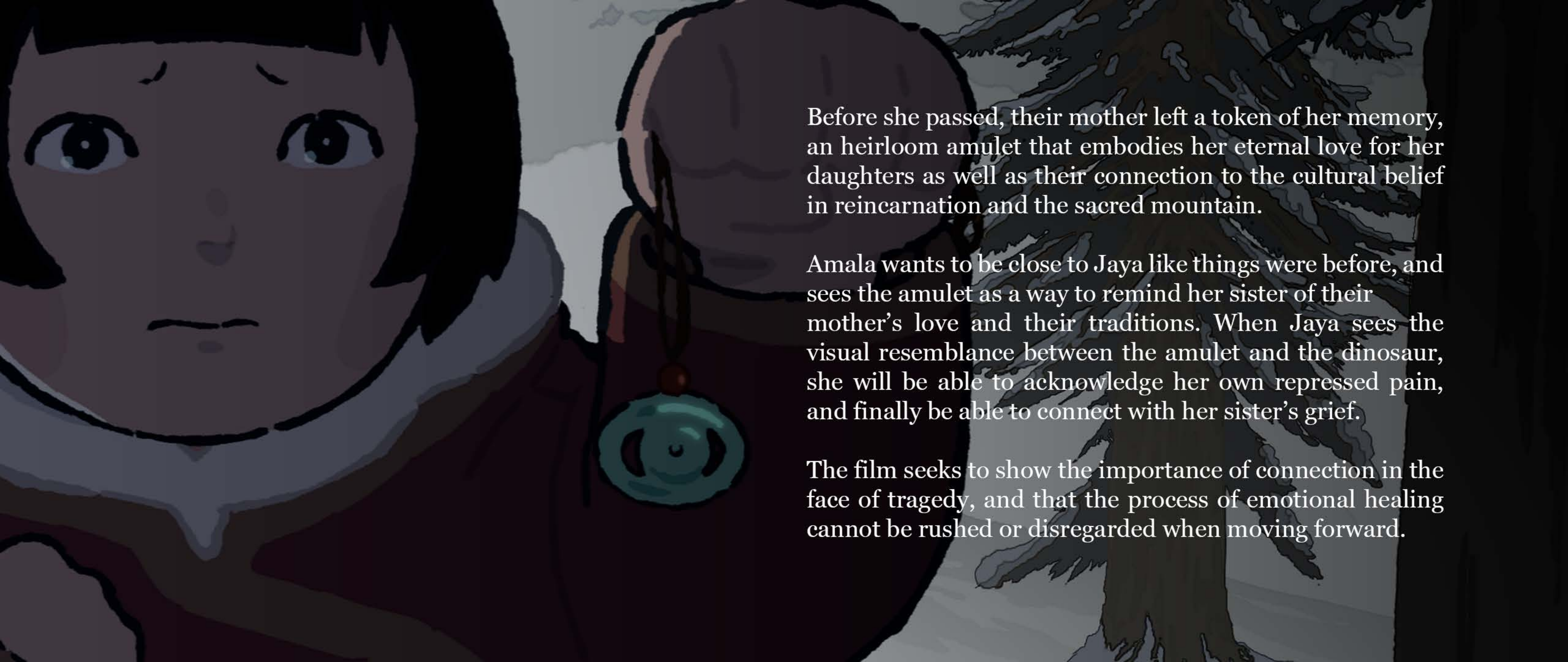
Jaya sets out to hunt the spirit of the mountain, a sacred beast with valuable feathers. As she approaches the heart of the mountain, she's interrupted by her younger sister, Amala, devout on protecting the spirit.



SYNOPSIS

Our story is about the conflict between two sisters alienated from one another by tragedy, who find reconciliation in facing their grief as a family. There are two central elements connected to the memory of their mother, which will eventually resolve the conflict between the two sisters when they come together.

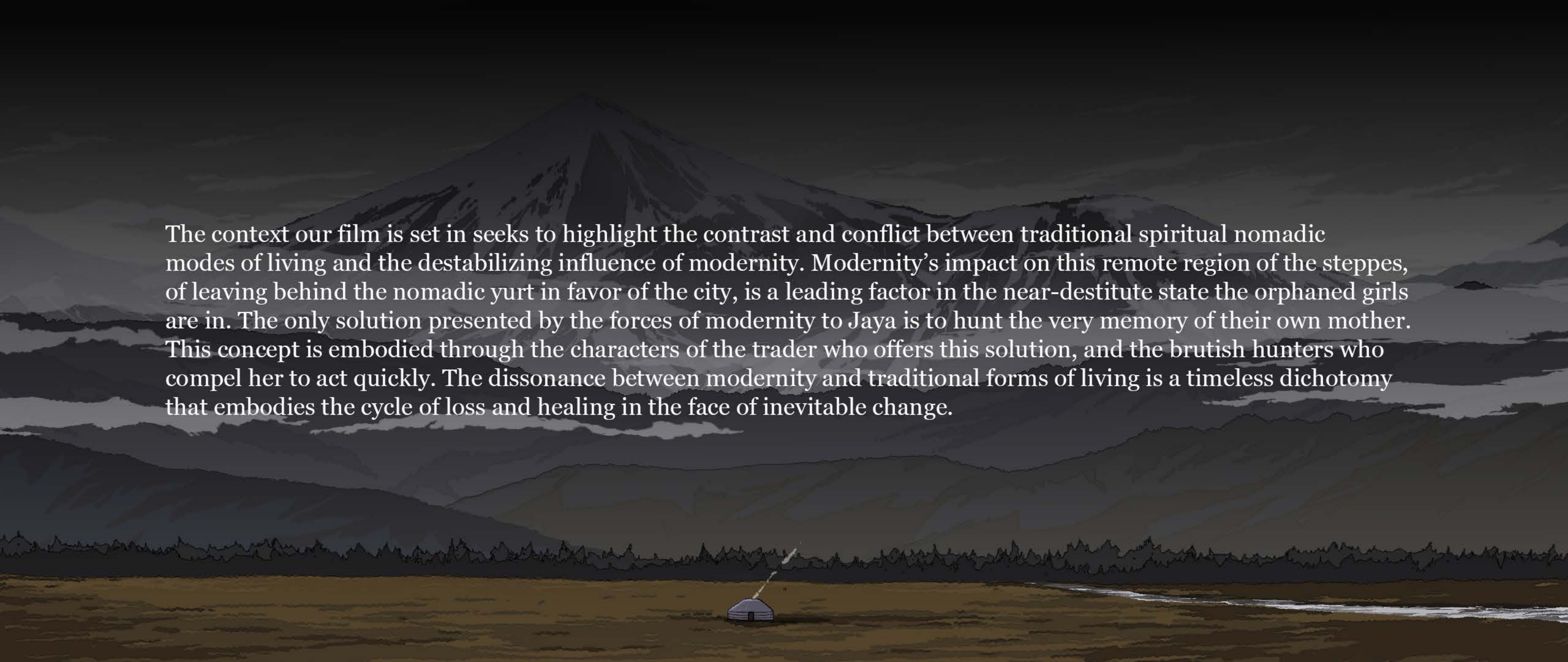
Jaya is sent by a fur trader past her usual hunting grounds to transgress into the sacred heart of the mountain, the believed resting place of their mother's soul, to hunt a mythical beast we know to be a dinosaur. To take on this task, Jaya has shut herself off from her own emotions, which has disconnected her from her grieving sister. The idea of having to go deep into the mountain to find a seemingly dangerous and extinct creature is paralleled with the emotional journey of Jaya. She must go back into her own past and Thory of her mghghgother.



Before she passed, their mother left a token of her memory, an heirloom amulet that embodies her eternal love for her daughters as well as their connection to the cultural belief in reincarnation and the sacred mountain.

Amala wants to be close to Jaya like things were before, and sees the amulet as a way to remind her sister of their mother's love and their traditions. When Jaya sees the visual resemblance between the amulet and the dinosaur, she will be able to acknowledge her own repressed pain, and finally be able to connect with her sister's grief.

The film seeks to show the importance of connection in the face of tragedy, and that the process of emotional healing cannot be rushed or disregarded when moving forward.



The context our film is set in seeks to highlight the contrast and conflict between traditional spiritual nomadic modes of living and the destabilizing influence of modernity. Modernity's impact on this remote region of the steppes, of leaving behind the nomadic yurt in favor of the city, is a leading factor in the near-destitute state the orphaned girls are in. The only solution presented by the forces of modernity to Jaya is to hunt the very memory of their own mother. This concept is embodied through the characters of the trader who offers this solution, and the brutish hunters who compel her to act quickly. The dissonance between modernity and traditional forms of living is a timeless dichotomy that embodies the cycle of loss and healing in the face of inevitable change.

Directors' biography

Luke Ashworth, Yehor Bondarenko, Alp Kurdoğlu, Romane Talva and Ange Yajima graduated from Gobelins in 2025.

Tears of the Mountain is a multicultural team with varied tastes and sensitivities who gathered around a project that would blend their interests and influences: dramatic narratives, nature, history, culture, and dinosaurs.

Since the first year of the masters program, we forged our bond through tea and biscuits by hosting a ritual of afternoon tea breaks every day.

A mountain was climbed together whilst having fun and trusting one another.



Technical sheet

Title: Tears of the Mountain

Year of production: 2025

Genre: Adventure/Drama

Duration: 7'38"

Language: English

Subtitles: French

Technique: 2D animation

Format: 2,39:1

Directed by: Luke Ashworth, Yehor Bondarenko, Alp Kurdoğlu, Romane Talva, Ange Yajima

Music: Knute Nelson, Manit Kittiwangchai

Sound Design & Mix: Clément Naline, Mathieu Tiger

Voices: Kalee Dehamer-Yanagida, Violette Avouac, Lemmy Constantine, Tavaras Nixon, Can Gümüşgerdan

With the help of: Jonathan ABBASZADEH, Malik ADEN OMAR, Celia ALCINA MATESANZ, Oyundari ANGARAG, Josue BAGEA, Tianzi BI, Lancelot BOUCKAERT, Azure Gaspard BOUYÉ, Leda ČAČIĆ, Ada ÇETİNTAŞ, Sumin CHO, Marion DECELLAS, Ella DIOULO-SELIG, Cléo DE LASTEYRIE, Inès DOLIVET, Maria DOMINGO, Begaiym EMIRLAN, Naomi ESCOUTE, Finn FALK, Arthur FONG, Quique GAROS, Lisa GUILHEN, Yauhan GUO, Dewi HARTONO, Angie HE, Kevin HEMELAAR, Yosi HSU, Julia KRUMMENACHER, Vivian LE, Victor LESAFFRE, Mia LOU, Mattéo MAISTRE, David MAYEUL RS, Madèle MOULIN, Tuong-Vy NGUYEN, Adeline PERRIGAULT, Pablo RIVERA, Dex RUBIO, Manon VERREY, Quan ZHOU, Xinrou ZHOU

Contacts

Luke Ashworth

Luke.the.ashworth@gmail.com

Instagram: @mugwine

Linkedin: luke-ashworth-8657ba16a

Yehor Bondarenko

ybondarenko.pro@gmail.com

Instagram: @jorge_bondarenko

Linkedin: yehor-bondarenko-bb276632a

Alp Kurdoğlu

alpkurdoglu.pro@gmail.com

Instagram: @alp_.k

Linkedin: alp-kurdo%C4%9Flu-baoba517b

Romane Talva

romane.talva.pro@gmail.com

Instagram: @philatogrun

Linkedin: romane-talva-a3245a250

Ange Yajima

angeyajima@gmail.com

Instagram: @bukkoroli

Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/in/ange-yajima

