



Film industry Bhutan facts and figures 2008

1. First film - Gasa Lamai Singye (Ugetsu communications, 1988), Phama (Pelvision, 1995)
 2. First blockbuster - Jigdrel (Norling, 1998)
 3. Bhutanese film industry was born – (Motion Pictures Association of Bhutan – MPAB, 1999)
 4. National film awards instituted in 2001
 5. As of 2008, 116 films produced
 6. 390 music albums (approx)
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1. 82 registered members
 2. 14 production houses (established offices)
 3. 14 music recording studios
 4. Members – two eminent Rimpoches, ex-police officer, militia officers, engineers, accomplished monks and people from other walks of life
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1. Three major international film awards and nominations (Venice, Telluride, Toronto, Cannes)
 2. Eight major documentary awards (Tokyo, New York, Seoul, Munich, Trento, Basel, KL, Tehran)
 3. Huge publicity for Bhutan
 4. Travellers & Magicians viewed by over 10 million
 5. School Among Glaciers viewed by 2.8 million in Japan and 1.1 million people in Korea
 6. Rockin' the Himalayan Kingdom viewed by 1 million people in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg (Top ten docu on Dutch TV in 2006)

Source: Motion Picture Association of Bhutan, 2009

Bhutan+partners monitors the developments of the Bhutan film industry since 1998. Our contact with film directors, producers, and media organisations has given us a fair insight in developments in the industry, the quality of films, and the distribution and marketing in Bhutan.

Producers and the Government see the film industry as a means to spread infotainment throughout the country and to preserve Bhutan's unique culture through film. Filmmakers also use the medium to draw attention to modern youth issues like HIV, drugs, gangs and prostitution. Bhutan has a number of young creative and talented filmmakers that, with some external support could grow into successful and professional directors.

The film industry in Bhutan is still in its experimental phase. Few films reach international film festivals. The quality of most films is not fit for exposure abroad. Distribution and marketing need professional organisation; Film producers drive into the country side to screen their latest product, mostly in schools. Bhutan (Thimphu) only has two cinemas. The government plans to build community halls in all districts and agreed that cinema facilities will be included. The Motion Pictures Association of Bhutan is still in its development phase.

The film industry needs more good scriptwriters, professional film directors / producers and a professional distribution and marketing system.

The industry would be helped with training and education:

- scriptwriting
- film content
- distribution
- marketing
- copyrights

Bhutan+partners will assess a two-year investment programme to support professionalism in the Bhutan film industry. Workshops, coaching and research are part of the program. Focus will be on profitability and quality development .

Bhutan+partners will also assess the creation of a *media hub*, a well equipped studio/office for rent by film makers, sound/light engineers, editors, producers and marketing/distribution professionals.

December 2010 – May 2011 : Assessment Bhutan media
2011 – 2013: Media program Bhutan

bhutan+partners filmography track record:

2002: *The Other Final* - Line production prize-winning film about the alternative football world cup final between Bhutan and Montserrat, partner: Kessels Kramer, the Netherlands, RGOB Bhutan

2004: *The Female Archer of Bhutan* - Line production documentary about Tshering Choden the first female olympic archery player of Bhutan, partner: Arte tv, Holger Riedel – Germany, Tshering Choden and RGOB – Bhutan

2006: *Rocking the Himalayan Kingdom – Bløf in Bhutan* - Production of documentary by Dorji Wangchuk, partners: Dorji Wanchuk, RGOB – Bhutan, Llink, Province of Zeeland and NCDO – the Netherlands

2007: *3op Reis, Floortje Dessing in Bhutan* - Line production for Llink television, the Netherlands, Partners: RGOB, Thukten Yeshi – Bhutan, Llink – the Netherlands

2009 – 2010: *melting roof* – Production of 39' documentary on the threats of climate change for the people of Bhutan, partners: Tashi, TGMI, RGOB – Bhutan, Enlightenment Films – the Netherlands

2011: *Nazhoen Chharo* – re-edite and prepare celluloid version of feature film on urban youth gangs in the capital of Bhutan by director Dorji Wangchuk, partners: Dorji Wangchuk – Bhutan, Peterjan van der Burgh – the Netherlands

