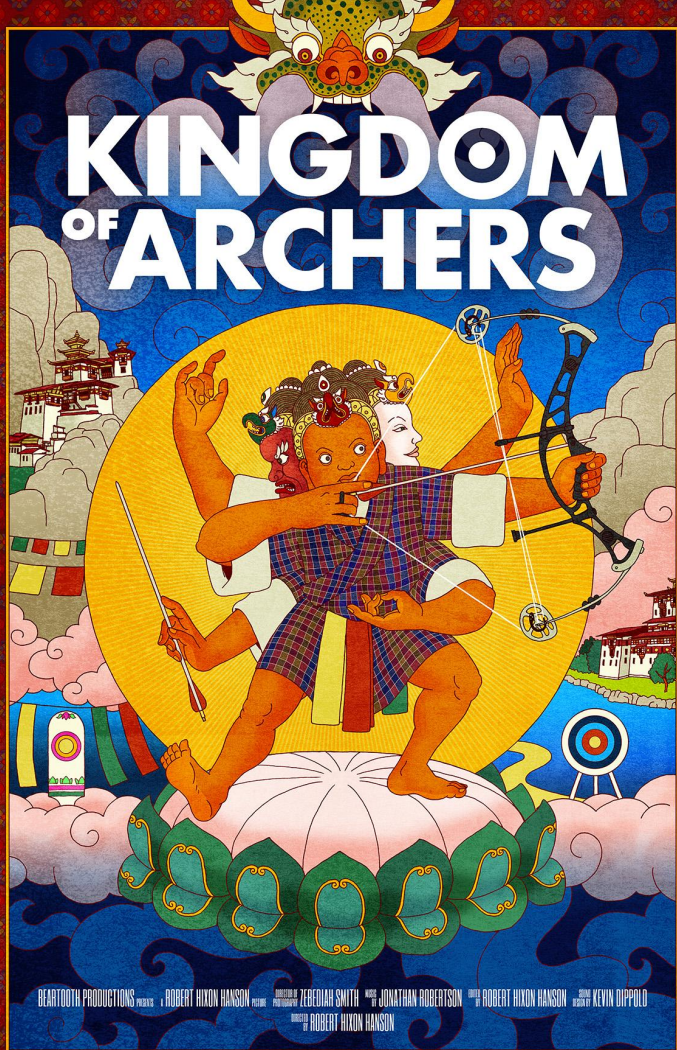


KINGDOM OF ARCHERS

A Documentary Film by Robert Hixon Hanson



KINGDOM OF ARCHERS

Produced and Directed By:
Production Company:

Robert Hixon Hanson
Beartooth Productions

Cinematographer:
Editor:
Composer:
Sound Design & Mixing:

Zebediah Smith
Robert Hixon Hanson
Jonathan Robertson
Kevin Dippold

TAGLINE - 14 words

In Bhutan, the struggle to preserve an age-old tradition is a moving target.

LOGLINE - 34 WORDS

Kingdom of Archers explores a unique cultural tradition in the tiny mountain kingdom of Bhutan which, due to a combination of internal and external factors, is rapidly evolving -- for better or for worse.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Running Time: **1:17:13**
Video Resolution: **3840 x 2160 (UHD)**
Aspect Ratio: **16:9:**
Audio Mix: **5.1 Surround**

Country of Origin: **United States**
Production Locations: **Filmed entirely in Bhutan**

- Thimphu
- Paro
- Radi
- Kanglung
- Bumthang

Spoken Languages: **English**
Dzongkha (Subtitled in English)
Shar chop (Subtitled in English)



SYNOPSIS

[145 WORDS]

When the Kingdom of Bhutan joined the United Nations in 1971, archery was designated as its national sport. Indeed, archery in Bhutan is a rich part of the cultural fabric, as traditional archery matches are community-wide events involving song, dance, food, and drink.

However, both internal and external factors have begun to change the face of the traditional game in Bhutan. For one, imported compound bows and aluminum arrows have become extremely popular in Bhutan, and have fundamentally changed the traditional game. In addition, in an effort to perform better at international-level archery competitions, the Bhutan Archery Federation has begun a grassroots campaign to introduce Olympic-style archery to every school by the year 2020.

Kingdom of Archers explores the many facets of archery in Bhutan through several individual stories, and addresses the challenges of cultural preservation against the forces of modernization, westernization, and economic development.

ORIGINS

Director Robert Hanson first learned about archery in Bhutan in 2008 when he was working for a non profit foundation that sponsored Bhutan's Olympic team. As a competitive archer himself, he started to question why Bhutan had never fared well at the Olympics even though archery was so prevalent in the country. *Kingdom of Archers* started with this central question.

Six years later, Robert brought Emmy-winning cinematographer Zebediah Smith to Bhutan to explore Bhutan's fascination with archery, and discovered that archery in Bhutan was not just a sport - it was a tradition interwoven into the country's rich cultural history. Moreover, the tradition was evolving amid the backdrop of the country's rapidly growing economy and western influences. It took almost a month in the country over the span of two years to complete production.

Ultimately, *Kingdom of Archers* is about the complex challenge of cultural preservation in a developing country, and the importance of national identity in a global society.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I began my journey to Bhutan in 2014, I was biased. I had done my research, and I knew that traditional archery in Bhutan was changing; to a large extent, archers no longer used bamboo bows and arrows, but modern compound bows and mass-produced aluminum arrows. To me at the time, the change indicated the gradual loss of a very unique culture.

Even during production, it was difficult to find many archers still shooting with bamboo bows, and even fewer matches that incorporated all of the traditional elements about which I had read, like the inclusion of family in the festivities. However, I slowly came to realize that my bias was selfish; while I saw the loss of culture, most of the Bhutanese archers with whom I talked believe that the tradition is stronger now than it ever was. To them, the evolution of the game to include modern equipment made the game more exciting. With the modern equipment, archers were able to hit the target more often, which led to more singing, dancing, and general celebration. The modern equipment also made the game more accessible; it was easier to use. As a result, more and more people started -- and continued -- to play the game.

Thus, with "Kingdom of Archers," I wanted to lead the audience on a similar path of discovery, and let them come to their own conclusion about the true value of culture and tradition.

--Robert H. Hanson



THE KINGDOM



His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck

His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck is the younger brother to the 5th King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. HRH is the President of the Bhutan Olympic Committee, which directly oversees the Bhutan Archery Federation, and is also an avid archer. In fact, HRH has competed in the Yangphel Open on several occasions, and his team has won multiple times.



His Excellency Lyonpo Dr. Kinzang Dorji

Former Prime Minister Kinzang Dorji has had a long career in politics as well as archery. He was Speaker of the National Assembly from 1997 to 2000, and then Prime Minister from 2002-2003, and again from 2007-2008. HE Dr. Dorji has also served as President of the Bhutan Archery Federation, as well as the President of the Bhutan Indigenous Games and Sports Association (BIGSA).

THE KINGDOM



Tsewang Rinchen

Tsewang is the Secretary General of the Bhutan Archery Federation as well as the Yangphel Open Archery Tournament, the biggest archery tournament in Bhutan, if not the world.



Phub Singye Namgay

Phub is a student in Kanglung, and was one of the four archers selected to compete in the Children of Asia Games in Russia. The four archers had only 6 months to learn how to shoot an Olympic-style recurve bow.



Sherab Zam

Sherab Zam represented Bhutan in the 2012 Olympics in London, and continued as a coach after the games. She is in charge of the Bhutan Archery Federation's grassroots program in Eastern Bhutan, and coaches the four youth archers chosen to compete in Russia.

THE KINGDOM



Tshering Tashi

Tshering has been a carpenter in Radi, on the far eastern side of Bhutan, for well over 20 years. In addition to building wooden and bamboo bows from scratch, Tshering enjoys constructing alters. He was also commissioned to build several recurve bows for the BAF grassroots program.



Tshering Choda

Tshering is the Head Coach of the Bhutan National Archery Team, and competed as an archer in both the Athens and Sydney Olympics. She has the distinction of being the only archer to win a match for Bhutan at the Olympics.



Kinley Dorji

Kinley is an avid archer from Paro. Though he took up the game late in life, Kinley has thrown himself into the sport, and has organized several friendly matches. As a frequent traveller with a wife from the United States, Kinley is able to speak of Bhutan's culture and tradition from a unique perspective.

THE KINGDOM



Choki Wangmo

Choki is an archer for the Bhutan National Archery Team. Though Choli never competed in the Olympics, she represented Bhutan in several International-level tournaments, and went on to work as an administrator for the Bhutan Archery Federation.



Pema Penjor

Pema is an avid archer from Paro who competed several times with the Pelden Group in the Yangphel Open Archery Tournament, winning on one occasion. At one point he was even ranked among the best archers in Bhutan.



Karma Lotey

Karma Lotey is the CEO of Yangphel Limited, which, in addition to running the Yangphel Open Archery Tournament, owns a bow shop in Thimphu, is an insurance provider, and also a travel company.

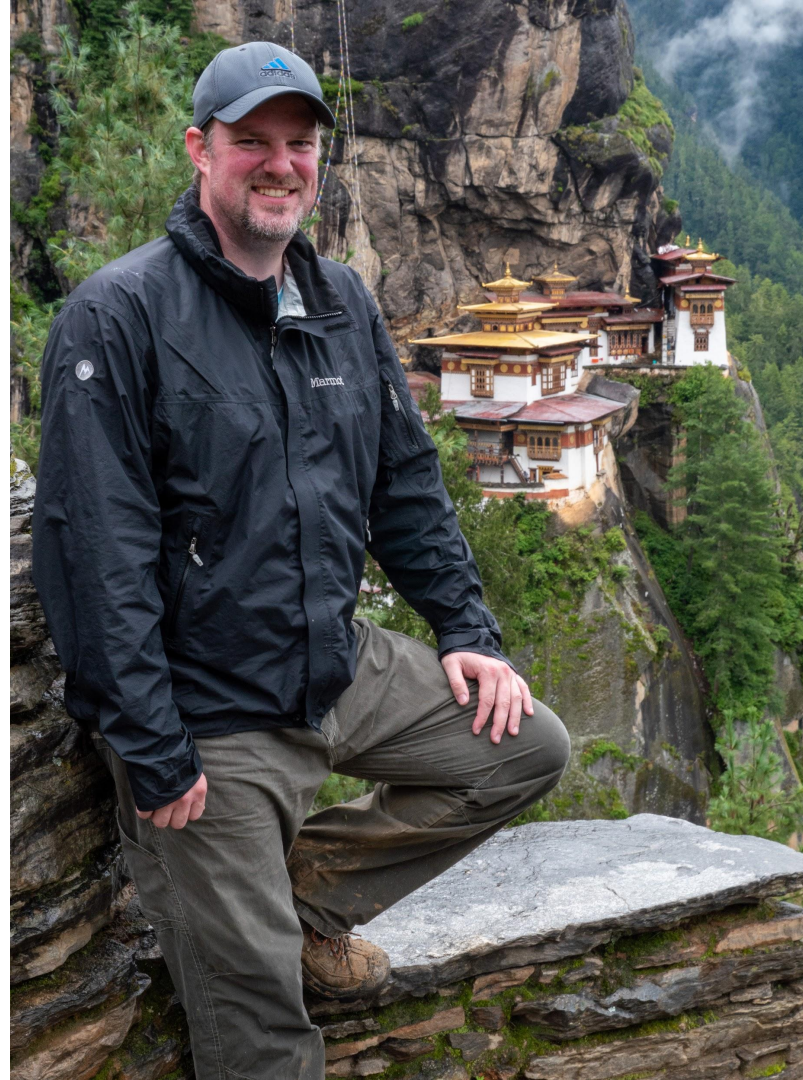
PRODUCER / DIRECTOR / EDITOR

Robert H Hanson

Robert attended Yale University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Art with a concentration in filmmaking. His final project, a 45-minute documentary film, received honors in the department.

A desire to learn more about traditional filmmaking brought Robert to Los Angeles, where he earned his MFA at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. From there, Robert founded his own video production company, Beartooth Productions, and steadily built up a client list, producing corporate and promotional videos, commercials, and music videos. His most ambitious project, however, was a 10-episode competitive reality series entitled "Nock Out," which aired on NBC Sports in the summer of 2014.

Soon thereafter, Robert decided he wanted to share his love and knowledge of filmmaking, and entered the world of Academia. He has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate level, and is currently at Blair Academy, a college preparatory school, where he is the Director of Video Studies in the Fine Arts Department.



CINEMATOGRAPHER

Zebediah Smith

Zeb Smith is an Emmy Award winning cinematographer based in Los Angeles, California and Brooklyn, NY, although his work often takes him around the globe.

His work has garnered him two Telly Awards, an Emmy Award, and two Emmy Nominations. He has gone through the Sundance Institute Documentary Labs with the heavily awarded documentary *Whatever it Takes* as a Producer and Editor that garnered distribution on PBS Independent Lens.

He has also worked as a producer, editor, and production supervisor on a wide array of documentary and commercial projects.



COMPOSER

Jonathan Robertson

Jonathan Robertson is a composer and sound designer based in Kansas City. He is an adjunct instructor in the Theatre and Music Technology departments at Missouri Western State University, and teaches sound technology at University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Recent credits include: Associate Sound Designer X, or Betty Shabazz v. The Nation off-broadway at the New Victory Theater (Dir. Ian Belknap, NYC, 2017) and the Theater at St. Clements (Dir. Ian Belknap, NYC, 2018); Composer/Sound Designer on Men on Boats at the Unicorn Theatre (Dir. Missy Koonce, Kansas City, 2017); Sound Designer Sea Marks (Dir. Jan Rogge, Kansas City, 2018); Sound Designer A Christmas Carol (Dir. Quin Gresham, Arrow Rock, 2018); Composer/Sound Designer And Then There Were None (Dir. John Renshouse, Kansas City, 2017).



SOUND DESIGNER / MIXER

Kevin Dippold

Kevin Dippold is a producer of alternative and indie rock. Kevin has worked with artists such as Wallace's Line, Mark Rudd, Jason Quicksall, The Smashing Pumpkins, Electric Prunes, the Seeds etc. He has also scored music for film and TV. Kevin's first solo album "Time Alone" came out in 2007. Kevin studied music at UCLA and has been working in recording studios for the past 5 years as an engineer and producer. He recently finished work on a new Smashing Pumpkins DVD that is set to come out in November.



STUDIO MUSICIANS



Ezgi Karakus | Cello

This is the second collaboration between Director Robert H. Hanson and Ezgi Karakus. Ezgi also performed the cello on the soundtrack for the short documentary *Il Villaggio di Millbrook*, which was also composed by Jonathan Robertson.

Hong Hong Gianakon | Pipa

Hong Hong has a Doctorate in Music Composition from the University of Missouri Kansas City, and is currently a professor in Kansas City. This is Hong Hong's first collaboration with Director Robert H. Hanson.





PRAISE

COMING SOON

CREDITS

A Film by:

Production Company

Cinematographer

Original Score Composed and

Recorded By

Sound Design and Mixing

Studio Musician - Cello

Studio Musician - Pippa

FEATURING

HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck

HE Lyonpo Dr. Kinzang Dorji

Tsewang Rinchen

Tshering Tashi

Phub Singye Namgay

Pema Penjor

Choki Wangmo

Robert Hixon Hanson

Beartooth Productions, LLC

Zebediah Smith

Jonathan Robertson

Kevin Dippold

Ezgi Karakus

Hong Hong Gianakon

Sherab Zam

Tshering Choden

Kinley Dorji

Singye Wangchuck

Chigme Pelden



ALSO FEATURING

Karma Lotey
Yeshi Jamtsho
Bhutan National Team Archers
Yangphel Open Archers, Staff, Crew, and Spectators
Jampeling Higher Secondary School Students and Teachers

Translators: **Tashi Tshering**
 Tau Tshering
 Kinzang Dorji

Special Thanks: **The Office of HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck**
 Jampeling Higher Secondary School
 Yangphel Private Limited
 Bhutan Archery Federation
 Bhutan Olympic Committee
 Bhutan Film Commission
 Druk Air

Sonia Elizabeth Hanson
Ugyen Rinzin
Minjur Dorji
Choki Traditional Art School
Bob and Arlene Hanson
Henk and Erika de Jong
John Alan Thompson

Easton Foundations
Don Rabska
Sonam Choki
Kinzang Tshering
Willem and Suzan Trienekens
Barbara Hanson Pierce
William Kwok



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