

bottomless well films  
28 mackin ave  
beacon, ny 12508

**for more information:**

Lucas Millard  
producer / co-director, [Baato](#)  
+1.917.805.5173 (cell)  
[lumill@gmail.com](mailto:lumill@gmail.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Baato* makes theatrical debut at Anthology Film Archives**

New York, New York – Aug 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2022 –

Anthology Film Archives will be hosting daily screenings (and twice daily on the weekend) for a week-long run of the feature documentary ***Baato* | बाटो**. Filmed in eastern Nepal by NY filmmakers Kate Stryker and Lucas Millard, “[t]he documentary film *BAATO* (n. [Nepali] 1. path, trail; 2. way; 3. road) is a beautifully crafted, clear-eyed chronicle of the **construction of a trans-national highway** in Nepal, and of the many different dimensions that come into play with an infrastructural project of this scale, both macro ... and micro ...” ([excerpt, Anthology Film Archive program notes](#)). The film showcases Mikma and her family’s winter **migration** by foot from their village deep in the Himalaya to sell local **medicinal plants** in lowland urban markets. Though still only partially complete, the new highway will transform this **roadless Himalayan valley** permanently and open up a direct transport route between Nepal and China - indeed it will connect directly to China’s existing **Belt & Road Initiative** (BRI) infrastructure - bringing new challenges, new opportunities, and ultimately a new way of being to those who live along its path. This documentary film is a “**deep dive** into [a way of life that is in the midst of] a slow and chaotic, yet inexorable transition” ([excerpt, MountainFilm program notes](#)).

Recipient of the Fredi-Ursula Wohlwend Award from the KIMFF (Kathmandu), ***Baato* | बाटो** was made possible by funding from Bertha Film Fund and the Fulbright Program. The project participated in the IFP Documentary Labs (now *Gotham Documentary Labs*), and is slated to debut on iTunes and Projectr.tv on October 18th ([Grasshopper Film](#)). Release in the UK is slated for early 2023 ([TullStories](#)).

The filmmakers will be in person for the 6pm screenings on August 13th and 14th.

**excerpt, Co-directors’ statement:**

“For better or worse, the world is changing before our eyes. These changes are becoming sharply defined in places that have historically been difficult to access. As technological advances carry us faster and faster towards a more connected and global future, sometimes a little perspective is needed to show us what we may be sacrificing in the face of progress. Our main goal is to root the audience in the world of the Nepalis that populate the film, providing an intimate and immersive character-driven narrative that points towards the larger issues at hand. We were motivated through our decades-long experiences within Nepal and our desire to give agency to the people represented by the film - the voices of those that are directly affected by large scale infrastructure projects in the developing world largely go unheard.”

**Screeners available upon request.** Please write to [contact@baatofilm.com](mailto:contact@baatofilm.com)

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bottomless will films is an audio and visual storytelling company specializing in the ephemeral nature of people & places

## **BAATO | बाटो**

### **tech specs:**

81min / Color / DCP / 5.1 dolby

### **website:**

[www.baatofilm.com](http://www.baatofilm.com)

### **embeddable trailer:**

<https://vimeo.com/398535814/a37acefd8e>

### **presskit:**

<https://baatofilm.com/press>

### **distinguished collaborators:**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

- [Kesang Tseten](#)

EDITOR

- [Eric Daniel Metzgar](#)

COMPOSER

- Craig Chin (of [Errant Space](#) and [4 Airports](#))

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

- Matthew Robert Cooper (of [Eluvium](#))

### **Past film festival screenings:**

Big Sky Documentary Film Festival (*In Competition*)

Austin Film Festival

Woods Hole Film Festival

Port Townsend Film Festival

MountainFilm (Telluride)

Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival (*Fredi-Ursula Wohlwend AWARD WINNER*)

Trento Mountain Film Festival (Italy) (*In Competition*)

Uiju Mountain Film Festival (Korea)

Mostra Filmes de Montanha Film Festival (Brazil)

All Living Things Film Festival (India)

Kendal Mountain Film Festival (UK)

Livable Planet Film Festival

Coalition of South Asian Film Festivals

Association for Asian Studies Film Expo

Princeton Environmental Film Festival

### **Past college screenings:**

Brown University

Dartmouth College

University of British Columbia

Wesleyan College

James Madison University

University of Texas at Austin

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