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Title:

China's Tibetan Cinema: "Tibetanness" in Pema Tseden's *The Search*

Abstract

The last ten years have been marked by the rapid development of Tibetan filmmaking in the PRC or what I call "China's Tibetan cinema". This paper focuses on Tibetan director Pema Tseden's second feature film, *The Search* (Ch. title: *Xunzhao Zhimei Gengdeng*). At the heart of the film lie the issues of Tibetan identity and Tibetan agency in formulating Tibetanness in China today. The objective of this paper is to examine the narrative strategies employed in *The Search* to address and re-imagined Tibetan culture and identity, and to develop new expressions of Tibetanness.

Keywords: self-representation, cinema, Tibet, identity