

Background

Horis was born in 2000, the millennium year. In China, people born in the new millennium are a generation that spans across eras, witnessing the popularisation of the information age and the rise of the internet. They have experienced the widespread dissemination of information and the rapid growth of the online world. However, Horis's self-awareness and self-exploration are greatly blocked by the societal context in China although the internet provides more platforms for discussing LGBTQ+ topics. During her teen years, she struggled to define herself because there was very little knowledge and information in society about LGBTQ+ community. At school, teachers also always avoided discussing such topics. Therefore, when she entered her first relationship with a girl, it became a pivotal moment for her to begin exploring herself independently.

The film also mentions that she had gone through a period of depression. During her time studying in Regina, Canada, she encountered even more perspectives and information about Lesbian and homosexuality, which let her understand herself more but also led her to grapple with different conflicts. She faced the dilemma of being honest with her family or continuing to conceal her identity, and the conflicting feelings of hope for the future versus uncertainty. This internal struggle trapped her in a cycle, as the title of the film suggests. She felt that everything she did was wrong from the beginning – the moment she started something, it felt like it was already doomed to end. The conflicting emotions and uncertainties added to her sense of being trapped in a loop, making her questions every step she takes.

For lesbians like Horis in China, values from the Western LGBTQ+ community cannot directly apply to Eastern cultures. In Chinese and other East Asian cultures, most families often emphasise traditional societal values and heterosexual relationships. Therefore, understanding and respecting the concepts and

traditions of Eastern cultures are essential to promote acceptance and equality for LGBTQ+ rights. Using Buddhism values as a new way to explain and understand LGBTQ+ people could be an innovative approach as it could provide a unique perspective that would promote empathy and acceptance for all beings, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity. It could also create a space for dialogue and reflection for the audience in diverse cultural contexts.

Director's Statement

Instead of emphasising who is LGBTQ+ people, I portrayed Horis' growth journey and her reflections on life. Since she told me not to highlight her "difference" in society, and we don't need to control the views or hatred of other people, I had been searching for new and creative directions to approach this topic`. So I decided to show her memory with the society, her mother, and her girlfriend in a poetic way, rather than solely discussing on her lesbian identity. This approach allows for a more creative and immersive portrayal of her growth story and reflections on life. It could evoke resonance and emotional connection in audiences, prompting them to reflect on their perspectives about LGBTQ+ people.

Moreover, I decided to emphasise her resilience and growth in overcoming mental health challenges. The audience may start to consider the impact of mental health issues on personal growth and life, as well as the resilience and growth experienced when LGBTQ+ teenagers struggle with social stereotypes and misconceptions.

Further, I found that using Buddhism values to explain homosexuality provides a simple, straightforward, and easily understandable approach. Although Horis and I are not Buddhists, the influence of Buddhist ideas has had a significant impact on our understanding and values. I learned that Buddhism views

homosexuality similarly to heterosexuality, suggesting for treating all sentient beings with equal compassion and inclusiveness. It does not treat homosexuality as a distinct or unique phenomenon, but rather as equal to heterosexuality. I believed this could provide the audience with a fresh and enlightening perspective, at least prompting them to reflect on their attitudes towards homosexuality, thus expanding their understanding of sexual diversity and inclusiveness.