

A DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Some journeys begin with a leap.

A young Hmong woman carries her culture, her family, and her village with her — all the way around the world.

Lee is a young woman from a village in northern Laos, where her Hmong heritage, her family, and her faith shape who she is. Traveling beyond it for the first time — sharing her culture with students and discovering a wider world — she carries her identity with her, proudly, every step of the way.

RUNTIME
75 minutes (subject to change)

STATUS
In post-production / editing

SPOKEN LANGUAGES
English, Hmong, Lao, Thai

SUBTITLES
English (additional languages may follow)

DIRECTED & EDITED BY
Marián Peciar

PRODUCED BY
James M. Ragsdale

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ABOUT LEE

Lee Yang is a young Hmong woman from a village in northern Laos. Before this project, she had never set foot outside it.

Lee in Laos follows her first journey beyond home, as she shares her Hmong culture and family traditions with students she meets along the way — and discovers just how much of her identity she carries with her, wherever she goes. Her Hmong heritage and her Christian faith are both central to who she is.

Off-screen, Lee is an active voice for her culture on social media, where she continues to share her story and her community with a growing audience.

WHERE THE FILM TRAVELS

Filmed across Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and Bulgaria — following Lee from her home village to the students, cities, and communities she meets along the way.

DIRECTOR & EDITOR

Marián Peciar

Marián Peciar is a Slovakia-born cinematographer and editor based in Koh Samui, Thailand. He worked as cinematographer on The Lily, directed by Quintessa Swindell, which screened in Short Film Program 4 at the Sundance Film Festival 2025. His work as cinematographer and editor on Lamai Muay Thai Camp has been selected by the Kosice International Film Festival (Award Winner), Bratislava International Film Awards, Short Shot Fest, the Los Angeles Movie & Music Video Awards, and was a nominee at the Cinematography & Photography Awards. He also shot and edited Recap, selected at the Kosice International Film Festival, Japan Rising Sun Film Festival, and Baja California Film Festival, and served as cinematographer and editor on Limitless, a screendance film for Polish artist Karolina Niedusza, selected at the In Shadow Festival in Lisbon. Marián directs and edits Lee in Laos: The Hmong Journey.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

> *"I wanted Lee's voice to carry the entire film — there is no outside narrator, no one explaining her Hmong culture to the audience on her behalf. My goal as director was to let her be the one who tells us who she is, and to trust that her own words are enough. This is not a film about what Lee left behind. It's about what she carried with her, and what she chose to bring back home."*
>
> — Marián Peciar

Film status and specifications reflect September 2026. Runtime is subject to change. English subtitles are planned; additional subtitle languages may follow.

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