

SEAINDO ONLINE MOVIE SCREENING

BANG THE DRUM

**DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY WILLIAM
NITZKY, CINEMATOGRAPHY AND EDITED
BY TANNER HANSEN, 2020**

In the remote ethnic Yao village of Huaili, deep in southwest China, large bronze drums are alive. They produce a sound that speaks to the heavens, opening the path for the souls of deceased villagers to reach the ancestral land. Beyond the funeral, bronze drums are valued by the Yao for their anthropomorphic role as protectors of the household. When the Chinese government steps in to protect this sacred heritage, the life of the bronze drum takes a new turn. Huaili and the ethnic culture of the Yao fall under the tourist gaze and the bronze drum transforms into an icon for tourist performances. The Yao are forced to navigate the pressures of the government and the tourist market to uphold an unbroken tradition. Bang the Drum traces the path heritage takes in a changing China.

Followed by a discussion with William Nitzky, the director of this insightful ethnographic documentary.



William Nitzky Assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology and Co-Director of the Museum Studies Program / Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology, California State University, Chico.

Please register for this online event by sending an email to eva-maria.knoll@oeaw.ac.at.

