**Happy Together**

**a documentary film, that will enable you to examine the typical life of a small Chinese town**

On Thursday, 27 November of this year, a new Czech documentary film from Saša Dlouhý, *Happy Together*, will have its première in Czech cinemas. The film took more than two years to make and was shot in a country where no recordings can be made in public without a permit. Approval of such activity without a censor's supervision cannot be obtained in a normal way. The successfully completed film without confiscation of equipment or expulsion from the country, completed without a hidden camera, in one location with open reactions from local inhabitants is somewhat of a miracle.  
 The co-produced documentary *Happy Together* was completed in July 2014. The first public showing of the film was at the International Festival of Documentary Films in Jihlava during the special event Czech Landscape. In the first week of November, the film was shown in China with minor complications. It was shown shortly after Czech President Miloš Zeman's trip to China and tested the Chinese public's preparedness for a different view of their own country.

"I don't exactly view China as an example of democracy. I could argue about a lot even with the main protagonist in the film. Nonetheless, I believe that Chinese culture has something to offer us and that we can learn a lot from the Chinese. I can understand the motivation of someone who relocates his entire family, including a newborn, to an environment such as Chinese-Czechia, although I wouldn't do it myself," explains director Saša Dlouhý regarding *Happy Together*.

Somewhere in China, there is a small town called Chinese-Czechia (actually called Town of Chinese-Czechoslovak Friendship). In the 1950s, farmers from Czechoslovakia brought tractors and other farming equipment to China as a way of promoting friendship between socialist countries. Local inhabitants remember this still today, and to honour that historic time, they are even building their own small "Chinese Prague" in a new part of the town. In order to promote friendship between nations, young Czech expert on China Tomáš Jirsák, alias Havran [Czech for "Raven"], arrives together with his wife and three children and establishes a Department of Czech Studies at a local university.

Through the eyes of a biased observer, we witness the adaptation of a deeply religious family to a new environment and reveal details from typical life in the world's most populous country. These include different customs, different culture and pervasive industrial pollution, but we also witness a desire to take on large tasks and non-traditional raising of sons. This is the story of the film *Happy Together*.

Saša Dlouhý (born in 1971) operated an art gallery in the 1990s, and afterwards he made underwater films for foreign production studios. After his own natural science productions *Azores under Water* and *Valdéz the Whale Paradise*, he began working as a journalist covering cultural events. Since 2006 he has focused on social documentaries. In 2012 he was nominated for the Czech Lion award and the Pavel Koutecký award and received the Trilobit award for the film *Trafačka – Temple of Freedom* (co-directed with Roman Vávra). He was nominated for the Pavel Koutecký award in 2014 for the documentary *Liebe Indigo* about performer Halka Třešňáková.

Direction and camera: Saša Dlouhý   
Editing: Jakub Voves  
Sound: Václav Flegl  
Music: Ondřej Skala, a.k.a. Jesus, stretches to Berlin.  
Dramaturgy: Jana Hádková   
Creative Producer: Petr Kubica  
Production: freeSaM  
Co-production: Czech Television  
Distribution: Aerofilms  
Footage: 75 minutes.

Film website: [www.happytogether-film.tv](http://www.happytogether-film.tv/)  
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