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## SEARCHING FOR GO-HYANG

A videotape by Tammy Tolle  
1998, 32 minutes, Color, Video

Startling, deeply felt and unforgettable, *Searching for Go-Hyang* is a rare feminist look at the issues of cross-cultural adoption and national identity. Two young women return to their native Korea after a fourteen-year absence. Sent away by their parents for the promise of a better life in the US, the filmmaker and her twin sister meet up tearfully with their original family, and all bravely share the emotional truths of how the separation changed their lives. Suffering from cultural erasure, alienation and profound longing, the sisters explore their past in order to reconnect with their go-hyang – their homeland. A beautiful and profound documentary that opens a dialogue about the very personal repercussions of the thousands of US adoptions of East and Southeast Asian infant girls during the last two decades.

- New England Film and Video Festival
- Rights on Reel Human Rights Film Festival
- San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival  
New York International Asian American Film Festival  
Feminale Women's Film Festival, Koln, Germany
- Northwest Film Center
- Video Lounge, Knitting Factory, New York City

" *Searching for Go-Hyang's* exquisite design and rich, densely layered imagery penetrate deeply into that sacred territory of family and our fantasies of it."

Patricia R. Zimmerman, Ithaca College

"*Searching for Go-Hyang's* is a deeply moving and haunting chronicle of the human quest for wholeness amidst the persistent dislocations of nation, culture, gender and kinship."

Gary Y. Okihiro, Cornell University

## *Searching for Go-Hyang*

### CREDIT LIST

<i>Producer</i>	Tammy Tolle
<i>Co-Producer</i>	Una Kim
<i>Director</i>	Tammy Tolle
<i>Writer</i>	Tammy Tolle
<i>Cinematography</i>	Eric Gearity
<i>Videography</i>	Korean Broadcast System
<i>Editor</i>	Tammy Tolle
<i>Assistant Editor</i>	Una Kim
<i>Sound Mix</i>	Lyle Bibler

## *Biography*

Tammy Tolle (Chu Dong Soo) was born outside of Seoul, Korea. She came to the U.S. at age eight. Since the age of sixteen she has been living on her own. She attended Ithaca College on a full scholarship, majoring in Cinema and Photography at the Roy H. Park School of Communications. She graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in May 1998. Currently she is living in New York City, working independently in film and video.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER  
March 12, 1999



Trinh Vinh Khiem in "Tiger's Apprentice," by M. Trinh Nguyen

# Asian American film fest highlights

## Powerful works by Koreans who revisit their homeland

By G. Allen Johnson  
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

**W**ITH THE strong lineup of documentaries at the San Francisco International Asian American Festival, here's hoping two of this weekend's programs at the Kabuki don't get lost in the shuffle.

"Neither Here Nor There" (Sunday, 3:45 p.m.) is an outstanding pairing of two short documentaries made by Korean children adopted into white U.S. families who revisit their homeland.

The first is Tammy Tolle's "Searching for Go-Hyang," an emotionally wrenching reunion between Tolle, her twin sister and their mother in Seoul. The twins' American family had abused them and had blocked all contact with their birth family. The film is edited for maximum impact, and Tolle not only is a survivor, but a very promising filmmaker as well.

In "Passing Through," Nathan Adolfsen juxtaposes his family — a loving, small-town Minnesota clan

— with his new experiences in Seoul, which include a reunion with his sister on Korean national television.

Both Tolle and Adolfsen are scheduled to appear in person.

In another worthy show, Bay Area filmmaker M. Trinh Nguyen journeys back to Vietnam to document her great-uncle's folk medicine practice in "Tiger's Apprentice" (Saturday, 5:45 p.m.). Told simultaneously through Nguyen's skeptical Western viewpoint and forgiving Eastern one, she comes to appreciate his methods.

## Other highlights

"Made in Hong Kong" (Fri. 1:30 p.m., Sun. 9:30 p.m.) and "Beauty" (Fri. 8:45 p.m., Mon. 5:30 p.m.) showcase some of Hong Kong's hottest up-and-coming acting talent. ... "Blues Harp" (Fri. 3:45 p.m., Sat. 10:30 p.m.) and "Fishes in August" (Sat. 1 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.) are poetic, angry and socially conscious in the best Japanese tradition. ... From South Korea, "Whispering Corridors" (Fri. 6 p.m.) is a trashy, fun and spooky horror flick; box-office hit "Christmas in August" (Sat. 3:30 p.m., Tue. 9:30 p.m.) is a feel-good tearjerker. ... "The May Lady" (Sun. 4:30 p.m.) is a wonderful glimpse into a woman's viewpoint inside Iran. ... Best shorts programs: Funny "Ways of Dating" (Fri. 7:15 p.m.), somber "Isis Remembers" (Sat. 3:15 p.m.).