
The Film

Growing up in Afghanistan will document the experiences of several characters from among the alumni of AISK and from members of the Afghan Diaspora living in America. Together they will journey back to Afghanistan for the first time since the oppression of the Soviets and the Taliban. They will meet the Afghans who have grown up in Afghanistan and have remained there throughout all of the devastation. We will use *cinema verité* style filming to capture the emotions and events as they unfold on the trip.



Alumnus Chris Bunder Brown's home in 1975

The film will begin with a brief introduction by the director, **Stacia Teele**, during a vivid montage of photographs and home movies from the “Golden Years” that depict a vibrant, flourishing Afghanistan.

These images are unexpected and startling in their contrast to the ones commonly associated with the country.

The festive colors and joyful, smiling faces of Afghan men and women at work and recreation will introduce a new perspective of Afghanistan.

Shots from Alumni family albums — such as: a family with their station wagon posing in front of the Buddha in Bamiyan (destroyed by the Taliban in 2000); Afghan girls and American girls side by side in front of their homes; picnics in the once beautiful gardens of Paghman — will be interspersed throughout the film.

We include in-depth intimate interviews with each character shot in a loose hand held style.

Homira Nassery, an Afghan American who is also an alumni of AISK, is leaving her six figure job with the World Bank, packing up her beautiful home in Washington, DC and moving to the small province of Mazaar-i-Sharif to work with Afghan children. We will go to Mazaar-i-



Upon Chris Bunder Brown's return in 2002, this was what was left