

# With a song in my heart

“And we’re off!” I shouted above the noise in my head, driving the posted speed limit to Milford, PA and a Black Bear Film Festival screening of the short film “Fragile Beauty” directed by Alan Kaplan and narrated by Wendy Stuart Kaplan.

I chatted briefly with the filmmakers before the lights went down, and Wendy told me what her intention for the film had been before the cameras actually started rolling in Ethiopia, where the couple was documenting the lives of three tribes. “Originally, it was supposed to be about the incredible fashion, which is my passion,” she said, “but it ended up being so much more. These tribes have existed here for thousands of years, but their way of life is disappearing quickly, along with the landscape they inhabit. The Western world is encroaching on their very existence, and it’s going to come to an end. It’s incredibly sad,” Wendy shared, both on-screen and off, “but it’s inevitable.” Alan’s photography was beautiful, and the fragility of the lives documented was (IMHO) a moving testament to the plight of another species—humans, endangered by our own avarice.



**Filmmakers Alan and Wendy Kaplan** screened their documentary “Fragile Beauty” during the Black Bear Film Festival in Milford, PA.