

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

# MARY LYON AWARD 2018

PRESENTED TO



*Chloé Zhao '05*

**CHLOÉ ZHAO, CLASS OF 2005**, the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College is pleased to honor you with the Mary Lyon Award. This award is presented to an alumna who graduated no more than fifteen years ago and who has demonstrated sustained achievements in her life and career consistent with the humane values that Mary Lyon exemplified and inspired in others.

Chloé, as an award-winning screenwriter, director, and producer, your work has garnered the attention of the world's top critics. Your innate talent and exceptional storytelling abilities have allowed you to share the experiences of those who might not otherwise have a voice.

After graduating from Mount Holyoke you became inspired to enroll in New York University's graduate film program after working as a bartender opened your eyes to the joys of meeting and speaking with new people. Having read about the teen suicide epidemic on an Indian reservation in South Dakota, you later traveled to the Pine Ridge Reservation. Here, you developed the idea for your first feature film, *Songs My Brothers Taught Me*, a film that follows a Lakota brother and sister as they rediscover their roots against the backdrop of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and breaks through the stereotypes of how Native Americans are portrayed in the media.

*Songs My Brothers Taught Me* was just the beginning of what has become a world-class filmmaking career. The film received international acclaim, winning prizes at several film festivals and a nomination at the Cannes Film Festival. Your most recent film, *The Rider*, which tells the fictionalized tale of a South Dakota rodeo rider who sustains a head injury, garnered even more international acclaim, winning top prize at Cannes's Directors' Fortnight.

CHLOÉ, in recognition of your exceptional early career achievements and in anticipation of your future contributions to filmmaking, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Mary Lyon Award.

MARCIA BRUMIT KROPF '67  
PRESIDENT  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

NANCY BELLOWS PEREZ '76  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE