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## Marastoon

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**A co-production of the  
National Film Board of Canada  
and the World Food Program of  
the United Nations  
and the Food and Agriculture  
Organization**

**16 mm Color  
Screening Time:  
27 minutes 42 seconds**

**Distributed by  
National Film Board of Canada**

**16 mm: 106C 0179 216  
Videocassette: 116C 0179 216**

In Kabul, Afghanistan, a city of half a million people, is situated an institution called Marastoon. It means "the place where one is helped." A dozen buildings located on the outskirts of town shelter people of every age who, at one time or another, were abandoned or homeless. Old people, handicapped people, single-parent families, orphans — they all live in a community partly financed by the United Nations World Food Program.

The film starts off with a tour of Kabul. Located at an altitude of 6,000 feet and referred to as "The Gateway to the Far East," the city has much to astonish Western eyes: tribesmen from the northeast, artisans, street vendors and veiled women all mingle in the busy market place. Strangely shaped vehicles travel the streets on four, three or two wheels.

Marastoon, which is removed from the hub of activity, is a tightly knit community where a varied population lives in a spirit of co-operation. The money saved on food donated by the many countries of the World Food Program is used to buy equipment for vocational training and supplies for a handicrafts co-operative. Children, in addition to basic schooling, are given the opportunity to draw and paint, and learn a trade.

Much of this film is without commentary. The images speak eloquently of what can be accomplished by people when given a chance.

Director:  
Guy L. Côté

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Roger Rochat

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