

Berlinale
59^e Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Generation

THE EAGLE HUNTER'S SON

A FILM BY
RENÉ BO HANSEN

Jekino Distributie
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Release
21/04/10

SYNOPSIS

Twelve-year-old Bazarbai is unlike other Nomad boys his age. He dreams of leaving behind the green pastures of his native Western Mongolian province, lured instead by the call of the urban jungle: Ulan Bator. But Bazarbai's father has his own aspirations: One day, the young boy will make him proud by following the famed eagle hunter's own footsteps.

When Bazarbai's brother, Khan, is forced to leave home for Ulan Bator, Bazarbai feels deeply hurt and betrayed; he should have been the one sent to the big city. In an attempt to cheer him up, Bazarbai's father takes him to the great Eagle Festival; but the young boy is inconsolable. Suddenly, the prize-winning eagle belonging to Bazarbai's father flies away, scared off by a photographer's bright camera flash. Stricken by fear and remorse that his father's beloved pet might have escaped for good, Bazarbai decides to follow the animal, thus embarking on an adventurous journey through torrential rivers and snowy mountains that inevitably lead him to Ulan Bator – the city of his dreams.

Along the way Bazarbai discovers that a happy life does not necessarily result from a departure from long-lasting traditions, but that tradition itself, deep respect for nature, friendship and loyalty form a strong unity despite constant outside threats.

In the vein of international hits such as “The Weeping Camel”, **“THE EAGLE HUNTER’S SON”** conveys poetry, rough beauty and genuine wisdom that appeals to children and adults in the best sense of substantial, edifying family entertainment. Intimate yet powerful, this superbly well-crafted feature by Renè Bo Hansen is a thrilling and emotional story about redemption, reconciliation and resolution, shot in the sumptuous landscapes of Mongolia.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“THE EAGLE HUNTER’S SON” is an adventure story for a young audience. It’s a story in which the past, present and future blend together when a young boy sets out on a journey to become an eagle hunter like his father. This coming-of-age story explores universal themes with the narrative devices of fiction and the help of powerful visuals shot in a spectacular landscape.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Bayan-Ölgii is a province in the western part of Mongolia at the border to Russia and China. Altaj is a mountain range in Bayan-Ölgii and is known for the large diversity of species at home there. To Buddhists, Altaj is the center of their spiritual world called “Shambhala”, due to its location in the heart of Asia. Our protagonist’s family lives in a part of the Altaj mountain range located west of Ölgii, the region’s capital. They have two separate camps, one for the summer and one for the winter months. The production had a few advantages shooting in this rough environment defined by geographical and climatic extremes: two-thirds of the scenes could be shot within a 200 km/ 125 mile radius; working with lay actors required a small crew and on a previous trip to the region the film team had settled on all locations, translators, actors and animals needed for the shoot. Filming was completed in two blocks because the story takes place in late summer and in early winter. The second block was shot in Ulan Bator and the surrounding areas.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Renè Bo Hansen, born 1952 in Copenhagen, made his first documentary "Forgotten War" in 1981 for Swedish television. Afterwards his focus shifted and he completed a number of documentaries about children including "From the Dark to the Light", "Children of the West Wind" and "Street Children in Mongolia". From 1990 through 1993 he served as the director of audio-visual services of the Danida Institute (Red Cross, UNICEF etc.) and later went on to make a number of documentaries about social injustices, integration and children for Swedish, Danish and Norwegian television. In 2000 he joined the "Documentary Film School" as a guest lecturer. Renè has frequently shot films in Mongolia and his latest film "Miga's Journey" has garnered him a great deal of international attention and numerous awards.

CAST

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| BAZARBAI | BAZARBAI MATEI |
| INAARA | SERIKBAI KHULAN |
| FATHER | MARDAN MATEI |
| KHAN | ASILBEK BADELKHAN |

EDITOR

PETER PRYZGODDA
ANDRE ALVARES

MUSIC

SEBASTIAN PILLE
STEFFEN KALTSCHMIDT

PRODUCERS

STAFFAN JULÉN
HANNES STROMBERG
PER FORSGREN

TECHNICAL DETAILS

87 MIN, 35 MM, COLOR,
1:1.85, DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1

CREW

DIRECTOR

RENÉ BO HANSEN

SCREENPLAY

STEFAN KARLSSON
RENÉ BO HANSEN
STAFFAN JULÉN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

DIXIE SCHMIEDLE





BAVARIA FILM INTERNATIONAL presents a production of Eden Film and STROMBERG PRODUCTIONS "THE EAGLE HUNTER'S SON" in co-production with FBB starring BAZARBAI MATEI Line Producer JOHAN LILJESTRÖM Production Manager MONGOLIA JENYA BOIKOV Sound Mix ANDRE BENDOCCHI-ALVES Sound RENE GOECKEL PETER KNUTAS Music by SEBASTIAN PILLE STEFFEN KALTSCHMIDT Editing ANDRE BENDOCCHI-ALVES Editing Consultant PETER PRZYGODDA Director of Photography DIXIE SCHMIEDLE bvk Co-Producers CHRISTOPH FISSER CHARLY WOEBCEN Written by STEFAN KARLSSON Based on an idea by RENÉ BO HANSEN STAFFAN JULÉN Producers STAFFAN JULÉN HANNES STROMBERG PER FORSGREN Directed by RENÉ BO HANSEN

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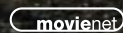
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