

KAZAKHSTAN'S FILM
INDUSTRY IN OVERVIEW

KAZAKHSTAN — THE PLACE TO BE



KAZAKH
CINEMA

STATE CENTER FOR SUPPORT
OF NATIONAL CINEMA



CATALOG



DEAR FRIENDS, GREETINGS FROM KAZAKHSTAN!

We are happy to share with you great news about our country. In 2019, the New Film Law was adopted and the Kazakh National Cinema Center was established!

The new law introduces a Cash Rebate of 30%, fosters international co-productions and opens up Kazakhstan to worldwide cooperation and partnerships. Kazakh Cinema Center is a single operator for all new cinema endeavors.

Don't miss the opportunity to discover Kazakhstan's enormous potential!

YOUR KAZAKH CINEMA TEAM



CONTENT



1
**KAZAKHSTAN:
GENERAL
INFORMATION**



7



2
**KAZAKHSTAN:
FILM
INDUSTRY**



14





3
**KAZAKH CINEMA:
STATE CENTER
FOR SUPPORT OF
NATIONAL FILM**

21



4
**FILM FESTIVALS
& FILM
ASSOCIATION /
ORGANIZATIONS**

27



5
**KAZAKHSTAN'S
RECENT FILMS**

39





KAZAKHCINEMA
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KAZAKHSTAN: GENERAL INFORMATION

1



IN 2019 MAJOR CHANGES MARKED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FILM INDUSTRY IN KAZAKHSTAN.

- › **THE LAW ON FILM WAS ADOPTED**
- › **THE KAZAKH NATIONAL FILM STATE CENTER WAS LAUNCHED**

KAZAKHSTAN'S FILM BUSINESS HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING CLUSTERS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Continent</i>	Eurasia
<i>Region</i>	Central Asia
<i>Country</i>	Kazakhstan
<i>Population</i>	18,5 mln. / More than 130 nationalities
<i>Government</i>	Presidential Republic
<i>Capital</i>	Nur-Sultan / Population 078 362
<i>Other major City</i>	Almaty / Population 863 000
<i>Territory</i>	9 th place in the world: 2 724 900 sq. km
<i>Languages</i>	Kazakh & Russian
<i>Religion</i>	Islam / 70,2% • Christianity / 26,3%
<i>Currency</i>	Kazakh tenge / KZT Exchange: \$1 = 379.7 ^{KZT}



RUSSIAN FEDERATION

KAZAKHSTAN

Nur-Sultan

Oskemen

Mangystau

Taraz

Almaty

MONGOLIA

TURKEY

CHINA

INDIA



GEOGRAPHY

Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country in the world and it's largely located in Asia while the most western parts are in Eastern Europe. Kazakhstan's terrain extends west to east from the Caspian Sea to the Altay Mountains and north to south from the plains of Western Siberia to deserts of Central Asia.

CLIMATE

Kazakhstan has four distinct seasons: frosty winter, blossoming spring, hot summer and colorful autumn.

From canyons and deserts to mountains, forests and lakes; from ultra-modern cities to boundless plains. Embark on a new adventure in Kazakhstan







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KAZAKHSTAN: FILM INDUSTRY

2

KEY INDICATORS 2019

<i>Number of releases in distribution</i>	374
<i>Number of national releases in distribution</i>	44
<i>Box office</i>	18.4 billion KZT = \$49.6 million USD
<i>Admissions</i>	17.8 million
<i>Number of cinemas</i>	96
<i>Number of screens</i>	386
<i>Average ticket price</i>	1 033 KZT = \$2.7 USD

- KAZAKHSTAN HAS OVER 50 ACTIVELY WORKING PRODUCTION COMPANIES MOSTLY LOCATED IN ALMATY, SOME ARE OPENING IN NUR-SULTAN AND OTHER CITIES. THE NUMBER IS GROWING.
- KAZAKHFILM STUDIOS IS THE LARGEST STATE OWNED FILM STUDIO FOUNDED IN 1934. IT HAS ALL STATE OF THE ART EQUIPMENT, SOUNDS STUDIOS, PRODUCTION AND POST-PRODUCTION FACILITIES.
- KAZAKHSTAN HAS SEVERAL FILM SCHOOLS: KAZAKH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARTS N.A. ZHURGENEV, TURAN UNIVERSITY etc.





- THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF FILM FUNDING: STATE AND PRIVATE. ANNUALLY 40-45 NATIONAL FILMS REACH THE BIG SCREEN. KAZAKHSTAN'S PRODUCERS PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTION AND FILMMAKERS REGULARLY DRAW ATTENTION AT THE WORLD'S LEADING FILM FESTIVALS.
- FOREIGN FILMS ARE RELEASED IN KAZAKHSTAN MOST OFTEN IN RUSSIAN (WITH KAZAKH SUBTITLES), WITH EXCEPTION OF LARGE-SCALE OR CHILDREN'S FILMS, WHICH ARE ALSO DUBBED INTO KAZAKH LANGUAGE.
- EACH YEAR THE BOX OFFICE GROWS SIGNIFICANTLY.
- DOMESTIC FILMS ALSO ARE OFTEN SHOT AND DISTRIBUTED IN RUSSIAN (ALSO FOR REASONS OF EXPANDING THE DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER CIS COUNTRIES, INCLUDING RUSSIA).
- IN 2020 ELECTRONIC TICKET SYSTEM IS LAUNCHED (BASED ON THE RUSSIAN UNIFIED FEDERAL AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEM). MARKET TRANSPARENCY AND 10%-15% GROWTH IS EXPECTED.
- 54 CINEMAS WILL BE LAUNCHED IN NEXT YEARS.



INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FILM FROM KAZAKHSTAN RECENT YEARS:



MONGOL / Academy Award, Oscar Nomination for Best Foreign Language Film, 2007. **AYKA** / Best Actress Palme d'Or, Cannes Film Festival, 2018. **TULPAN** / Grand prize UN CERTAIN REGARD, Cannes Film Festival, 2008. **HARMONY LESSONS** / Silver Bear, Berlin International Film Festival, Competition, Germany, 2013. **THE GENTLE INDIFFERENCE OF THE WORLD** / Un Certain Regard, Cannes Film Festival, France, 2018. **A DARK, DARK MAN** / Main Competition of the 67th San Sebastian International Film Festival, Spain, 2019. **MARIAM** / 72nd Locarno Film Festival 2019 in Competition



LOCAL BOX OFFICE SUCCESSSES



KAZAKHCINEMA
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TOMIRIS

Director Akan Sataev

SCREENINGS AT EFM 2020:

Saturday February 22nd
at 6:20^{PM} – **Cinemaxx 16**

Monday February 24th
at 6:45^{PM} – **Cinemaxx 19**



KAZAKH BUSINESS FRANCHISE

Director Alen Niyazbekov

- *Kazakh Business in Korea*
- *Kazakh Business in Africa*
- *Kazakh Business in America*
- *Kazakh Business*



OFFLINE HOLIDAYS: A NEW STREAM

Director Ernar Kurmashev

WHY SHOOTING IN KAZAKHSTAN

- › **30% CASH REBATES**
- › **NEW FILM LAW BOOSTING CO-PRODUCTIONS**
- › **SPECTACULAR LOCATIONS**
- › **LOW SHOOTING COSTS**
- › **PROFESSIONAL RELIABLE FILM TEAMS**
- › **MODERN SAFE ENVIRONMENT**
- › **UNIQUE HOSPITALITY**









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**KAZAKH CINEMA
STATE CENTER
FOR SUPPORT OF
NATIONAL FILM**

3

WHAT WE DO

FILM FUNDING

NATIONAL CINEMA DEVELOPMENT AND CO-PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES

BRINGING FOREIGN FILM SHOOTS TO KAZAKHSTAN

NEW INCENTIVE: 30% REBATES

INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION & COOPERATION

FESTIVALS, FILM MARKETS, FORUMS

FILM DISTRIBUTION

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL CINEMA

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION & TRAININGS

LOCAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT







KAZAKHCINEMA
STATE CENTER FOR SUPPORT OF NATIONAL CINEMA

FILM FESTIVALS & FILM ASSOCIATION / ORGANIZATIONS

4



ALMATY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Almaty International Film Festival is one of the most important annual cultural events in Almaty that gathers film industry professionals from different continents, builds bridges for international cooperation and creates perfect networking opportunities for local filmmakers and project development within AFF Business Forum.

Date: 20-26 September, Almaty
www.almatyfilmfestival.com



EURASIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Eurasia International Film Festival is not only the unique event that unites the filmmakers from all over the world, it is a big cultural project that very much contributes to the dynamic economic, political and social development of Kazakhstan, that establishes the dialogue between different cultures despite the multiple languages and that widens the spiritual connections with foreign countries.

Date 1 – 7 July, Nur-Sultan
www.eiff.kz





“BASTAU” INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND DEBUT FILM FESTIVAL

“Bastau” International Student and Debut Film Festival aims to develop international cooperation and cultural exchange between young filmmakers from all around the world. The festival’s motto is: «NEW GENERATION CINEMA».

Date: 12-17 October, Almaty

www.bastauiff.kz



SHAKEN AIMANOV INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Shaken Aimanov International Film Festival is a successor to Stars of Shaken Festival in a significantly updated format. Currently, it is the world’s only festival devoted to films from Turkic-speaking countries. It bears the name of Shaken Aimanov, a legendary figure in CIS cinema, a founding father of Kazakh cinema and an iconic film director in Kazakhstan.

Date: 18-22 April

www.aimanoviff.com



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THE BAIQONYR INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

The Baiqonyr International Short Film Festival is an important event for filmmakers of Central Asia who create short films. The festival includes two competitive and several non-competitive programs. Only at Baiqonyr ISFF, you can be a witness to a lot of premieres. Baiqonyr International Short Film Festival is one of the largest short film festivals not only in Kazakhstan but also in the CIS!



“USHQYN” INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

“USHQYN” International Film Festival is created to support and promote young, talented and courageous filmmakers, who study in domestic and international film schools.



Date: 2-6 September, Almaty
www.baiqonyrfilmfest.kz

Date: 21-24th of April
www.baiqonyrfilmfest.kz





NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE, ARTS AND SCIENCES

The National Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (*or National Film Academy*) is a professional nonprofit organization with the goal of advancing the arts, business and sciences of motion pictures in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

The Academy runs the Eurasia International Film Festival, the Eurasia Film Market, and has established its own annual awards, called The Tulpars.

The Academy is a co-founder of the Graduate School of Producing in partnership with the Almaty Management University (*MBA / MFA*).



UNION OF FILMMAKERS OF KAZAKHSTAN

Public organization for professionals in the film industry.

ACTIVITY:

- *Protection of social, author's, related and labor rights, intellectual property and professional interests of its members.*
- *Initiation of and participation in the development and discussion of legislation and other statutory acts concerning cinema.*
- *Exchange with filmmakers from other countries.*
- *Educational, scientific, research and advertising / publicity work in the cinema sphere.*





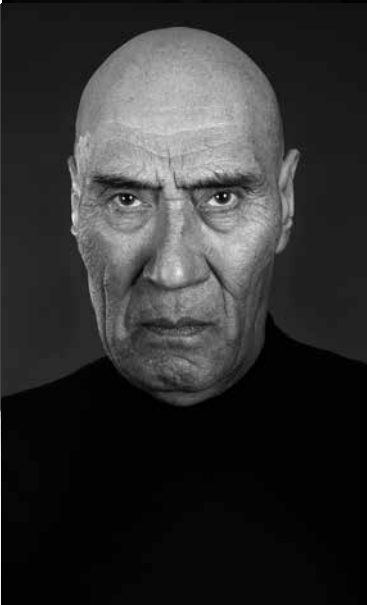
FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION OF KAZAKHSTAN

Independent Association of Leading Experts in the field of film critics and film journalism of Kazakhstan, created in 2014 on the basis of the Center for Central Asian Cinematography. The aim of the Film Critic's Choice Awards is a professional assessment of the film process in Kazakhstan.

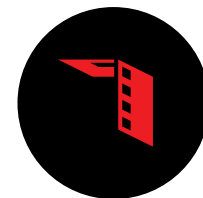
MAIN GOALS:

- *Support for Kazakh filmmakers and promotion of Kazakh cinema*
- *Informing the audience about the films shot each year*
- *Creating an annual rating of Kazakh films based on their release*
- *Analysis of domestic films in articles and reviews that will be posted on the Association's website and on social networks*
- *Organizing "Kazakh Film Festival" where domestic films are shown for a month*
- *Holding of the annual Critics' Choice ceremony, where films are awarded in 13 nominations*





ETALENTS.PRO IS A UNIQUE PLATFORM THAT BRINGS OUT KAZAKHSTAN FILM INDUSTRY ONLINE.



ETALENTS.PRO IS THE LARGEST AND CONSTANTLY FAST GROWING DATABASE, WHICH COMBINES BEST SHOOTING LOCATIONS, PRODUCTION AND SERVICE COMPANIES, TALENTS AND FILMMAKERS FROM ALL OVER KAZAKHSTAN AND CENTRAL ASIA.

ETALENTS.PRO IS A PROFESSIONAL WEB SERVICE WITH SPECIALLY DEVELOPED SOFTWARE, AN ADVANCED SEARCH ENGINE, AND A USER-FRIENDLY INTERFACE, WHICH FACILITATES AND SPEEDS UP FILMMAKING PROCESS AT ALL STAGES.

4 042
ACTORS

240
FILMMAKERS

39
COMPANIES

NOMAD STUNTS INTERNATIONAL ACTION COMPANY

Nomad Stunts is an international action company, established in 2000 by the Honored Artist of the Republic of Kazakhstan, stunt coordinator, stuntman and actor, Zhaidarbek Kunguzhinov.

Nomad Stunts cooperates with some of the leading world studios in the USA, Turkey, India and Europe, such as Disney, Universal, 20th Century Fox, Millennium Films, as well as Netflix and HBO streaming platforms.

FILMOGRAPHY

Mulan, The Expendables 2, 47 Ronin, Conan the Barbarian, The Way Back, Mongol, Your Highness, Day Watch, Tomiris, Manikarnika, Baahubali 2, and such series as Marco Polo, Ertugrul, Warrior, and others.

Some of the actors whom the stuntmen from Nomad Stunts had worked with: Keanu Reeves, Jet Li, Jason Stetham, Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, Colin Farrell, Tadanobu Asano, Bolo Yen, Sean Bean, Stephen Lang, Nathan Jones, Ed Harris, Danny McBride, Christian Slater, Saoirse Ronan, Michelle Yeoh, Liu Yifei, and others.



www.nomadstunts.com





Big Almaty Lake

THE ALMATY FILM COMMISSION



The Almaty Film Commission is the organization which provides complete information on film production at the local level: locations, rental of filming equipment, permits for shooting various objects, local staff and actors.

REASONS TO FILM IN ALMATY:

- *30% cash rebate*
- *5 natural zones: mountain peaks and glaciers, forests, rivers, deserts, endless steppes*
- *Demonstrative seasonality – winter snow covers, spring bright colors, summer greenery and autumn colorfulness.*
- *The One-stop principle*

info@almatyfilmcomission.kz • www.almatyfilmcomission.kz



Charyn Canyon



Alтын Emel





KAZAKHCINEMA
STATE CENTER FOR SUPPORT OF NATIONAL CINEMA

KAZAKHSTAN'S RECENT FILMS

5

NARTAI

Open for International Sales

Genre:
Tragicomedy with action elements

Production Status:
Finished

Running time:
117 min

Directors:
**Gulnara SARSENOVA,
Vakhtangi KHUBUTIA**

Producer:
Gulnara SARSENOVA





Synopsis: Chain of the movie events occurs in Germany and Kazakhstan in 1991. Due to a combination of adverse circumstances, Edik Petrov, a Russian equilibrist who then fled to Germany from the USSR, hijacks the T-72 tank on its way back to the USSR within the Western Group of Forces.

Here again, Edik also “steals” the tank’s driver – Nartai Sapargaliyev, a Kazakh staff sergeant, having them both stay illegally in Bavaria. Nartai has one important confidential task, and primarily he reports his command headquarters about the occurred trouble. While the command sets off to find another way out of such delicate ground, Nartai cannot twiddle his thumbs at all. He becomes a headliner for local farmers thanks to his ability to adjust functionality of any equipment whatsoever. He even plows the fields on his tank. In addition, he helps Edik, his unlucky “thief”, to escape from the bandits pursuing him. He rescues Katya Gurevich, a Jewish homeless and penniless girl trapped in Munich. And, at the end, he skirmishes with the neo-fascist group, becoming a winner and the world-famous hero!

For Nartai, as an epic hero, there is nothing impossible. The only thing that haunts him is homesickness. Nartai, Edik and Katya are in the interminable controversy relatable to any person. Where is your home? Is it the land of your ancestors? Is it where you were once happy? Or is it where your beloved one awaits you?

This movie will inspire each viewer with new mindset about both common and difficult concepts such as “home” and “Homeland”. Let anyone define these notions on his or her own. Nevertheless, they are what bring us together. Every inhabitant of this planet, without any exception.

GIRL AND THE SEA

Open for International Sales

Genre:
Social Drama

Running time:
120 min

Production Status:
Finished

Directors:
**Mohamed
MAMYRBEKOV,
Azizjan
ZAIROV**

Producer:
Azizjan ZAIROV

Festivals:

- **Award for Best Actress at the Eurasian Creative Guild Film Festival as part of the Romford Film Festival (UK). 2019**
- **Special prize of the Agency “Khabar” at the festival “Eurasia” (Kazakhstan). 2019**
- **2 special prizes at the Silver Akbuzat festival (Bashkortostan, Russia). 2019**
- **Prize for the best film in the official section “Panorama” at the Asian film festival (Spain). 2019**
- **Letter of appreciation from the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Zhomart Tokaev. 2019**





Synopsis: The dream of Assel the main character of the film “The Girl and the Sea” is simple and feminine – to find a boyfriend, create a family and give birth to children. But Assel’s disease – cerebral palsy is an insurmountable obstacle to the realization of this dream.

No guy wants to marry a helpless wheelchair user. However, when Timur, a novice actor with disabilities comes to the rehabilitation center and gives signs of attention, her desire to become a wife and mother flares up with renewed vigor. An affair begins between two young disabled people on wheelchair, which develops into a mutual desire to start a family. But the idealism of young lovers is opposed by an enemy called cerebral palsy that turned their life from childhood into a continuous struggle for survival. The disease gradually but inexorably destroys Timur’s dream of becoming an actor – his stuttering intensifies and he can no longer perform on stage. Assel’s dream is also getting ruined – her sister Anel and her bridegroom Saken do not cope with the need to care for the two helpless disabled people living in their house, which is why the future marriage of Anel and Saken is in jeopardy.

After all, Timur is trying to break off the relationship with Assel, but she is ready to go to any humiliation to save her chance to start a family and have a baby. Timur provokes a scandal – he tries to harass Anel, because of what Saken and Anel drive him out of their house and forbid Assel to marry him. Desperate Assel asks Timur to help her give birth to an illegitimate child...

MUZZBALAK

Open for International Sales

Genre:

Historical animation

Running time:
67 min

Production Status:
Finished

Directors:
**Turdybek MAIDAN,
Tilek TOLEUGAZY**

Producer:
Adai ABELDINOV

Festivals:

- **Near Nazareth Festival (Israel, 2019) “Best Animated Movie”**
- **24th Schlingel International Film Festival (Germany, 2019) “Best Animated Film”**
- **14 IFF “In the Circle of the Family” (Russia, Yaroslavl, 2019) “Special Jury Prize”**
- **59 IFF for children and youth (Czech Republic, Zlín, 2019)**
- **XVII IFF debuts “Spirit of Fire” (Khanty-Mansiysk, RF, 2018)**





Synopsis: A long time ago, through the fault of people, a snake wakes up, which gradually turns into a dragon. The snake crawls out of the cave and begins to sweep away nearby villages, devours the inhabitants, giving rise to unprecedented fear.

And only one golden eagle enters the struggle to protect his chick. In this struggle, the golden eagle wins and the snake disappears in its cave. Golden Eagle, taking his chick, flies away. But the snake remains to hide in its den, waiting for its time. Years pass and the snake crawls out of the cave again...

THE CRYING STEPPE

Open for International Sales

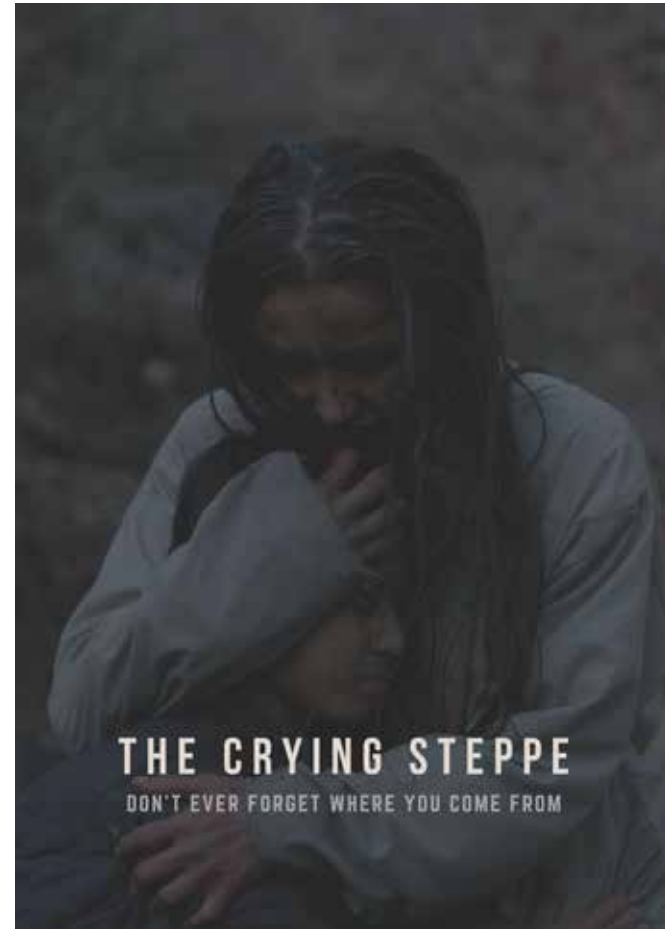
Genre:
Historical drama

Running time:
137 min

Production Status:
Post-production

Director:
Marina KUNAROVA

Producer:
Yernar MALIKOV





Synopsis: The story is based on real historical events that the indigenous people of Kazakhstan had to live through in the 1920s-1930s when the Famine-Genocide claimed the lives of about 70% of the country's population. In the 1920s, the European countries and the USA tried to get humanitarian help to the starving people on the territory of the Soviet Union. More than 15 million lives were saved from starvation.

The Bolsheviks confiscate food supplies from the Kazakhs because Stalin at that time built his politics on the fact that hungry people are easier to break, rule and manipulate. The Bolsheviks confiscate the last that people have – they take away whatever is left of food to punish the villagers. Mass starvation and lack of hope gradually turn people into animals, ready to do anything for a piece of bread. Villagers face many horrible events such as betrayal, murder, the kidnapping of children and cannibalism.

The main character Nuria, does everything she can to save her children. When she finds herself in such unbearable circumstances, alone and without her husband's help, she

realizes that she's ready to do whatever it takes – even the most horrible things, to help her children survive.

She lets her daughter be eaten by wolves to save her son. She's ready to forget about honor for a piece of bread and kill a person. She's prepared but still struggles, trying to remain humane. There's so much love, pain, and disappointment in her heart, and that makes her sacrifice everything for her children.

A DARK, DARK MAN

Open for International Sales

Genre:

Drama

Running time:

130 min

Production Status:

Finished

Director:

**Adilkhan
YERZHANOV**

Producers:

**Akan
SATAEV,
Ernar
KURMASHEV**

Festivals:

- **Asia Pacific Screen Awards – November 21, 2019 – Winner: Achievement in Directing**
- **San Sebastian International Film Festival – September 20, 2019**
- **Bosphorus Film Festival – October 18, 2019**
- **Busan International Film Festival – October 3, 2019**
- **Bergen International Film Festival – September 25, 2019**





Synopsis: A boy is killed in an aul (*Kazakh village*). Detective Bekzat wants to end an investigation quickly: a crime perpetrator is already found by local police officers after all. But when a journalist from the city comes, everything falls apart. Now Bekzat must conduct a real investigation, following the procedure, for the first time in his career.

SUNFLOWER

Open for International Sales

Genre:
Drama

Running time:
98 min

Production status:
Finished

Director:
Elmira GILMAN

Producers:
**Gulsina MUSTAFINA,
Alexander GILMAN**





Synopsis: A fourteen-year-old Amir hides in his virtual gaming world from school and home problems. Everything is simple and clear, unlike real life. However, conflicts in the family and at school lead to rebellion.

BLIND LOVE

Open for International Sales

Genre:
Drama, Romance

Running time:
55 min

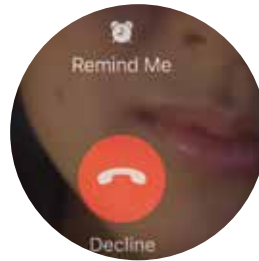
Production status:
Finished

Director:
Soeung "Chuck" CHAE

Scriptwriter:
Denis Ten

Producers:
**Oksana TEN,
Timur BEKMAMBETOV**





Synopsis: Sol, a young street musician, finds a lost smartphone and mails it back to its owner who turns out to be a beautiful artist named Luna. In no time, they become attached and cannot spend a day without texting each other. He sends her his music, and she sends him her paintings. But both are unaware that each of them is hiding their secrets – he is a blind musician, and she is a deaf artist. Soon their relationship is put on the line by miscommunication and the only way to save their online relationship is to go offline to find each other in person. Because love is blind and touch makes it real.

BIG LITTLE LIFE

Open for International Sales

Genre:
Drama

Running time:
80 min

Production Status:
Finished

Director:
Vito HORSEBORN

Producer:
Lyazzat ZHUNUSOVA





Synopsis: This is a story about a young woman – Ayala. She has a prestigious job, owns all attributes of success but unsettled in her personal life. Ayala lost her husband – a hockey player of the professional club “Barys”. He showed great prospects in career and loved hockey more than life, but hid his heart failure from everyone. He left a little daughter Amina.

Fate leads Ayala to a fortune teller, who told her that a man would appear soon in her life, who would stay with her for short but would change her life forever.

Suddenly, it was discovered that Amina inherited her father’s heart illness. At that moment, a heart surgeon Mansour steps forward to the front stage. He is treating Amina and preparing a six-year-old boy for surgery. This is the first major surgery of Mansour. Ayala realizes that two men appeared in her life.

MARIAM 2019

Genre:

Drama

Running time:

75 min

Production Status:

Finished

Director:

**Sharipa
URAZBAYEVA**

Producers:

**Anna Katchko,
Sharipa Urazbayeva**

World Sales:

Syndicado

Festivals:

- **72nd Locarno Film Festival 2019 in competition (World Premiere)**
- **Toronto International film festival 2019 (North American Premiere)**
- **Busan International film festival 2019 (Asian Premier)**
- **7th Bosphorus Film Festival 2019 (Official Selection)**
- **CINEUROPA33 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA 2019 (Official Selection)**
- **FICAL Festival International de Cine de Almeria 2019 (Official Selection)**
- **Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinema 2020 (Official Selection)**
- **International Women's film festival Dortmund 2020 (Official Selection)**





Synopsis: After her husband mysteriously disappears, all the hardships of survival in the cold winter period in the far away village in Kazakhstan have to be carried out by Mariam, the mother of four small kids.

To save the situation, she is forced to make some fatal decisions, but also to rediscover her femininity. When everything seems to start running better, her husband suddenly returns as if nothing has happened. Can the previous life flow be restored now?

TOMIRIS

Genre:
Historical drama

Running time:
156 min

Production Status:
Finished

Director:
Akan SATAYEV

Producer:
Aliya NAZARBAYEVA

World Sales:
Arclight Films





Synopsis: Among the ancient people inhabiting the territory of Eurasia, the tribes that called themselves Saka stood out. They were nomads and great warriors of the steppe.

The story begins with a brief biography of the King Spargap, the father of Tomiris. Spargap, entitled to the king's throne, is involved in the war between the tribes of the Saka and Massagetae. Influential leaders with greedy and cunning Kavaz and Kurtun among them do not hurry to unite under one authority and defend different interests. Spargap tries to unite the steppe tribes with words and swords. At this troubled time, Spargap has a daughter and names her Tomiris.

Her mother, Bopai, whom Spargap loved so much, dies in childbirth. From that moment, Spargap has taken over the care of Tomiris. From an early age, she learns the hardships of nomadic and military life. The treacherous Kavaz and Kurtun conspire to kill Spargap. All the tribes in the steppe start fighting each other after his death. Young Tomiris escapes the murderers with Spargap's loyal men. They announce a reward on her head. Tomiris grows up hiding and hunting

in the woods. Now her goal is to return the rightful throne and unite the steppe tribes. However, little does Tomiris know what powerful threat she will face, calamity that can wipe all Saka off the face of the earth...



SCREENINGS AT EFM 2020:

*Saturday February 22nd
at 6:20^{PM} – **Cinemaxx 16***

*Monday February 24th
at 6:45^{PM} – **Cinemaxx 19***

THE HORSE THIEVES. ROADS OF TIME

Genre:

Drama, western

Running time:

83 min

Production Status:

Finished

Directors:

**Yerlan
NURMUKHAMBETOV,
Rice TAKEBA**

Producers:

**Julia KIM,
Shizo ICHIYAMA,
Hikaru KINUCHI**

World Sales:

GAGA Corporation

Festivals:

- **WORLD PREMIERE – October 3, 2019 – OPENING FILM of Busan International Film Festival:**
- **APSA (Asian Pacific Screen Awards) – Samal Yeslyamova – «Best Actress» nominee – 21/11/2019**
- **Tokyo International Film Festival (Special Screening) – 30/10/2019**
- **and release in Japan – 18/01/2020:**
- **Göteborg International Film Festival – European Premiere – 24/01/2020**





Synopsis: Father of little Olzhas is killed by horse thieves on the day he goes to a market. Now, his mother decides to move back to her hometown with him and his little sisters together with the horses the father has left behind.

A strange man shows up on their door asking to meet Olzhas for once, and volunteers to help their move. In the beautiful countryside of Kazakhstan, the film portrays little Olzhas growing from childhood to adolescence through the time he spends with the mysterious man on the road.

HOSTAGES OF WAR

Genre:
Military drama

Running time:
100 min

Production Status:
Work-in-progress

Director:
Yeldar KAPAROV

Producer:
Aliya UVALZHANOVAV

World Sales:
Reason8 Films Ltd





Logline: The fate of a young Japanese fisherman leads him to the Imperial army, far in the Kazakh steppe, where Ahiko Tetsuro learns how to survive and fight for justice.

Synopsis: The script of “Hostages of war” is based on the true story of the life of Ahiko Tetsuro, a 15-year old Japanese cadet from the prefecture of Karafuto, Japan. As the Soviet army advanced towards Japanese held territory, Ahiko Tetsuro was captured and exiled to a Kazakhstan detention camp. At the camp the young Japanese man meets, Akajan, a Kazakh man, who heroically went through his “own” war while serving in the Soviet Army, after which he was sent to the Japanese war, in which he was wounded and captured... however, Akajan was denounced as a ‘traitor and enemy of the people’. Two destinies, two worlds. Two opposing soldiers of one war come face to face. Who is right, who is an enemy, who is against who?

Only in the early 1990’s, after 50 years of separation, Ahiko Tetsuro first stepped onto Japanese soil. However, after meeting with his relatives, Ahiko came back to Kazakhstan to

join his big family. This is a really gripping, tragic destiny of a young Japanese man, who survived first love and death of family, relatives, and loved ones, while saving the love of Japan within his heart for his entire life.



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