

## SCREENINGS IN BERLIN

WED, FEB 11 09.30 H ZOO PALAST 1 WORLD PREMIERE  
THU, FEB 12 15.30 H ZOO PALAST 1  
FRI, FEB 13 14.00 H CINEMAXX 3  
SUN, FEB 15 10.00 H FILMTHEATER AM FRIEDRICHSHAIN

# THE EAGLE HUNTER'S SON

A FILM BY  
RENÉ BO HANSEN

## 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



