

WIP D Nomad Meets the City



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Mongolia, USA, Czech Republic

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Documentary | Digital Format | Mongolian | 80 mins

DIRECTOR:

Anji Sauv  CLUBB

PRODUCER:

Alice TABERY

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival Screening

BUDGET:

US\$ 225,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 190,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Nomad Meets the City is the story of one endearing family's struggle to survive and adapt in the face of the modern world's demands.

SYNOPSIS

Former herder Tumurbaatar works tirelessly as a garbage truck driver in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar, striving to better his daughter's education and to compete in the modern economy. Torn between life in the city and his home and family in a countryside town, the pressures of distance and separation take a toll. A doctor in the countryside, his wife, Tungaa, maintains her roots and helps tend the family herd, and Tumurbaatar's home visits reveal fault lines in their marriage and identities. They both speak romantically about retiring as true nomads, but she sees what he does not: his nomadic roots are already lost to the city. In spite of it all, they cling fast to dreams for their children to lead lives they cannot.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Through the human lens of the individual, this film moves beyond mere documentation to capture an emotional pulse of changing times. The transformation from traditional to modern, and rural to urban, is a shared story of the human race. To see it happening before our very eyes in a culture rooted in rural nomadism – the polar opposite of modern and urban — is truly significant. The current situation in Mongolia is often reported to outsiders through journalists employing sensationalist tactics, painting dire pictures of the city “slums” or romanticized images of nomads, catering to our secret penchant for hyperbole. Given that film is an art form with the potential to inspire, I hope to utilize it to that effect with a more thoughtful rendering. I attempt to achieve an honest portrayal of our characters on their own terms, emphasizing their individual humanity. Moreover, our characters represent a nuanced slice of Mongolian society, culturally occupying a grey area between the past and the present. Made over the course of several years in Mongolia, with an all-Mongolian production team and international partners, *Nomad Meets the City* attempts to capture a turning point in human society through a story that is both unique and universal.

DIRECTOR

Anji Sauvé CLUBB

Anji Sauvé Clubb holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Harvard University, where she also gained experience in videography, storytelling, and editing. Cumulatively, she has over fifteen years of experience living and working in East Asia, including ten years growing up in Taiwan. Her background prior to urbanism and film was in public policy and international development: she holds a BA in International Relations from Georgetown University and studied documentary filmmaking and production at Massachusetts College of Art and Design. *Nomad Meets the City* is Anji's first feature-length film.

PRODUCER

Alice TABERY

Producer Alice Tabery was born in France. She graduated at FAMU (Film School in Prague) and had internships at Film School CCC in Mexico City, La Fémis in France and Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in Germany. In 2012, she worked for the world sales agent Celluloid Dreams during the film market in Cannes. Apart from her work for Cinepoint, she collaborated as a producer with director Václav Kadrnka on his second feature, *Little Crusader* (Crystal Globe, Karlovy Vary IFF 2017) and with director Jana Sevcikova on her documentary feature *Lean a Ladder Against Heaven* (2014, Czech Critics' Award and Czech Academy Award).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Cinepoint

An independent film production company founded in 1990. Alice Tabery joined Cinepoint in 2011 in order to develop and produce creative documentaries and author films for international coproductions. Filmography: *Eva Nová* (by Marko Škop, feature film, Fipresci Award at Toronto International Film Festival 2015), *Epidemic of Freedom* (by Tereza Reichová, feature documentary, premiere at One World Human Rights International Film Festival 2017), and *New Life* (by Adam Olha, feature documentary, Audience Award, Jihlava International Film Festival 2012).