

WIP G The Return of Agaar



COUNTRY/REGION: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Documentary | Digital Format | Putonghua, Mongolian, English | 90mins

DIRECTOR:

YANG Bo

PRODUCER:

XU Xiaofei

WIP GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Festival Screening

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$403,523

SECURED BUDGET: US\$71,940

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A feature-length documentary about a young Inner-Mongolian man who returns home and becomes a herdsman after travelling the world working on a cruise ship for 3 years.

SYNOPSIS

Agaar, a 29-year-old “cowboy” brimming with optimism and confidence, quits his US cruise ship job and chooses to return to his home in Inner Mongolia to pursue his ancestral career: grazing his herd on his 4,000 acres of grassland. Now, he is a son, a husband, a brother, and a father. As the only male in the family (his parents divorced when he was in high school), Agaar often misses his father. He hopes that there’d be one more person to help him to carry the load.

Agaar and his family witness the rapid development of their country, with internet making everything possible even in a remote area like Agaar's home. His mother carries on the traditional herdsman's life, while Agaar wants to build an online farm. However, the reality falls short. Their Investment fails; his prize bull keels over dead; the family falls into debt; and his wife just gave birth to a baby recently. Yet, Agaar’s desire for success keeps on growing...

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I first met Agaar during another shoot in Inner Mongolia five years ago, he immediately grabbed my attention. He was the only young person I've met over those several days, so I proposed to follow him. He agreed and said proudly to my camera, “I own nature. I’m freaking amazing and I’m proud of it.”

Today in China, most young people yearn for big cities because we believe there are more resources and space for future development. We think that a great future will be realised after surviving day-to-day struggles, living in a small and remote rental studio, and squeezing onto buses and metro trains every day. For Agaar, it seems that he could go anywhere he wanted, but instead he decided to go home and be a cowboy in the middle of a dusty nowhere. He is now 29 years old.

In China, we say that 30 is our “standing year”, meaning that we must be settled in both our career and our family life. It’s the symbol of becoming an adult. This film starts from the return of Agaar, and its core will be the growth and change of one person through time and reality.

DIRECTOR

YANG Bo

Yang studied advertisement directing at the Beijing Film Academy, and started making documentaries after graduation. Over the course of ten years, he has completed several documentary shorts about the famous Chinese painter Liu Xiaodong.

PRODUCER

XU Xiaofei

Xu worked as project manager of Asian Side of the Doc during 2014-2016 and has been working as a producer since 2014.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Hainan Mind Image Film Productions

Established in 2020 to produce documentaries.