


MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2018
Official Selection

Official Selection
tiff
Toronto International
Film Festival 2018

FILMS BOUTIQUE PRESENTS
A FILM BY EMIR BAIGAZIN

THE RIVER



KAZAKHFILM STUDIOS ON A COMMISSION BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORT OF KAZAKHSTAN PRESENTS
EMIR BAIGAZIN PRODUCTION MADANTS NORSK FILMPRODUKSJON A FILM BY EMIR BAIGAZIN ZHALGAS KLANOV ZHASULAN USERBAYEV RUSLAN USERBAYEV BAGDAULET SAGINDIKOV
SULTANALI ZHAKSYBEK ERIC TAZABEKOV KUANDYK KYSTYKBAYEV AIDA ILIYASKYZY «THE RIVER» PRODUCTION BY EMIR BAIGAZIN EDITOR EMIR BAIGAZIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER SERGEY KOPYLOV COSTUME DESIGNER AIDANA KOZHAGELDINA
MUSIC BY JUSTYNA BANASZCZYK PRODUCED BY AIGERIM SATYBALDIYEVA HILDE BERG CO-PRODUCED BY KLAUDIA SMIEJA BEATA RZEZNICZEK SCREENPLAY BY EMIR BAIGAZIN DIRECTED BY EMIR BAIGAZIN



FILMS *Boutique*

KAZAKHFILM N.A. SHAKEN AIMANOV
PRESENTS

ON A COMMISSION BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORT OF KAZAKHSTAN
A KAZAKH/NORWEGIAN/POLISH CO-PRODUCTION
EMIR BAIGAZIN PRODUCTION
NORSK FILMPRODUKSJON
MADANTS

DEVELOPED WITH THE SUPPORT OF MPA APSA ACADEMY FILM FUND,
AN INITIATIVE OF THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION AND THE ASIA PACIFIC SCREEN AWARDS
CO-FINANCED BY SØRFOND, POLISH FILM INSTITUTE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH STUDIO PRODUKCYJNE ORKA
CO-PRODUCED BY KLAUDIA ŚMIEJA, BEATA RZEŹNICZEK



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2018 - Drama - Kazakhstan/Poland, Norway - 2.39 - 108 min

International Sales

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CAST & CREW

CAST

Aslan
Yerlan
Tourlan
Mourat
Kenjeh
Father
Mother
Kanat

Zhargas Klanov
Zhasulan Userbayev
Ruslan Userbayev
Bagdaulet Sagindikov
Sultanali Zhaksybek
Kuandyk Kystykbayev
Aida Iliyaskyzy
Eric Tazabekov

CREW

Written and Directed by
Director of Photography
Production Designer
Costume Designer
Music by
Producer
Co-producers
Executive Producers
Associate Producer
Line Producers

Editor
Casting
Make-Up Artist

Emir Baigazin
Emir Baigazin
Sergey Kopylov
Aidana Kozhageldina
Justyna Banaszczyk
Emir Baigazin
Klaudia Śmieja, Beata Rzeźniczek
Aigerim Satybaldiyeva, Hilde Berg
Ludmila Cvikova
Maya Akisheva, Beibit Muslimov
Damir Tanatov
Emir Baigazin
Dinara Manabayeva
Amina Kozhakhmetova
Kamila Beknazarova



SYNOPSIS

A family with five sons lives in a remote Kazakh village. In accordance with the Eastern tradition, the eldest son Aslan (13) becomes the Father's deputy, in charge of all the work, and delegating the tasks. One day Aslan takes his brothers to the River for a swim - a moment of deep happiness. From then on, life is different. And when Kanat, an unknown cousin, unexpectedly arrives at the village, the structured life of the family begins to fall apart for good.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The River completes the Trilogy of Aslan, its first two parts being *Harmony Lessons* and *The Wounded Angel*. Whereas the first two films deal with an actual murder, in the third film the protagonist grapples with his intention to kill.

The family lives in isolation – the decision of the despotic Father, who wants to shield his children from the world and its temptations. *The River* is not set in any specific time period.

Each of the film's characters personifies a certain idea: Aslan, the oldest of the siblings, dreams of creating a paradise for his brothers, but yields to his own temptations. With his coveted gadget, Kanat, their guest from the city, arrives to the family's secluded world as a new Prometheus who represents the civilization itself.

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BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER

Born in 1984 in Alga Province in Kazakhstan, Emir Baigazin studied at the Kazakh National Academy of Arts in Almaty, majoring in film direction and cinema. In September 2007, he studied in the Asian Film Academy (AFA) at the Busan International Film Festival. In February 2008, he participated in the Berlinale Talent Campus at the 58th Berlin International Film Festival. Baigazin is a member of the Asian Pacific Screen Awards (APSA).



His debut feature *Harmony Lessons* (written, directed and edited by Baigazin) celebrated its premiere in the Berlinale Competition 2013, where it won a Silver Bear for an Outstanding Artistic Contribution and the Morgenpost Readers' Award. Among over 20 other recognitions worldwide, Emir Baigazin was awarded at the Tribeca Film Festival, the Sao Paulo Film Festival and the Seattle Film Festival as well as nominated for best Directing Achievement at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Brisbane, Australia. Emir Baigazin was a member of the Juri "Pardi di domani" at the Locarno Film Festival 2013 as well as a part of the International Competition Jury at the Sao Paulo Film Festival (Brazil) 2014. In June 2015, he was a member of the Jury of the Art Film Fest in Trencin, Slovakia.

Baigazin's next full-length feature, *The Wounded Angel* (written, directed and edited by Baigazin) was supported by the Berlinale Residency 2013 and has won the International Arte Prize during the Berlinale Co-Production Market 2014. In August 2014 the project was awarded with the Work-in-Progress Prize at the Sarajevo Film Festival. *The Wounded Angel* premiered in the Panorama Special official program at the Berlin international film festival in February 2016. The same year, *The Wounded Angel* received the Special Jury Prize at the Jeonju festival, the prize for Best Director at the Kosice Art Film Fest, the main award at Fünf Seen Filmfestival, Germany, and the grand prix of the TransformNation Film Awards at the International Youth Film Forum in Sochi.

Baigazin was a director/screenwriter, and also producer of the melodrama *Would You Like to Stargaze?*, which received a Hubert Bals Fund grant for script development in December 2015 and premiered at the Anomimul IFF in Romania in 2018 where Baigazin was awarded a prize for contribution to the beauty of the world's cinema.



Director/screenwriter Baigazin also produced *The River*. The project received funding from the Ministry of Culture of Kazakhstan and Kazakhfilm studio, an MPA APSA grant for development, a grant from Norway's Sorfond and the main prize of the Pitch and Meet at the Warsaw International Film Festival. The film is closing the so-called 'Aslan trilogy', which was initiated with *Harmony Lessons* and *Wounded Angel*.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2013 **“Уроки гармонии”/Harmony Lessons**
(120 min) - screenwriter, director, editor
Silver Bear for an outstanding artistic contribution at the Berlinale 2013
- 2016 **“Раненый ангел”/Wounded Angel**
(112 min) – screenwriter, director, editor
Premiered in the Panorama Special program at the Berlinale 2016
- 2017 **“Хотите посмотреть на звезды?”/Would You Like to Stargaze?**
(72 min) – screenwriter, director, editor
Premier at the Anonimul IFF in Romania, 2018
- 2018 **“Ozen”/The River**
(108 min) – screenwriter, director, editor, DoP, producer
Premier in the Orizzonti program, Venezia Biennale, 2018


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