

MUSIC BOX FILMS PRESENTS

TUYA'S MARRIAGE

(Tuyade Hunshi)

A film by WANG Quan An

Starring YU Nan

**Winner 2007 Berlin International Film Festival's Golden Bear
Winner 2007 Chicago International Film Festival's Best Actress Award
Winner 2007 Chicago International Film Festival's Special Jury Prize**

Running time: 96 minutes
Not rated

Please download high res photos at: <http://www.musicboxfilms.com/tuyasmarrriage>

Press contact:

Sophie Gluck & Associates
Sophie Gluck/Sylvia Savadjian
124 West 79th Street
New York, NY 10024
Tel: (212) 595-2432
sophie@gluckpr.com
Sylvia@gluckpr.com

Distribution contact:

Music Box Films
Edward Arentz
942 W. Lake St
Chicago, IL 90607
earentz@musicboxfilms.com
www.musicboxfilms.com

Tuya's Marriage

Cast and Crew

CREW

Director	WANG Quan An
Executive Producers	YUAN Han Yuan, WANG Le
Producer	YAN Ju Gang
Associate-Producer	ZHANG De Hang
Screenplay	WANG Quan An and LU Wei
Director of Photography	Lutz Reitemeier (B.V.K)
Production Designer	WEI Tao
Sound	JIANG Peng
Lighting Designer	Danil

CAST

Tuya	YU Nan
Bater	Bater
Baolier	Baolier
Senge	Senge
Zhaya	Zhaya

A Music Box Films release. Presented by Maxyee Culture Industry Co. Ltd. in association with Xi'an Motion Picture Co. Ltd.

About Inner Mongolia

Inner Mongolia occupies 12% of China, which is about as large as France and Spain together. Among the 49 minorities occupying the vast land, Mongolians are the largest ethnic group. Mongolians are famous for their strength and crude personality.

In the past, Mongolians lived as nomads, following the trail of water, looking for grass for their sheep and goats. Such a traditional way of life has continued onto the present day. In some parts of Inner Mongolia, Mongolians live in the barren grasslands just like their ancestors, in the huts made with wood and rugs. The round huts protect them from harsh wind, and moreover, they are really light, so it's easy to carry them around. Lamb meat and butter are chief ingredients used in their everyday meals. Mongolians drink milk tea and alcohol daily which help them stand the cold weather.

It is however hard to keep their traditional ways of life in the fast developing country. In order to exploit and utilize the resources, the Chinese government has set up indiscriminate development projects throughout the country. Just like every other place in China, Inner Mongolia goes through a rapid development. With its abundant resource of coal, cashmere, natural gas and rare earth elements, Inner Mongolia is a desirable target of the Chinese government's economic policy. Also, to take accurate measure of the demographics and to carry out industrial expansion in the desert, people living in rural areas are being forced to leave their homes. Such policies may be welcomed by some, but there are still people who want to keep their traditional way of life.

Director's Statement

“My mother was born near the shooting locations. Therefore, I am always very fond of Mongolians, the Mongolian life and their music. When I heard that violent industrial expansions make the pasture more desert-like and that local administrators force the Mongolian herdsmen to leave their homeland, I decided to make a film to record their lifestyles before it all disappears forever.” – Writer-director WANG Quan An

Synopsis

Tuya is a strong and beautiful shepherdess in the desert-like region of Inner Mongolia. She is the mother of two children, and the wife of a loving but disabled husband, Bater. Three years earlier, he hurt his leg while digging a well. As a result, Tuya has become the matriarch of the household. She tends to 100 sheep on her camel, cooks, and fetches water from a well 30 kilometers away from her home. One day, Tuya hurts her back in the fields while helping her accident-prone neighbour, the married Senge, who is in love with her. The doctor warns Tuya that her condition will worsen if she continues to do hard labor, but she does not listen.

Unable to stand the hardship Tuya goes through, Bater persuades his wife to divorce him and meet a new man to care for her. Tuya agrees to divorce him only on paper, but her condition is that her new spouse will have to not only take care of her and her children, but he will also have to take care of Bater. When suitors line up at her door, she announces that she will only marry the man who is willing to accept the inevitable polyandry situation.

One of her suitors is her former classmate Baolier, a wealthy and well-intentioned oil businessman. He is divorced, and offers Bater the best nursing home. Tuya seems to have made up her mind.

However, when Bater is left all alone in the nursing home, he slits his wrist, unable to bear the solitude. Senge witnesses the tragedy and calls Baolier for help, but Baolier hangs up on him as he is afraid that Tuya will leave him if the news reaches her. With his guilty conscience taking over, Senge comes to get Tuya's family.

When Senge's greedy wife runs away with his truck - his only property - he decides to pursue Tuya outright. As Tuya, Bater, their children and Senge all return home, Senge starts digging a well that he knows Bater will never be able to finish. It is a unique proposal that will give him an advantage in the marital competition to win Tuya's heart. Tuya slowly recognizes the depth of Senge's feelings, but he suddenly disappears to the city.

Tuya's search for a new husband seems endless, but she will not stop until she finds a solution for her family. She will not give up the traditional way of life in the rural land of Inner Mongolia, despite its harsh snowstorms, the drying land, and worse of all, the government's pressure to displace its inhabitants.

About the director

WANG Quan An

Born in 1965, Sixth Generation WANG Quan An graduated from the acclaimed Beijing Film Academy. One of the emerging auteur directors of China, WANG pays much attention to the social reality of his changing country. He uses strong subject matter and dramatic mise en scene to produce exquisite depictions of modern China.

Filmography

2008 TUYA'S MARRIAGE

Berlin International Film Festival Golden Bear Winner

Chicago International Best Actress Award winner, Special Jury Prize

2004 THE STORY OF ERMEI

1999 LUNAR ECLIPSE: Director & Scriptwriter

22nd Moscow International Film Festival-FIPRESCI Prize

About the cast

YU NAN (Tuya)

Born in 1978 in China, YU Nan graduated from the Beijing Film Academy's Acting Department. A regular actress in WANG Quan An's films, she made her debut in his film, LUNAR ECLIPSE. Her performance caught the attention of French film producers who cast her in Karim Dridi's FUREUR. Since then, she starred in THE STORY OF ERMEI, her second collaboration with director WANG Quan An, which won her the Best Actress awards at the Paris Film Festival. She recently starred in Wang Xiaoshuai's IN LOVE WE TRUST, winner of Berlin Film Festival Best Screenplay Award. She will next be seen in the Wachowski brothers' new film, SPEED RACER.

Filmography

2008 SPEED RACER (Wachowski brothers)

2008 IN LOVE WE TRUST (dir. WANG XiaoShuai)

2007 MY DNA SAYS I LOVE YOU (dir. Robin Yun-Chan LEE)

2006 DIAMOND DOGS (dir, Shiom DOTAN)

2004 THE STORY OF ERMEI (dir. WANG Quan An)

The 19th Paris Film Festival-Best Actress Award

2000 LUNAR ECLIPSE (dir. WANG Quan An)

Bater (Bater)

Bater is a non-professional actor. He is a real Mongolian herdsman who was thrilled to act in TUYA'S MARRIAGE. Even after shooting the film, with his two strong legs, he still could not herd his sheep. The government ordered his entire family to move out of the terrain, so he became a peasant after filming the movie.

Senge (Senge)

Senge is also a non-professional actor, a Mongolian herdsman and an equestrian who was scouted by the director at a horse race. In TUYA'S MARRIAGE, Senge rides through the desert on his white horse, a scene that wins Tuya's heart. Senge's dream is to become a professional equestrian.

About the crew

Screenwriter LU Wei

Born in 1950, Lu Wei is a member of the famed Xi'an Film Studio and one of the most renowned screenwriters in China, having worked with directors such as ZHANG Yimou and CHEN Kaige. So far, LU has taken part in more than 20 films not only as a writer, but also as a director and an actor.

Selected Filmography

1994 LIFETIMES (dir. ZHANG Yimou)

The 44th Cannes Film Festival-Grand Prize of the Jury, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury

The 47th BAFTA Awards-Best Film not in the English Language

1993 FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE (dir. CHEN Kaige)

The 43rd Cannes Film Festival-FIPRESCI Prize, Golden Palm

The 46th BAFTA Awards-Best Film not in the English Language

1990 BALLAD OF THE YELLOW RIVER (dir. TENG Wen Ji)

The 13th Montreal World Film Festival-Best Director Award

Director of Photography Lutz Reitemeier (B.V.K)

Born in 1963, Lutz Reitemeier is part of B.V.K, the German Society of Cinematographers. Before he met WANG Quan An, Lutz Reitemeier worked mainly on documentary films. He was deeply touched when he saw WANG Quan An's first feature film, LUNAR ECLIPSE, at the 2002 Berlin International Film Festival. He started working with WANG on his second film, THE STORY OF ERMEI, and continued on with TUYA'S MARRIAGE.

Selected Filmography

2007 TUYA'S MARRIAGE

2004 CHINESISCHEN SCHUHE, DIE (dir. Tamara WYSS, documentary)

PLASTIC FLOWERS (dir. LIU Bing Jian)

THE STORY OF ERMEI (dir. WANG Quan An)

ADDICTED TO ACTING (dir. Andres VEIEL, documentary)

OUT OF TIBET (dir. Solveig KLABEN, documentary)

Tech Spec

Country of origin: People's Republic of China
Language: Mandarin
Duration: 96 min
Ratio: 1:1.85
Sound: Dolby SR
Color: Color
Production Year: 2006