



SEMAINE
DE LA CRITIQUE
CANNES

BERIK

A FILM BY DANIEL JOSEPH BORGMAN & KATJA ADOMEIT

Berik, blinded by a tumour that grew due to nuclear radiation, spends his days alone, until one day someone comes banging on his door. . .

SYNOPSIS

Berik, a short drama about friendship and understanding, takes place in Semey, Kazakhstan. Berik, 33, blind and deformed due to radiation poisoning, spends his days at home alone, while his brother is at work. That is until Adil, 11, the smallest and least popular of the kids in the apartment block, turns up on Berik's doorstep looking for the local bully's football, which he has lost.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted to travel far away to make a film with real people, in a real place, with a real historical context, all of which was unfamiliar to me. I wanted the process to be as important as the end result, I wanted to go out and discover something new, and to make a film at the same time. I wanted to make a film that grabbed the audience and transported them to a universe that most of them would be unfamiliar with and to engage them with a character whose life they had never experienced. I went to Semey, Kazakhstan, a place I knew very little about, with a small crew and a rough outline for a story about friendship and understanding, and together in just under a fortnight we shot a short narrative with real people, in real environments, with improvised dialog and improvised actions. We ended up with Berik, what I hope is a compelling, universal and entertaining story about what it is like to be an outsider and what it is like to be different which the audience can relate to in an everyday kind of way whilst at the same time providing a beautiful, insightful look into the everyday life of someone that they haven't seen on the screen before.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Daniel Joseph Borgman was born in 1981 in the small coastal town of Dunedin in New Zealand. After studying Film Science at Otago University, he moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, where he has worked as a visual effects artist and film colourist on numerous feature film projects. His first short, *The Man & the Albatross* (2007) premiered in the Leopards of Tomorrow competition at the Locarno Film Festival. His second short, *Lars and Peter* (2009), was in the Cannes Film Festival Official Selection, Short Film Competition in 2009 and nominated for a Robert, the Danish Film Academies national film prize. In 2009 Daniel completed production on three more short films, *Behaviour*, *Kaleidoscope* and *Berik*. Daniel is currently developing *Brainy*, a 30-minute novella film with funding from The Danish Film Institute's New Danish Screen. Daniel currently resides in Paris at the Cannes Cinéfondation Residence, where he develops his debut feature film project, *The Weight of Elephants*, a coming of age drama about 14-year-old Jess, a local paperboy, whose life is flipped upside down when a horrific murder happens in the street where he delivers newspapers.

CAST

Berik
Adil
Abdi
Aziz
Medet

Berik Sysdikov
Adil Mukataev
Abdi Iskakov
Aziz Kaliev
Medet Sysdikov

CREW

Writer & Director
Producer
Cinematographer
Editor
Sound Design
Composer
Sound Recordist

Daniel Joseph Borgman
Katja Adomeit
Niels Buchholzer
Dan Loghlin
Frank Mølgaard Knudsen
Jonas Colstrup
Sigrid Dagny Palm Aalbæk Jensen

TECHNICAL INFO

Title
Genre
Length
Original Format
Screening Format
Screen Ratio
Sound
Language
Subtitles

Berik
Drama
16 min.
RED1
35 mm
cinemascope
Dolby Digital 5.1
Kazakh/Russian
Danish / English
/ French
Denmark
2010

Country of Origin
Year of Production

CONTACT

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Zentropa Entertainments5 Copenhagen, Denmark
E-mail: Katja.adomeit@filmbyen.com
Phone: +45 31418681

FESTIVAL DISTRIBUTION CONTACT

Danish Film Institute
Anne Marie Kürstein
Phone: +45 40 41 46 97
kurstein@dfi.dk
www.dfi.dk

SALES CONTACT

Zentropa Entertainments5 Copenhagen, Denmark
E-mail: Katja.adomeit@filmbyen.com
Phone: +45 31418681

PRESS CONTACT IN CANNES

Zentropa Entertainments5 Copenhagen, Denmark
E-mail: Katja.adomeit@filmbyen.com
Phone: +45 31418681



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