



**“PRICE OF GOLD”
U.S. THEATRICAL PREMIERE ENGAGEMENT
SEPT 16-22, 2013 AT THE MAYSLES CINEMA**

A film by Sven Zellner / Co-directed by Chingunjav Borkhuu / Germany-Mongolia
86 minutes / In Mongolian with English subtitles / A Magic Lantern Release

Theatrical Contact:
Maysles Cinema
cinema@mayslesinstitute.org
(212) 537-6843
mayslesinstitute.org/cinema

Distribution Contact:
Magic Lantern
info@magic-lantern-films.com
(646) 926-7060
magic-lantern-films.com/priceofgold

SYNOPSIS

Gold: today's most popular investment product. This astounding film is the first to document the illegal gold-diggers in Mongolia's Gobi Desert risking their lives for a few grams of the precious mineral. While the speculative market value of gold in the Western world holds little relation to any tangible yardstick, the film describes in very direct and stark images what it means to prospect for gold by hand, in brutal conditions eerily reminiscent of the California Gold Rush during the late 19th-century. In amazingly intimate shots, Sven Zellner shows us the people at the other end of the world who pay the real price of gold.

SELECTED FESTIVALS

2013 DocuAsia Forum, Vancouver
2012 HotDocs Film Festival, Toronto
2012 DocuWest Film Festival, Colorado
2012 Beldocs Film Festival, Belgrade
2012 Brooklyn Film Festival, New York
2012 Filmfest Munich, Germany

IN THE PRESS

"The setting is the Gobi Desert, a barren, golden landscape where desperate Mongolian nomads, known as "ninjas," search for leftover gold veins that the giant international mining companies might have overlooked when they swept through the area years ago. The equipment is crude. The language is foul. They treat women (there is one female cook) like chattel, and each other like dirt. Sven Zellner, an accomplished photographer, spent years earning the trust of this scrappy group, which he follows into the claustrophobic shafts and the cramped quarters of the makeshift tent. His cinematography is breathtaking, and he drives home the inherent dangers of this illegal trade." —Gayle MacDonald, *The Globe and Mail*

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The idea to make a film about Mongolia's illegal gold-diggers came about from what I experienced during my travels in Mongolia. Whenever I think about the conditions under which the gold-diggers work and how they risk their lives because they have no other alternatives, and when I read about the harmful effects of mercury and sense what awaits my protagonists and their families in about ten years from now, I couldn't stop thinking about it. I realize that I can't really change the situation, but there is one thing I can do: tell these people's story to draw attention to their lust for life, their pride and their bitter fate. —*Sven Zellner*

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

An accomplished photojournalist whose work is represented by the Hamburg-based agency Focus, Sven Zellner published his first book of photographs when he was 22 and has twice placed second in the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year. "Ninjas," an exhibition of photographs he created during the four years he lived among the Mongolian nomads working on *Price of Gold*, was presented at Visa pour l'image, the international festival of photojournalism in Perpignan. *Price of Gold* is his first feature film.



FILM CREDITS

Running time 86 minutes
Year of production 2011
Year of release 2013

Director Sven Zellner
Co-director Chingunjav Borkhuu
Cinematographer Sven Zellner
Producer Maximilian Plettau

With Khuyagaa
Usukhuu Akh
Ochiroo Akh
Eegii
Khishgee
Aagii

Editors Sven Zellner and Uisenma Borchu
Assistant editor Laura Heine
Consultant Mongolia Tsogzol Galsandorj
Consultants Alina Teodorescu and Raimund Barthelmes
Sound recorder Chingunjav Borkhuu
Boom operator Enkhbat Gawaa
Foley sound Amadeus Bodis
Sound mixer Benedikt Hoenes
Color Jurgen Pertack
Subtitles Untertitelwerkstatt Munchen
Accountant Susanne Osterried
Production manager Bjorn Jensen
Commissioning editors Natalie Lambsdorff and Sonja Scheider

Opening song: *Chi mini baigaa hoino*
Lyrics by B.Baasankhuu, Interpreted by R. Bayarsaihan
Closing song: *Bi Mongol er hun*
Lyrics by R. Bayarsaihan, Interpreted by R. Nyambayar

Production company Nominal Film
Coproduced by Bayerischer Rundfunk
With support from FilmFernsehFonds Bayern

More information on production company Nominal Film: <http://www.nominalfilm.com/>

More information on the Maysles Cinema: www.mayslesinstitute.org/cinema

More information on *Price of Gold*, including trailer and downloadable publicity images:
www.magic-lantern-films.com/priceofgold

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