

THE FIRST AGGREGATE

CAST

HUNTUN BATU	X
HASJULA	Y
UNDURAKH	The Girlfriend
TODBILIG	The Boyfriend
ALTANGEREL	The Writer
SECHENBILIG	The Teacher

PRODUCTION

A film by EMYR AP RICHARD and DARHAD ERDENIBULAG

Produced by JESSICA N. LIU

Executive Producer OLIVER CLAYCAMP

Written by EMYR AP RICHARD and OLIVER CLAYCAMP

Based on the story 'The Five Elements' by DARHAD ERDENIBULAG

Edited by KONG JING LEI and MATTHIEU LACLAU

Sound Design by FU KANG

Cinematography by EMYR AP RICHARD

Art Direction by DARHAD ERDENIBULAG

Produced by LENA FILMS

SYNOPSIS

A struggling Mongolian stuntman returns to the big city after suffering a serious head injury but soon finds himself thrust back into the fray when presented with an opportunity to become a serious actor.

TECHNICAL DATA

Running Time: 90min, Color

35mm KODAK VISION3 500T, VISION3 250D, VISION2 50D
REDCODE RAW 4.5K, REDCODE RAW 5K, Arri LogC

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

The First Aggregate is the feature film debut of Darhad Erdenibulag and Emyr ap Richard.

Darhad Erdenibulag, born in Ordos, Inner Mongolia, 1978, attended Inner Mongolia College of Art, specializing in Fine Art. He worked as a freelance interior designer and then began filming documentaries for Inner Mongolia Television, whilst also working as a stills photographer on various films, including Bayaniruul's 2009 biopic on Sechenhangru. His award-winning documentary, Ovoo, about Inner Mongolia's ritual cairns was showcased at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo.

Emyr ap Richard, born in Carmarthenshire, Wales, 1981, worked for Welsh-language television station, S4C, before moving to live in Inner Mongolia where he worked as a freelance photographer, writer and English-Mongolian translator. He has worked as a freelance writer for Lonely Planet and his photographic work has received numerous accolades.

THE ACTORS

HUNTUN BATU

The First Aggregate is Huntun Batu's first leading role in a feature film and marks his transition from stunt work to fiction acting. His previous films involved stunt work and small speaking roles in Sergei Bodrov's *Mongol* (2007), Jackie Chan's *Little Big Soldier* (2010) and the CCTV epic *Gada Meiren* (2009).

HASJULA

Hasjula is an acting coach at the East Asian Institute of Film and Television in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia. Though having worked extensively in Inner Mongolian and Chinese television dramas and comedies, *The First Aggregate* marks her feature debut in a leading role.

ALTANGEREL

Altangerel worked as a script editor for Inner Mongolia Radio, adapting novels and stage plays for the air, until his retirement in 2010. He has since begun working as an actor.

SECHENBILIG

Sechenbilig is a drama teacher at Inner Mongolia Nationality College and former tutor of Huntun Batu. Sechenbilig is a well-known Mongolian TV personality, known for his portrayal of Kubulai Khan on NMTV and his role as Khasar in the epic TV serial *Chinggis Khan*.

COMMENTS FROM EMYR AP RICHARD

The film tries to portray an insider's view of what it means to be an actor in a very specific social context. The resulting film is not what people might readily label a Mongolian, Chinese or even European film; but more an exploration of a number of transformations that took place over a number of years amongst a group of friends trying to find their way as artists. In one sense it's a study of the small cumulative details that lead to the kinds of large-scale transformations that are difficult to attribute to any one specific cause. The film looks at the landscape of personal transformation outside the more readily identifiable emotional labels.

Acting is something that surrounds us, irrespective of our backgrounds. We are all expected to act in certain roles and the question is: how much of it is real? How much can we really call our own or grab hold of and say, 'This is the real me!' That's a question that goes beyond culture.

The core of the film is the idea of perception, of reality, of what is real or true and what is imagined or made up. Parts of the film were scripted, some were improvised and others are at this interesting intersection between the two. We make sense of our lives through fiction, but then our lives play out like documentaries, and sometimes, like scripted films.

COMMENTS FROM DARHAD ERDENIBULAG

Many people from around the world worked on this film and helped to make it possible. Initially, our first idea was for the film to be a documentary about the life of the stuntman Huntun Batu, but as we completed our preparations and Batu voiced his interest in tackling serious acting work the film evolved into a project ever-increasing in its complexity.

One of the reasons the film was created was because I personally wanted to change and I wanted to understand this process within myself. The transformation in the movie is my personal transformation. I've asked myself this question many times: about history and education, about my personal history and I've stopped my progression in art while making this movie. I'm looking for real art; this movie is going towards this idea; time has stopped and everyone is late. X has stopped, time has stopped working, but time worked before. The clock repairman says a piece was missing and when he replaced it, now it works. What is this piece inside? This question exists. What is this? Maybe everyone answers this question differently, maybe the piece, for me, is this film. Maybe the answer is not something that can be put into words but is something that needs to be found personally, inside everyone.

PRODUCTION CONTACT DETAILS

LENAH FILMS

Jessica N. Liu, talk@lenah.org

FULL CAST AND CREW

CAST

X	HUNTUN BATU
Y	HASJULA
The Girlfriend	UNDURAKH
The Boyfriend	TODBILIG
The Uncle	ALTANGEREL
The Teacher	SECHENBILIG
The Clockrepairman	GUO ZHIQIANG
The Estate Agent	HAITANG
The Interlopers	ZHAO WU
	CUI SHUANGQIAN
	SHAN XIYANG
The Driver	BAI QUANXI
The Dancer	TSERINGDOLMAA
The Barber	HU GONG

EXTRAS

NARISU	ZHANG MINYUAN	UUGEN
GOYUHAN	URANTOYAA	CHEVERKHEN
BIAN QILIN	SARANA	ARIUHAN
ZHOU RIHE	LI XIAOYAN	TSERENDOLMAA
NANDINZHAYAA	NACHIN	SANSAR
URILE	QING BAI	SURUG
MONKHSULDE	JUDENGOWA	NANDIN
FENG LILI	ZHANG TONGXU	WU JIE
HAN JINGJING	QU RUIHONG	GAO MINGSHENG
ZHANG ZIJUAN	SONI	XU HAITAO
CHEN YUKUN	HEJING	QI SHULIN
ZHAO YILIN	GE YUSHAN	W. ENKHE
SUO FURONG	EDENITUYAA	BAYANDALAI
MA ZHIQING	ALTANCHIMEG	GANZORIG
ZHAO ER	CHINGHEL	HANGGAI
WANG JIANPING	JALANCHIMEG	KOKH
BADARAN	URCHAIHU	TOBSHINBAATAR
CHELMG	SANAA	BARS
SURUG	YIRGUI	BUYAN
XIE ZHENGQING	CHELGER	MONGGONDALAI
YONG QIN	SONINGOWAA	TOBLOGON
BADARAKH	DARMAA	MANGLAI

CREW

Director	EMYR ap RICHARD DARHAD ERDENIBULAG
Producers	JESSICA N. LIU EMYR ap RICHARD
Executive Producer	OLIVER CLAYCAMP
Written By	EMYR ap RICHARD OLIVER CLAYCAMP
Based on the short story 'The Five Elements' by	DARHAD ERDENIBULAG
Film Editor	MATTHIEU LACLAU KONG JINGLEI
Continuity Editor	RAY KENDERDINE
Art Direction	DARHAD ERDENIBULAG
Director of Photography First Assistant Camera	EMYR ap RICHARD ZHAO WU ZHANG YIN
Second Assistant Camera Grip	CHENG JI CUI SHUANGQIAN SHAN XIYANG
Film Loaders	ZHAO WU WANG MIN
Sound Design Assistant to Mr. Fu	FU KANG HAO SHUAI
Sound Recordists	RAY KENDERDINE CHARO COSTA
Location Sound ADR Recordist Beijing ADR Recordist Hohhot Studio Engineer Hohhot	WAYNE RILEY LI DANFENG WAYNE RILEY LIU JIA HAN XIAO
Dialogue Coach	SONOSHULANG HONGGOR
Unit Production Manager Runners	GARUDI BATTULGA
Drivers	BAI QUANXI LI RUNQIANG ZHANG YUNJIE
Translators	JESSICA N. LIU SONOSHULANG HONGGOR EMYR ap RICHARD

Technical Consultants RAY KENDERDINE
SARALA PUTHUVAL
CHARO COSTA

Catering Services BAYAN DELKHII RESTAURANT GROUP
HOHHOT

POSTPRODUCTION

Film Lab Beijing KODAK CINELABS BEIJING
Lab Technician LI ZHONGPING

Digital Intermediate LOLLOL MEDIA
LAB Supervisor XUAN WANG
DI Supervisor YONGGI LEE
DI Producer EDWARD CHIYUN YI
DI Colorists DEREK KIM

DI Colorist Assistants MINNIE LEE
PANAX ROCK
VILET ZHANG
MAY FENG

DI Assistant SOMNUS CAI
DI Technical Manager HANNAH HAN
DI Project General Manager GAVIN ARKELL
DI Project Managers PETER AHN
STEVEN CUI
YVOONE YANG

DI Project Assistant AMY FENG
Film Scanning ARVIN REN
TONY CHENG
Restoration LANI LIU

Film Processing Hohhot TIANYI PHOTOCHROMIC LTD.
Project Manager ZHANG BO
LI CHUNWEI
Lab Technician SHI YAPING
Assistant Managers REN YAMIN
ZHAO MEIYING

Photographic Services Hohhot PENG TU PHOTOGRAPHIC
LI PENG
LI SHIWEN
TU LIJUN

Equipment Liaison Beijing INFRATRANS VISION CO., LTD.
Support LIU YUE

Cameras and Lenses BEIJING JINSHIYE ART EXCHANGE LTD.
supplied by

Additional Camera Support REDGATE RENTALS, BEIJING

16mm Prints by SOHO FILM LAB, LONDON
Transfer LEN THORNTON

16mm Projectors Courtesy of EIKI INTERNATIONAL, INC
 WAYNE COOMBES

Raw Stock Provided by KODAK

Rothko Chapel, Fifth Movement
Written by Morton Feldman
Courtesy of New Albion Records
and Universal Edition

Neptune: The Mystic
from *The Planets*
by Gustav Holst
Performed by Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Clemmow
Courtesy of Divine Art Recordings Group

Lullaby For Lambs
performed and written by Sainkho Namchylak
published by Strictly Confidential/Les Editions de la Bascule
Used by kind permission of Crammed Discs

Stir it Up
Performed by Bob Marley and The Wailers
Published by Fifty Six Hope Road Ltd.
Blackwell Fuller Music Publishing, LLC.
Administered by Blue Mountain Music Ltd.
Courtesy of Universal Music Group International
Under license from Universal Music Operations Limited

Mongolian Winds
Written and performed by Terry Riley
from the Padova Concert
Courtesy of Amiata Records

Invisible Force of Direction
footage courtesy of Crawley Films Ltd.

THE PRODUCERS WISH TO THANK

Uiles Hotel Group, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia
Inner Mongolia East Asian Film & TV Career Special Training School
Inner Mongolia IM Hip Hop Collective
Hohhot Fengqing Photo Studio
Inner Mongolia University
Hohhot Art College
2526 Sound Studio
Snipersounds Beijing
National Film Board of Canada

ZeitAnker
Reinhard Moeller

Bayaniruul, Badmaa
Laurin Rinder
Baigalmaa
Nasanurtu
Wang Yinan
Duan Yichen
Chimeg
Haburchecheg
Sodu
Nomin
Suo Furong
Burunaa
Ghislain Olivier
Urna Chahar Tugchi
Boldoo
Tolguur
Matteo Silva
Stephen Sutton
S. Sambuu
Matt Needle
Luis Dourado
Ruby Soho
Christos Kourtoglou
Eric Skillman
Noah Weinzweig
Tim Pearce
Sophie Lascelles
Altanshaa
Toshi Omagari
Denise Stevens
Adam Partridge
Jesse Richards
The Remodernist Film Manifesto

SHOT ON LOCATION IN HOHHOT, INNER MONGOLIA



FILMED ON KODAK STOCK
USING ARRI CAMERAS AND LENSES

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