

THE MURALIST (Ханын зураач)

Press Reviews & Media Coverage

Director: Sengedorj Janchivdorj

Country: Mongolia

Runtime: 116 minutes

World Premiere: Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2025 (Official Competition)

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

NETPAC Award Winner

29th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (November 2025)

Award: NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asia Cinema) Jury Prize

Official Jury Statement:

"The film beautifully captures the balance between professional and personal life against the stunning backdrop of Mongolia. It reflects on preserving love, the responsibility we bear toward the next generation, and the values they inherit—ultimately underscoring the enduring power of unconditional love as a guiding moral force."

Jury Members: Tsengel Davaasambu, Santanu Ganguly, Teet Kask

Sources:

- Film New Europe: <https://www.filmneweurope.com/news/estonia-news/item/127482-awards-of-the-29th-tallinn-black-nights-film-festival-have-been-announced-external>
- FNE Prize Winners: <https://www.filmneweurope.com/news/estonia-news/item/127487-fne-at-tallinn-black-nights-film-festival-2025-prize-winners>

MAJOR PRESS COVERAGE

Variety (November 21, 2025)

"Tallinn Best Film Winner Sengedorj Janchivdorj Back With 'The Muralist'"

Feature Article / Festival Coverage

"A visually striking meditation on art, memory, and reconciliation, 'The Muralist' is the film Sengedorj says he always wanted to make: 'I've been making movies for over 20 years. One of my secret and biggest dreams was to make a movie about an artist. In my other movies, there was always an artist in the background. This time, the muralist is the main character!'"

Read full article:

<https://variety.com/2025/film/global/tallinn-black-nights-sengedorj-janchivdorj-the-muralist-1236587241/>

AOL Entertainment / Variety Syndication (November 21, 2025)

"Tallinn Black Nights Grand Prix Winner Sengedorj Janchivdorj Returns in Competition With 'The Muralist'"

Wide Distribution Syndicated Coverage

Read full article:

<https://www.aol.com/articles/tallinn-black-nights-grand-prix-081932850.html>

IMDb News (November 2025)

"Tallinn Black Nights Grand Prix Winner Sengedorj Janchivdorj Returns in Competition With 'The Muralist'"

Industry Coverage

Read full article:

<https://www.imdb.com/news/ni65583854/>

 **FILM REVIEWS****DMovies (November 19, 2025)**

"The Muralist" - Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival Review

Independent Film Review

"The takes are long, and the camera mostly static. Poetic devices gently dot the narrative... Director Sengedorj Janchivdorj and cinematographer Nergui Erdenekhuyag are well aware of this, often placing the decorative toy against a black-and-white background, and then breaking the film down into colour-titled chapters. The screen compositions are very carefully framed. The images of the derelict buildings overlooking the Mongolian rural landscape are soul-invigorating."

Read full review:

<https://dmovies.org/2025/11/19/the-muralist/>

PÖFF Official (Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival)

Official Festival Review & Description

Festival Official Page

"Anchored by a quietly powerful central performance, 'The Muralist' captures both the grit of a city in transition and the resilience of imagination, confirming Sengedorj as one of Mongolia's most distinctive cinematic voices. A hymn to art's stubborn survival, the film asks what we choose to preserve when everything else is built on borrowed time."

Official festival page:

<https://poff.ee/en/film/the-muralist/>

FESTIVAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & COVERAGE

Asian Movie Pulse (October 27, 2025)

"The Muralist by Sengedorj Janchivdorj Trailer"

Trailer Premiere & Preview

"Returning to PÖFF after last year's Grand Prix win with 'Silent City Driver', director Sengedorj Janchivdorj crafts a visually arresting meditation on memory, impermanence, and reconciliation, with an unhurried rhythm and painterly eye for composition."

Read full article:

<https://asianmoviepulse.com/2025/10/the-muralist-by-sengedorj-janchivdorj-trailer/>

Cineuropa (October 10, 2025)

"Tallinn Black Nights reveals competition titles and juries"

Festival Competition Announcement

Included in Official Competition lineup alongside works by Abu Bakr Shawky, Júlia de Paz Solvas, and other prominent international directors.

Read full announcement:

<https://cineuropa.org/newsdetail/484704/>

Yahoo News / Variety (October 10, 2025)

"Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival Unveils Main Competition"

Major Festival Coverage

"Mongolia's J. Sengedorj with his new visually striking drama 'The Muralist,' which explores artistic creation, memory and forgiveness"

Read full article:

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/tallinn-black-nights-film-festival-073000907.html>

OFFICIAL FILM RESOURCES

Official Film Website

Complete information, synopsis, credits, and visual materials

<https://themuralist.art/>

FilmFreeway Project Page

Festival submission page with full technical details and credits

<https://filmfreeway.com/TheMuralist2025>

IMDb Film Page

Official Internet Movie Database entry

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3900002/>

PRESS COVERAGE SUMMARY

Total Media Coverage:

- 1 Major International Award (NETPAC Prize at Tallinn)
- 3 Major Trade Publications (Variety, AOL, IMDb News)
- 2 Professional Film Reviews (DMovies, PÖFF Official)
- 3 Festival Announcements (Asian Movie Pulse, Cineuropa, Yahoo)
- 3 Official Online Presences (Official Website, FilmFreeway, IMDb)

Geographic Media Reach:

- International: Variety (USA/Global)
- European: Cineuropa, Film New Europe, DMovies
- Asian: Asian Movie Pulse
- Industry: IMDb, FilmFreeway
- Wide Distribution: AOL, Yahoo News

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Sengedorj Janchivdorj is one of Mongolia's most acclaimed contemporary filmmakers. His previous film "Silent City Driver" (2024) won the **Grand Prix at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2024** and represents Mongolia in the **International Feature Film category at the 98th Academy Awards (2026)**.

His 2021 film "The Sales Girl" won the **Yakushi Pearl Award** at Osaka Asian Film Festival and the **Uncaged Award for Best Feature** at New York Asian Film Festival, with selections at Busan, Adelaide, Barcelona, and

other major festivals.

Sengedorj heads **SUN Pictures** and chairs the **Mongolian Film Producers Association**, championing Mongolian cinema on the international stage.

Document prepared for:

ImagineIndia International Film Festival

Madrid, Spain

September 2026

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Last updated: February 10, 2026