

BYAMBASUREN BATDELGER  
Film Director & Screenwriter  
DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Byambasuren Batdelger (born July 16, 1988) is an award-winning Mongolian film and theater director. Originally from Davst, Uvs province, he was raised in an intellectual family and pursued his passion for the arts at the Mongolian State University of Arts and Culture, graduating in 2010.

With a career spanning over a decade, Batdelger has transitioned from a distinguished theater director to one of Mongolia's rising cinematic voices. He served as the General Director of the Oirad and Arkhangai Drama Theaters before moving into film production. His work is known for its deep emotional resonance and authentic portrayal of Mongolian life. His breakthrough film, *The Yellow Light*, received critical acclaim, winning Best Screenplay at the Ulaanbaatar International Film Festival and the "Silver Tree" (Mungun Mod) for Best Screen Production.

#### FILMOGRAPHY

*The Unopened Letter* (Feature Film)

Director and Screenwriter

*Dutuu Kheetei Toono* (Feature Film)

Director and Screenwriter

*The Yellow Light* (Shar Gegee – Feature Film, 2022)

Director and Screenwriter

- Award: Best Screenwriter, Ulaanbaatar International Film Festival

- Award: Best Screen Production, Silver Tree National Awards

*Tatar* (Feature Film, 2021)

Director and Screenwriter

*Lullaby* (Buuvei – Feature Film, 2020)

Director and Screenwriter

*The Test* (Soril – Feature Film, 2019)

Director and Screenwriter

*Eternal Love* (Feature Film)

Assistant Director

#### SELECTED THEATER WORKS

Theatrical Productions:

Directed over 10 major dramas and monodramas, including *Who Am I?*, *The Hunter*, *Underground Man*, *Shadow*, *The Curtain*, *Hunger*, and *The Skull*.

Stage & Concert Productions:

Directed over 30 international cultural productions and large-scale concerts, notably *Ancestral Mongolia*, *Heavenly Father*, and *Echoes of the Soul*.

#### AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Grand Prix – 24th International Monodrama Festival (UNESCO International Theatre Institute), North Macedonia, 2022.

- Best Screenwriter – Ulaanbaatar International Film Festival (UBIFF), 2022.

- Silver Tree Award – Best Screen Production of the Year, 2023.

- Best Director – National "Theater for Human Rights" Competition, 2020.
- Grand Prix – "The Parade of Winners" International Monodrama Competition, 2012-2013.
- Outstanding Youth of Mongolia – Awarded by the Mongolian Youth Federation, 2017.

#### PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- 2023 – 2025: Writer & Director | Aranjin Pictures LLC
- 2019 – 2023: Writer & Director | Pro Mix Film
- 2014 – 2018: General Director | Arkhangai Provincial Drama Theater
- 2013 – 2014: General Director | Oirad Theater
- 2010 – 2013: Assistant Director | Mongol Tuurgatan Theate

#### Director Statement

Director B. Batdelger: "The Unopened Letter "

The proposal to adapt "The unopened letter"—a work by the People's Writer of Mongolia and renowned poet Bavuugiin Lkhagvasuren—into a film had been presented to his grandson, S. Khabul, many times. However, due to his high standards and strict criteria, the project remained unfilled until now.

The great success of my previous film, "The horizon" (Yellow Light), based on the work of poet Sh. Gurbazar, gave me the confidence to move forward. It served as a catalyst for me and the "Aranjin Pictures" team to take on this next challenge. The young professionals I collaborated with are masters of their craft—diligent, sincere, and efficient. Regarding the cast, the film features a new generation of rising actors, and I have made every effort to support and showcase their talent.

#### Core Theme and Symbolism

This work is essentially a story about a father and his motherland. It is a historical piece depicting the conflict and emotional weight of a father sending his only son to war. The film illustrates the collective heartache of the families and loved ones left behind; though they never step onto the physical battlefield, their lives are defined by waiting, faith, and conviction. Visually, I aimed for a somber, muted palette—using brownish and greyish tones to evoke a sense of cold, poignant sadness. Through this imagery, I want to touch the hearts of the Mongolian people, reflecting:

- The spirit of patriotism.
- The profound respect for one's parents.
- The immense, agonizing depth of a father's love.

#### Artistic Evolution

In terms of my creative journey:

- "The horizon" focused on the kindness and compassion of the Mongolian soul.
- "Tatar," which premiered on September 19th, is a contemporary biographical film based on true events.

By shifting between these genres, I am testing my boundaries as a filmmaker. With "The Unfinished Crown," my goal is to create a high-quality production that showcases Mongolian heritage and human compassion on the international film festival stage. Drawing on my background in theater, I am confident in my ability to deliver a masterpiece.

#### Synopsis

The story follows Genden, an elderly man living in the countryside, waiting for his son to return from the army. His only son, Davaa, took his oath and went to serve his country. During his service, Davaa performed his duties with such distinction that he was awarded the title of "Hero of Mongolia."

While Genden is swelling with pride for his son, a letter arrives stating that Davaa has perished in the war. Although the local community and officials learn of the news, no one dares to tell the old man. Before leaving for the army, Davaa had been in love; in anticipation of his return and marriage, Genden had prepared an eight-walled ger for him. Genden was carving the patterns on the toono (the roof crown) of the ger himself, but left it unfinished when the news came. Thus, the film is titled "The unopened letter "

Respectfully,

B. Batdelger