

THE MYSTERY OF A BURYAT LAMA

Original Title:

Феномен Этигэлова. Загадка бурятского ламы .
(Phenomen Etigelova. Zagadka buryatskogo lamy)

A Documentary Film

Russia, 93 min, 2018

The project is funded by the grant of the President of the Russian Federation for the development of civil society, provided by the Presidential Grants Foundation, as well as with the support of the Buddhist Traditional Sangha of Russia



Director & Scriptwriter:
ELENA DEMIDOVA

Photographer:
SERGEY MAXIMOV

Composer and air survey:
ANDJEI PETRAS

Sound designers:
ANDJEI PETRAS, DMITRY PATRAKOV

Producers:
NINA KOCHELYAEVA, ANASTASSIA RAZLOGOVA, MARINA KUCHKOVA

Studio:
NEW INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL RESEARCH, KAMER-TON-FILM-RUSSIA



The documentary film «THE MYSTERY OF A BURYAT LAMA», directed by Elena Demidova, tells a story of one of the most famous lamas, Pandido Khambo Lama Dashi Dorzho Itigelov. His body is recognized as one of the sacred Buddhist objects of Russia and is being kept in the Ivolginsky Datsan. The Buddhist monks approach him as a living person.

Pandido Khambo Lama as the Head of Russian Buryat Buddhists. Between 1913 and 1917, Itigelov was prominent in the spiritual life of Russian Empire. He took part in the Tercentenary celebrations of the House Romanov and opened first Buddhist temple in St. Petersburg. During First World War Itigelov presided over the society of «Buryat brothers», an organization helping the Russian army. After October Revolution, Itigelov resigned as head of the Buddhists. In 1927, aged seventy-five years, he asked other lamas to begin meditation ceremonies and funeral rites, since he said he was about to die. Itigelov left a testament asking to be buried as he was at the time of his death, sitting in lotus posture. On September 11, 2002, Itigelov's body was eventually exhumed in the presence of the leaders of the Buddhist Traditional Sangha of Russia and transferred to Ivolginsky Datsan.



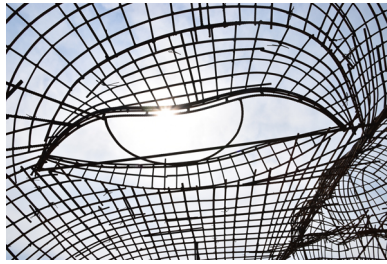
The film crew visited places related to the life of XII Pandido Khambo Lama Itigelov, and met with people for whom his story is not in the past, but is a part of their own daily life. A unique video recording, made in 2002 by one of the lamas, allows you to see how the return of Khambo Lama Dashi Dorzho Itigelov happened. XXIV Pandito Khambo Lama Damba Ayusheev talks in his interview about his understanding of this phenomenon. Also we'll recognize a new manifestation of this phenomenon — the daily messages of Khambo Lama Itigelov.

Lamas, academics, museum curators and local historians took part in the shooting. The geography of the project extends from Moscow and St. Petersburg to the most outer regions of Buryatia and the Trans-Baikal Territory. This cinematic study is about how Russian Buddhists live, what they think and feel, and how this culture integrates into the context of Russian history.

The film was produced as part of the larger project «Research of the Traditional Russian Buddhism as a Factor of Harmonious Interaction of Various Ethnicities and Cultures of Russia, Based on the Documents of Life, Activities, and Heritage of Pandido Khambo Lama Dashi Dorzho Itigelov». The project is funded by the grant of the President of the Russian Federation for the development of civil society, provided by the Presidential Grants Foundation, as well as with the support of the Buddhist Traditional Sangha of Russia.



LANGUAGES: RUSSIAN, BURYAT
SUBTITLES: ENGLISH



Production

NEW INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL RESEARCH, KAMER-TON-FILM-RUSSIA

Project Director

KIRILL RAZLOGOV

Producers

NINA KOCHELYAEVA, ANASTASSIA RAZLOGOVA, MARINA KUCHKOVA

Executive Producer

ANDJEI PETRAS

The author and director

ELENA DEMIDOVA

Photographer

SERGEY MAKSIMOV

Composer

ANDJEI PETRAS

The main consultant

ALLA NAMSARAEVA

Project Coordinator, Photographer

EVA PARKHOMENKO

Premier Status:

Russian Premier: 15 August 2018, «Okno v Evropu» Russian Film Festival

Film was showed only in territory of the Russian Federation

LINK TO FILM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

<https://vimeo.com/285757116>

password 1913

ELENA DEMIDOVA

Russian film director, scriptwriter and producer



She was born in Russia.

Graduated from Moscow State Technical University in 1987 and Voronezh State University (The Faculty of History) in 1997. Director's education: filmschool "Internews", Moscow (workshop of Marina Razbezhkina). Documentaries by Elena Demidova are winners of many international film festivals, in 2016 she made her debut in the feature film.

FILMOGRAPHY:

Live water, 2006

Holly Week, 2006

Ark, 2007

The multiplication table, 2007

Its time to go home, 2008

Mohicans, 2008

Cranberry Island, 2010

Lesha, 2011

Almanac "Fires in Russia, summer 2010", 2011

Sasha, Lena and Iron Dragon, 2012

Men's choice, 2014

From parade to the oscar, 2016

Touch of wind, 2016, Experimental (fiction and documentary)

The last man, 2017

The Mystery of a Buryat Lama, 2018

NINA KOCHELYAEVA

Producer



Born 14.05.1972 in Moscow, – Ph.D. in History, director of the Non-Governmental Organisation for development of projects and research in culture and the arts “New Institute for Cultural Research” (since 2014), Senior Researcher at the Russian Film Institute-VGIK (since 2017), associated professor of the UNESCO Chair for Comparative Studies of Spiritual Traditions, their Specific Culture and Inter-religious Dialogue (since 2010), Head of Educational Department at Nikita Mikhalkov’s Academy for Cinematography and Theatre Arts (2016-2017) and Teacher on film history (since 2016). Also she is a programmer of the Eurasia International Film Festival (since 2017) and program director of Sochi International Film Festival and Awards (since 2017).

FILMOGRAPHY:

The Mystery of a Buryat Lama, Russia, 2018, 93’
(producer)

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ANASTASIA RAZLOGOVA

Producer of feature films, documentaries, and TV programs



Graduated the economic department of the Russian State Institute of Cinematography (VGIK). Member of the Russian Documentary Film and Television Guild. Producer of fiction and documentary features, participants and prize-winners of Russian and International film festivals. Since 2000, founder of Kamer-Ton-Film-Russia company and the producer of the popular weekly program «Cult Movies» on TV Channel «Russia-Culture», devoted to classical and art-house cinema – the only program on Russian television that combines film screenings and conversations with the authors of these films and leading Russian and foreign filmmakers.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY:

- «THE MYSTERY OF A BURYAT LAMA», documentary film, 2018;
- «TO SERVE, OR NOT TO SERVE», tragicomedic musical documentary film, 2018;
- «A TOUCH OF WIND» experimental prize-winning feature film, 2016.

PRODUCTION COMPANY PROFILE:

Kamer-Ton-Film-Russia LTD was founded by Anastassia Razlogova in 2000.
Main activity: production of feature films, production of documentary films, production of television programs (Russia Culture TV channel).
Artistic Director of the Studio, Professor Kirill Razlogov, is a venerated film scholar and TV personality.
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General director, Producer: Anastassia Razlogova

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