



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

THE WOLVES ALWAYS COME AT NIGHT (12A)

Director: Gabrielle Brady

Starring: Davaasuren Dagvasuren, Otgonzaya Dashzeveg

Australia/Mongolia/Germany, 2024, 1 hour 36 minutes, Mongolian + English subtitles

A meteorological hazard in the form of a severe sandstorm forces a Mongolian herding family from the Gobi Desert to relocate into the city of Ulaanbaatar.

This documentary and fiction hybrid film exceeds hope and love following Davaasuren and Otgonzaya and their family through a journey once unthinkable that will irrevocably change their lives. Set in the present day, *The Wolves Always Come at Night* explores challenges that disrupt a family out of their comfort in their once traditional nomadic life. The nature of this film allows for a personable feel as its documentary style invites the audience into the family's world through intimate moments, providing a glimpse of the land that sustains them.

Director and screenwriter Gabrielle Brady studied Documentary Direction at La Escuela Internacional de Cine in Cuba and has previous experience in studies of Theatre in Australia. Her projects portray real life struggles with regular themes of migration provoking such emotions of which a western audience may not experience first-hand. Her proving passion and influence for educating audiences through messages of true crises faced around the world are not gone unnoticed. Her previous documentary *Island of the Hungry Ghosts* (2018) won 23 awards across the globe, her work in this field is praised by film critics for approaching such a topic with care and empathetic depictions. Recently the Guardian described *'The Wolves Always Come at Night'* as a "*Melancholy meditation on a lost way of life,*" highlighting the contrast between the family's deep-seated contentment amidst their hardships and the environmental challenges they may face. **The Guardian**

Gabrielle Brady took inspiration from her 2007 trip to Mongolia; she would stay with Herders on her travels and acquired first-hand accounts of migrating from the countryside to the city. Her experiences made a huge impression on her life in which she wished to express through this film. In an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival, Gabrielle stated that, "*these were the first seeds, or the first sparks, of a connection to the possibility of making a film.*" **Filmfestivaltoday.com**

Notes compiled by Floss Johnston

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MOTHER VERA

A visually stunning documentary about an Orthodox nun, filmed largely in black and white, that gradually overturns our preconceptions.

SUJO

This coming-of-age story from filmmaking duo Astrid Rondero and Fernanda Valadez offsets the violence we come to expect from films set in contemporary Mexico.