



## BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

### **IRON WINTER** (12A)

Directors: Kasimir Burgess

Australia/Mongolia, 2025, 1 hour 29 minutes, Mongolian+ English subtitles

In *Iron Winter*, the filmmakers follow two young herders through the toughest winter in Mongolian history as they try to keep 1000 horses safe. The two young men must take the epic trek across the Steppes as a right of passage to prove themselves and keep traditions alive.

*"Throughout, the camera remains an intimate yet unobtrusive passenger on this journey, Burgess and his team clearly taking great care not to change the dynamic with their presence. It is a fly on the wall in the ger, as the men cook noodles and share jokes. It's part of the panicked fray as a wolf stalks the herd at night, and it's right in the middle of a total white-out blizzard which claims the lives of several horses. In the moments that he chooses to show, and the overall tone that he takes with his film, Burgess is also careful not to romanticise proceedings. The film is clear that these herders are not simply on some great journey of personal discovery but are trying to make a living, to survive as they have for centuries, in the face of huge political and environmental change."* **Screen Daily**

*"The distinctive tableau style framing was as much to do with pragmatism as aesthetics. "Every frame in those hills was like a painting. It felt right to use wide lenses," he says of the visual style of the storytelling.*

*No, the director hasn't grown up around horses. "But the relationship Mongolians have with horses is something else. They're kind of bound together. A horse is somehow their god."*

*When a horse dies, the sense of devastation can be overwhelming. "It saddens them deeply."* Geoffrey Macnab, **Business Doc Europe**

Notes compiled by Angharad Evans (Community Engagement Coordinator and Marketing Assistant)

Preview courtesy of Repeater Productions

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