

"MEMORABLE"
-Variety

"THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE"
-easternKicks

"JUST PERFECT"
-Asian Movie Pulse

THE SALES GIRL

A FILM BY SENGEDORJ JANCHIVDORJ

MONADA PICTURES PRESENTS A FILM BY SENGEDORJ JANCHIVDORJ "THE SALES GIRL" FEATURING BUDULJAMTS, SHARTEGZUS SHARTEGZEE, AND YIN LING. CASTING BY BAI ANJALIA, SHARITONG. COSTUME DESIGNER BY ANJALIA SHARITONG. HAIR BY ANJALIA SHARITONG. MAKEUP BY ANJALIA SHARITONG. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: BAI ANJALIA SHARITONG, SENGEDORJ JANCHIVDORJ. PRODUCED BY SENGEDORJ JANCHIVDORJ. WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SENGEDORJ JANCHIVDORJ. © FILM MOVEMENT



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Synopsis

When college coed Saruul takes a temporary job as a clerk in a sex shop, her poker-faced indifference makes her the perfect foil for the shop's clientele, who range from slightly sheepish and cautiously curious to downright perverse. But it's the shop's flamboyant, eccentric female owner who initiates Saruul's journey into adulthood – taking her under her wing, teaching her the art of living, and gently guiding her on the path to self-discovery. This joyfully quirky, "candid big-city coming-of-age story" (*Variety*) from Janchivdorj Sengedorj, "one of the best voices of contemporary cinema in Mongolia" (*Asian Movie Pulse*), is fueled by a splendidly original script, utterly unique characters and unexpected encounters.

Country of Origin

Mongolia

Language

Mongolian

Production

Nomadia Pictures

Mongolian Film Industry Association

Runtime

123 mins

Cast

Saruul	Bayartsetseg Bayangerel
Katya	Enkhtuul Oidovjamts
Namuunaa	Bayarmaa Khuselbaatar
Saruul's Mother	Sarantuya Daaganbat
Saruul's Father	Bazarragchaa Byambajav
Tovdorj	Ganbayar Gantogtokh
Anujin	Tselmuun Odgerel

Crew

Director	Sengedorj Janchivdorj
Writer	Sengedorj Janchivdorj
Producers	Sengedorj Janchivdorj Khuslen Byamba
1 st Assistant Director	Nomuunzul Turmunkh
Cinematographer	Otgondavaa Jigjidsuren
Gaffer	Selenge Batsukh
Music	Dulguun Bayasgalan
Production designer	Otgonjargal Danaa
Production manager	Otgontogos Namsrai
Sound Engineer	Batjargal Gankhuyag
Editing/Special effect	Munkhbat Shirnen
Color grading	Bandia Tuukht Ariunbold Tugsjargal
Make-up	Enkh-Orchlon Mendbayar



Director's Statement

I think an artist spends his lifetime searching for their inner person. So, with this movie, I simply tried to put my inner person out there. I tried expressing it with the characters of Katya and Saruul. There is no manual for life and it is impossible to have one, in my opinion. However, you are the writer of your own book, the life.

Katya lives in the past while Saruul lives in the future. Although Saruul is studying for a major pure out of her parents' pressure, she accepts her future and living towards it. Katya lives in her past, which she can't let go of. But, there is no present time for both characters. So, the conflict is their encounter in the present. There is no past because it is gone and there is no future as it has not arrived yet. But we have present time only.

Everybody asks that why I choose sex shop on this movie's plot point. It is very simple. It has been thirty years since Mongolia transitioned into democracy. In that sense, new things and concepts are even newer in Mongolia. Sex shop is not a topic freely discussed back home, so in this movie, it is just baited to lurk an audience.

For example, if a baby is given a choice of candy with a regular wrapper or a flashy one, the kid will likely to go after the flashy one. Just like that, if Katya was an owner of a grocery store, I don't think the audience would have been flattered with the idea.

Also, I think the topic of sex is relatively sensitive, not freely discussed not only in Mongolia, but all over. I am not suggesting to talk about it freely as if an evening broadcast of political news. We all know that face to face, live communication is getting less and less. We are getting behind screen and communicating in the cyber space. We are loosing live communications. Sex is not just about reproduction. It is the essence for live communication, relationship.

I really love the music; thus, I personally really focus on the choice of the music of my films. The main character has no one, no friends, but she had music. She had music and earphone only. She communicated with her music. Music is wonderful art. It expresses everything from sadness, to happiness, to heartbreak. But the scariest thing is that music encourages loneliness. Through my search for a music that expresses the inner world of Saruul, I chose Dulguun, the Magnolian.



Sengedorj Janchivdorj

Filmography

1998	General Director of "Tsagaan Shunu" feature film
1999	General Director of "Divaajingaas amidrald hureh zam" feature film
2001-2003	General Director of "Muruudliin khulug ongots" TV series with 20 eps.
2005-2006	2nd Director of "Burte Chono" Mongolian and Japanese joint feature film
2010	General Director of Adam/Oxygen feature film
2011	General Director of "Bodliin Khulgaich" feature film
2012	General Director of "Narnii ungu" feature film
2012	2nd Director of "19" feature film
2013	General Director of "Larydma" feature film

2014	General Director of "Urgeeleg" feature film
2014	General Director of "Omariin Erelid" feature film
2015	General Director of "Bosuul" feature film
2016	General Director of "Lovers" feature film
2017	General Director of "White Blessing" feature film
2018	General Director of "Life" feature film
2019	General Director of "I am The Sun" feature film for children
2021	General Director of "The Sales Girl" feature film
2022	General Director of "Restart" Anthology feature film

Theatrical Dramas

2000	Director, "Unetei Jaal" by Sergey Mikhalkov Director, "White Nights" by Fyodor Dostouevsky Director, "Cosmetic Surgery" by Jargalsaikhan Sorogdog
2012	Director, "Way to the Heaven" by Jargalsaikhan Sorogdog
2013	Director, "Between Worlds" by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt

Awards

- Youth Leader from Mongolian Youth Union, Mongolia
- Order from Mongolian Government, Leader in the art and culture sector
- Recognition of "Adam/Oxygen" at Nara International Film Festival, Japan, 2010
- Recognition of "Adam/Oxygen" at Sindy International Film Festival, South Korea, 2011
- Local film award of "Goo Maral " by "Bodliin Hulgaich" feature film, Mongolia
- Best Director, "Mungun Mod" award , Mongolia 2016
- Best Film, Academy Awards Mongolia, "Bodliin Hulgaich" 2011
- Best Film, Academy Awards Mongolia, "Urgeeleg", 2014
- Best Director, Academy Awards Mongolia, "Lovers", 2016
- Best Influential Movie for Youth, Imax movie awards, "White Blessing" 2017
- Nominated for 11 International Film Festival, "White Blessing" 2017
- Best Movie, Ulaanbaatar International Film festival, "Life" 2018
- Best actress of Osaka International Film Festival 2022, "The Sales Girl"
- Uncaged Award for Best Feature Film, New York Asian Film Festival 2022, "The Sales Girl"
- Window on Asian Cinema, Busan International Film Festival 2022, "The Sales Girl"
- Official Selection: Adelaide International Film Festival 2022, "The Sales Girl"
- Official Selection: Asian Film Festival Barcelona 2022, "The Sales Girl"
- Official Selection: Asian Pacific Screen Awards 2022, "The Sales Girl"
- Official Selection: World Film Festival Bangkok 2022, "The Sales Girl"
- Golden Cyclo Award for Best Feature Film, Vesoul Film Festival, 2023, "The Sales Girl"
- Official Selection: Udine Far Ears Film Festival, 2023, "The Sales Girl"
- Official Selection: Red Lotus Asian Film Festival Vienna, 2023, "The Sales Girl"
- Official Selection: Minneapolis St.Paul International Film Festival, 2023, "The Sales Girl"
- Official Selection: TARTUFF Tallin Black Night Film Festival, 2023 "The Sales Girl"