

 **BIFF** 31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6-15 October 2026

QYSTA

In Winter



A XAIKU PRODUCTION

STARRING YERLAN NURMUKHAMBETOV ZHANAR SHOKPANOVA WRITTEN BY YERLAN NURMUKHAMBETOV NURSULTAN NUSKABEKOV
DIRECTED BY NURSULTAN NUSKABEKOV YERLAN NURMUKHAMBETOV PRODUCED BY BAUYRZHAN NURKEYEV JULIA KIM SANURZHAN SULEIMEN
WITH THE SUPPORT OF ZHUMAKYZ KALIYEVA ANEL DONENBAY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DOSKHAN UAKHITOV PRODUCTION DESIGN BY MARRAT IMANBERGEN
COSTUME DESIGN BY ZHANNA ABOIKER SOUND BY NIKITA ARTYUKHOV MUSIC BY AIGERIM MAKIBAYEVA

xäiku

 CREATE
AND SALE
PRODUCTION

 SOUND
MYRZA

BUSAN SCREENINGS

Wednesday 7 Oct - 16:00

Busan Cinema Center Cinema 2

WORLD PREMIERE

Korean, English Subtitles

Guest Visit (Q&A)

Friday 9 Oct - 16:00

LOTTE CINEMA Centum City 2

Korean, English Subtitles

Guest Visit (Q&A)

Wednesday 12 Oct - 16:20

CGV Centum City 2

Korean, English Subtitles



Technical Information

Original title	In Winter
Kazakh title	QYSTA
Genre	Family/Child, Comedy/Satire
Duration	85 min
Production	Kazakhstan, XAIKU production
Language	Kazakh
Subtitles available	Korean, English
Shooting format	2K
Exhibition format	2K, DCP
Ratio	16:9 Color
Sound	5.1



Logline

A debt-ridden college teacher with a large family stumbles upon a bag of money hidden by corrupt officials. Faced with the biggest choice of his life, will he seize this chance at financial freedom, or will fear and conscience stop him from crossing a moral line?

Synopsis

Gabit (52), a college physics teacher, has five children. This morning, he wakes up early, as usual. While the city is still asleep, he looks out of his window and sees someone hiding a mysterious bag beneath the snow in the deserted winter landscape.

Overcome with excitement and curiosity, Gabit takes a risk for the first time in his life: he retrieves the bag, full of money, and hides it in the trunk of his old car...



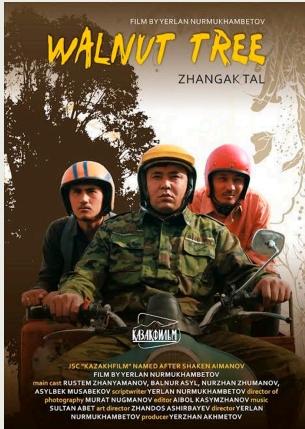
Director's Biography

Yerlan Nurmukhambetov is a Kazakh director and screenwriter, and a senior lecturer at the Kazakh National University of Arts. He graduated from the T. Zhurgenov Kazakh National Academy of Arts with a degree in screenwriting and earned a master's degree in directing. He directed "Zhangak Tal," "Kanysh" and "The Horse Thieves. Roads of Time," which have screened and won awards at international film festivals, including the Busan International Film Festival. He has been teaching since 2008 and has also served on international film festival juries.

Director's Statement on "QYSTA"

This film means a great deal to me because it brought together three generations of my students, and we made it together from beginning to end. My family was also part of the project.

Filmography



“ZHANGAK TAL / THE WALNUT TREE”

- Grand Prix in the New Currents section at the 2015 Busan International Film Festival (South Korea)
- Special Jury Prize and Critics’ Prize at the 22nd Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinema (France)
- Best Asian Film Award at the Fajr International Film Festival (Iran)
- Audience Award at the Innsbruck International Film Festival (Austria)



“THE HORSE THIEVES. ROADS OF TIME”

- Opening Film at the 2019 Busan International Film Festival (South Korea)
- Special Screening at the 2019 Tokyo International Film Festival
- European Premiere at the Göteborg Film Festival
- Best Screenplay and Best Cinematography Awards at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA)



“QANYSH”

- Best Film at “Literature in Cinema” in Buenos Aires, Argentina (2022)
- Best Asian Feature Film and Best Environmental/Nature Feature Film at the Atvikvaruni International Film Festival, India (2023)



“LITTLE SAMURAI”

- Special Award for Contribution to Cinema at the 2nd Bishkek International Film Festival (2024)



Director's Biography

Nursultan Nuskabekov is a Kazakh director and screenwriter who graduated from the Kazakh National University of Arts with a degree in fiction film directing. He has worked in film and television since 2015 as a director, screenwriter and editor. He has directed television series for Qazaqstan, Khabar and Astana TV, as well as documentary and fiction projects. His documentary "Qasapshynyn Bir Kuni" received awards at the Baiqonyr International Film Festival and the Memleket Maqtanyshy competition.

"QYSTA" is his debut feature film.

Director's Statement on "QYSTA"

What interests me about this story is that it begins with a familiar fantasy: you're walking down the street and thinking how wonderful it would be to find a suitcase full of money. You imagine you could finally afford everything you've always dreamed of. In the film, we decided to take that thought further and ask: what happens if you actually find that suitcase? Gradually, we came to realise that the money might come with a burden you are entirely unprepared to carry.

Producers' Statements on the Film:

Bauyrzhan Nurkeyev **General Producer**

This is a fully independent project and our production company's first fiction feature, so we saw the challenges primarily as a learning experience. The greatest challenge was filming in Astana in winter: in February, temperatures dropped to minus forty degrees Celsius, and strong winds sweeping across the steppe made working on location difficult. We shot roughly half the film outdoors.

We founded XAIKU Production with friends with whom we graduated from film school in 2019. We had previously worked on other teams' projects, but we always wanted to make our own feature film. In the company's second year, we decided to take that step. Making this film alongside our mentor, Yerlan Nurmukhambetov, whose films had already screened at the Busan International Film Festival, means a great deal to us. We are happy to be here with him and grateful to the festival's organisers and programmers.

Yuliya Kim **Producer**

Yerlan is one of the kindest people I know. We've known each other since 2012 and have made several films together.

When he shared the idea for *In Winter*, we both wanted to make it as soon as possible. We decided not to wait for financing. Instead, we put together a small amount of money and made the film with a small team. When Yerlan sent me the script, I laughed all the way through it. I could already picture him in the lead role, with his family around him.

Yerlan, all his children, other family members and close friends appeared in the film. They've been part of the films we've made together over the years, but I was still surprised by how natural and funny Yerlan is on screen.

Working with him is a pleasure. He's a true professional, and he brings warmth to everyone around him. He also has a wonderful team. I've known Nursultan since Yerlan's earlier projects. Yerlan stays close to his students; many later work on his films and become his friends.

Everyone came to this film because they loved the idea and wanted to support one another. I think you can feel that closeness on screen. We had very little money, but we had trust, laughter and the freedom to make the film together. I'm very happy with what came out of it.

Crew

Executive Producer	Bauyrzhan Nurkeyev
Producers	Yuliya Kim Sanurzhan Suleimen
With the Support of	Zhumagyz Kaliyeva Anel Donenbay
Creative Producers	Talgat Taishanov Yerlan Nurmukhambetov
Camera and Lighting Equipment	CNS Roman Repchenko Abu-Shakhman Serik
Sound Equipment	Sound Myrza Nikita Artyukhov
Director	Nursultan Nuskabekov Yerlan Nurmukhambetov
Screenwriter	Yerlan Nurmukhambetov Nursultan Nuskabekov with Dilnaz Basarova
Director of Photography	Doskhan Uakhitov
Production Designer	Marat Imanbergen
Costume Designer	Zhanna Abdiker
Composer	Aigerim Makibayeva
Makeup Artists	Kseniya Maksimyk Aruzhan Dosymova
First Assistant Director	Abai Syzdykov

Resources

Film Trailer:

<https://youtu.be/6l95pLAfNeA>

Film Stills:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1h9O62Qy1g6uiYSpuTCF1FxlsVhq3p1w0?usp=sharing>

Poster for Download:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uIM4feUJ3Fuylv_3ixd7sl3u2GkSpa2z?usp=sharing

Backstage (Photos and Videos)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1imCyqsP9LCgPxPqE5elyrw9PXXnaDgTH?usp=sharing>



Contact Information

Yuliya Kim
International Producer

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Bauyrzhan Nurkeyev
Executive Producer

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