

# THE SONG OF THE TREE (2018)

-PAID WITH BLOOD, SUNG WITH LOVE-

## FILM DETAILS

Original Language Title: **ДАПАК ЫПЫ**

Genre: **musical, drama, romance, adventure**

Country: **Kyrgyzstan/Russia**

Year: **2018**

Running Time: **93 minutes**

Language: **in Kirghiz with English subtitles**

Director: **Aibek Daiyrbekov**

Producers: **Tolkun Daiyrbekova (Central Asia Film – Kyrgyzstan), Andrei Epifanov, Tanya Petrik (Cinetrain, Russia)**

Principal Cast: **Temirlan Smanbekov, Omurbek Izrailov, Saltanat Bakaeva**

Cinematographers: **Akzol Bekbolotov**

Editor: **Eldiyar Madakim**

Music: **Zholdoshbek Apasov**

Screenwriter: **Aibek Daiyrbekov, Sadyk Sher-Niyaz**

Website: [www.songoftree.com](http://www.songoftree.com)

## SYNOPSIS SHORT

The film talks about the life and tragedy of a Kyrgyz village, focusing on a simple young guy Esen who falls in love with Begimai, the daughter of a local lord. The dishonest tricks of his rival force Esen to take revenge. His anger results in a tragedy – destruction of a sacred totem tree. Hard trials are coming for everyone. Being expelled from his native village, he takes Begimai with him, but is overtaken and beaten almost to death. Esen is destined to find himself and his fate in order to reunite his people.

## SYNOPSIS LONG

XVIII century. In a small village of nomads, there is a sacred tree, which holds the secrets of generations. Women pray here. The village is full of peace and grace.

The young man from a poor family (Esen) is in love with the daughter of the main bai of the village (Begimai), she reciprocates his love. But her father (Bazarbai) and his surroundings despise the young man and humiliate him at every opportunity.

One day Esen, angry after an unfair loss in the game, steals meat prepared for important guests, and gives it to his dog. There is a scandal in the village, it is impossible to cook another meal, there is no firewood. It is a shame for the owners. In order to cook the meat, they cut down the sacred tree for firewood.

Everything changes overnight, chaos ensues. The cattle is dead. The village is full of strife and death. The sacred tree takes revenge. It bleeds.

Esen and Begimai run away from the village. The main characters will wander, be reborn, meet, make fateful actions and change their lives and the lives of their people.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Aibek Daiyrbekov: THE SONG OF THE TREE is adapted from real stories that my grandmother used to tell me when I was a child. I shot this film with the same love and fascination as that of a boy listening to the stories of his grandma.

THE SONG OF THE TREE is a film about the love between a boy and a girl, a mother and her son and a man and his homeland. It is adapted from real stories that my grandmother used to tell me when I was a child. She is the granddaughter of the protagonists of these events. These stories are mythical and realistic at the same time – same stories happen during Soviet times and nowadays independent Kyrgyzstan. Mankind does not change through the centuries - men have the same feelings of love, hate, envy, pride or self-sacrifice now and few hundred years ago. The film doesn't use a lot of special effects but confides instead in the power of music. Songs are used when words are lacking. I shot this film with the same love and fascination as that of a boy listening to the stories of his grandma.

## DIRECTOR'S BIO & FILMOGRAPHY

AIBEK DAIYRBEKOV

Date of Birth: May 16, 1979

(Director of “The Song of the Tree”)

### BIOGRAPHY

- Graduated from film directors' courses organized by the Cinematography Development Foundation of Kyrgyzstan, 2007-2008
- Graduated from the Kyrgyz National University named after Jusup Balasagun, faculty of journalism, specialization: TV journalist, 1997-2002
- Graduated from the technical vocational school №94, specialization: art-photographer, 1995-1996
- Participated at Berlinale Talent Campus at 58th Berlin International Film Festival, 2008

### FILMOGRAPHY

- Feature film “The Song of the Tree”, (Kyrgyzstan-Russia), scriptwriter and director, 2018
- Short film “Boat”, (Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan), writer and director, 2016  
TV series “Man history” (Kazakhstan), director, 2013
- Short film “Three in the rain”, (Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan), writer and director, 2011
- TV series “Janym” (Kazakhstan), 2010
- Short film “Tree” (Tajikistan), scriptwriter, director, 2008
- Short film “The Shore” (Kyrgyzstan), scriptwriter, director, producer, 2006

## MEDIA ABOUT THE SONG OF THE TREE (2018)

“ An unexpected collision of Eastern and Western storytelling, this fascinating curio is an absolute delight; a film of energetic ambition and charming sincerity .”

- From Little White Lies, a British film website (Please find the links below)

<https://lwlies.com/festivals/tallinn-black-nights-film-festival-best-films-2018/>

“ A Shakespearean play that revolves around several families of a nomadic Kyrgyz village. ”

- From Vcinema, a film website focused on Asian media and culture

<http://www.vcinemashow.com/about-2/>

**Cinema Escapist** US Website English Review  
<https://www.cinemaescapist.com/2018/10/review-song-of-tree-kyrgyzstan-musical-movie/>

**Parole e Colori** Italy Website Italian Review  
<http://paroleacolori.com/the-song-of-the-tree-cera-una-volta-in-un-villaggio-nella-steppa/>

**Vero Cinema** Italy Website Italian Review  
<http://verocinema.com/2018/10/05/busan-2018-song-of-the-tree/>

**Bulles de Culture** France Website French Profile  
<http://bullesdeculture.com/2018/10/news-cinema-trailer-the-song-of-the-tree-aibek-dayyrbekov.html>

**La Colina de Raven** Spain Website Spanish Review  
<https://lacolineraven.wordpress.com/2018/10/06/the-enigma-of-arrival-y-su-drama-juvenil/>

**Mtime** China Website Chinese News  
<http://news.mtime.com/2018/10/07/1584866.html>

**Weibo** Account of Luke Miao, Chief Editor of World Movie Report (Film Magazine on CCTV6) 1  
China Weibo Post ChineseNews  
<https://m.weibo.cn/detail/4292430243188563?display=0&retcode=6102>

**Weibo** Account of Luke Miao, Chief Editor of World Movie Report (Film Magazine on CCTV6) 2  
China Weibo Post ChineseNews  
[https://m.weibo.cn/status/4292431450732461?sourceType=weixin&from=108A095010&wm=9856\\_0004&featurecode=newtitle&display=0&retcode=6102](https://m.weibo.cn/status/4292431450732461?sourceType=weixin&from=108A095010&wm=9856_0004&featurecode=newtitle&display=0&retcode=6102)

**Douban** China Website Chinese Profile  
<https://movie.douban.com/subject/30319547/>

**Dianying Liao Yang Yuan** China Wechat Account ChineseReview  
<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/zrtXKWbtYtrT7UoLgpAN-A>

**Asian Movie Pulses** English Website EnglishReview  
<https://asianmoviepulse.com/2018/10/film-review-the-song-of-the-tree-2018-by-aibek-daiyrbekov/>

**Youth Daily** Chinese Wechat Account ChineseReview  
<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/mobjFmPdzu3RVylYqMnRg>

**Eye For Film UK** Film Website English Review <https://www.eyeforfilm.co.uk/review/the-song-of-the-tree-2018-film-review-by-amber-wilkinson>

**Filmaster** Poland Film Website Polish Profile <http://filmaster.com/film/song-of-the-tree/?f=all>

**Bulles de Culture** France Website EnglishReview  
<http://bullesdeculture.com/2018/11/cinema-review-movie-the-song-of-the-tree.html>

**Bulles de Culture** France Website FrenchReview [http://bullesdeculture.com/2018/11/cinema-avis-critique-film-the-song-of-the-tree-aibek-dayyrbekov.html?ct=t%28cliktale+Bulles\\_de\\_Culture\\_La\\_Newsletter\\_du\\_Samedi%29&mc\\_cid=a126046a20&mc\\_eid=%5BUNIQID%5D](http://bullesdeculture.com/2018/11/cinema-avis-critique-film-the-song-of-the-tree-aibek-dayyrbekov.html?ct=t%28cliktale+Bulles_de_Culture_La_Newsletter_du_Samedi%29&mc_cid=a126046a20&mc_eid=%5BUNIQID%5D)

## FESTIVALS

### **2018**

1. 40<sup>th</sup> **MOSCOW** INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL April 19 - 26, 2018
2. 23<sup>rd</sup> **BUSAN** INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL Oct 4-13, 2018
3. 22<sup>nd</sup> **POFF BLACK NIGHTS** FILM FESTIVAL Nov 16 - 2 Dec, 2018

### **2019**

1. 30<sup>th</sup> **PALM SPRINGS** INTERNATIONAL FILM SOCIETY FILM FESTIVAL Jan 3-14, 2019
2. 17<sup>th</sup> **DHAKA** INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (DIFF) Jan 10 –18, 2019
3. **GLASGOW** FILM FESTIVAL 20 Feb-3 March 2019
4. **KOSMORAMA** TRONDHEIM INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 4-10 Mar 2019
5. 43<sup>rd</sup> **CLEVELAND** INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 27th March – 7th April 2019
6. **GO-EAST** – FESTIVAL DES MITTEL-UND OSTEUEROPÄISCHEN FILMS 10-16 Apr 2019
7. **MIDNIGHT SUN** FILM FESTIVAL 12-16 Jun 2019

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE FILM

The film is based on real events that took place in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan at the end of the 18th century with the ancestors of the director. During the famine in Kazakhstan their family migrated to Kyrgyzstan, but they were not allowed to put a yurt nowhere. They wandered until misfortune happened in one village. To avoid war, the head of the family sacrificed his life in exchange for having his family taken in and giving them shelter. The shooting took place in that exactly area, high in mountains, 4500 meters above sea level, where the tragic events occurred. The residents of local villages were filmed in crowd scenes.

Especially for the film young Kyrgyz composer Zholdozhbek Apasov wrote 17 original songs, 12 of which were included. The music contains elements of a Kyrgyz folk music, but it was written according to the canons of modern film music used in Hollywood. The refrain for the director and composer was the film "Les Miserables" (directed by Tom Hooper)

The film has a unique scene of the fall of a horse, in the creation of which no special effects were used.

Postproduction of sound was made at one of the best European studio complexes "Cinelab sound mix".

It was originally planned to use the singing actors, but eventually all the songs were performed by famous singers from Kyrgyzstan.

More than 200 costumes were sewn for the film by hand. Part of costumes and decorations were taken from Bishkek museums. Also many actors and locals who starred in episodic and crowd scenes provided costumes of their ancestors, which they kept.

## CONTACTS

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