



THE LAND OF THE ENLIGHTENED

by Pieter-Jan De Pue



SYNOPSIS

A gang of Afghan kids from the Kuchi tribe dig out old Soviet mines and sell the explosives to children working in a lapis lazuli mine. When not dreaming of the time when American troops finally withdraw from their land, another gang of children keeps tight control on the caravans smuggling the blue gemstones through the arid mountains of Pamir.

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Pieter-Jan De Pue · PRODUCER Bart van Langendonck · SCREENPLAY Pieter-Jan De Pue, David Dusa · SCORE Denis Clohessy · EDITOR David Dusa, Stijn Deconinck · DOP Pieter-Jan De Pue · SOUND DESIGN Robert Flanagan

Belgien, Netherlands, Germany, Ireland 2016
87 min

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

English, Persian

PREMIERE

Belgien (2016)

COPRODUCTION COMPANY

beetz brothers film production

Berlin

Germany

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Thirty years of Soviet occupation, Mujaheddin civil war and the Taliban regime have plunged Afghanistan back into the middle ages, especially in the arid and barren mountain provinces. Despite 14 years of reconstruction by the international community, the population distrusts foreign aid and the Afghan government remains unstable and corrupt. The Taliban are indirectly financed by Pakistani and American secret services and the opium harvest is breaking records. The gap between rich and poor is widening conspicuously. SUVs drive back and forth on the streets of Kabul and drug-financed villas shoot up like mushrooms. Having returned from Iran and Pakistan, heroin-addicted Afghan refugees live in Kabul underneath bridges or in war ruins. Most of the refugees who returned from border camps have lost all contact with their family. Despite the local populations' increasing frustration vis-a-vis western intervention, a lot of Afghans fear that a new civil war will break out as soon as...