Searching for a Miracle/Russia/2012/24 min/English/Non-fiction/Digital

The mystery of the incorruptible Buddhist Lama Itigilov.



Director: Natalia Kadyrova

Ivolginsky Datsan in Eastern Siberia is one of the major Buddhist temples in Russia. It is also home to Dashi-Dorzho Itigelov Lama, the chief figure of Russian Buddhism before the October Revolution in 1917. After being buried for decades, his body was exhumed, only to find that there were no signs of decay on it. Now he is worshipped as a saint. The monastery is not just the final resting place for the everlasting lama, but also a new home for many ordinary people. The film tells the story of two young men from European Russia who turned to Buddhism in search of their goal in life, searching for a miracle.

Crew:

Author – Andrey Molodykh Director – Natalia Kadyrova Camera – Vyacheslav Titov Producer – Evgenia Nikolaeva

Director's bio

Nothing is more exciting than making a documentary: it combines an amazing mixture of luck, craftsmanship and the ability to see life as it really is. I graduated from Novosibirsk State University's faculty of journalism and majored in documentary filmmaking at the Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography (VGIK).

Before joining RT Doc I worked as a freelance scriptwriter and director for the federal Russian TV channels, making over 60 docs. I believe that a good film not only reflects life, but can influence the future. For example, in 2012 RT Documentary broadcast "Brides By Force", a film about the kidnapping of young women for marriage in Kyrgyzstan. The repercussions in Kyrgyz society were such that the law was reformed – kidnappers are now subject to 10-year prison sentences. Another film "Anatomy Of Love" (2012), changed the life of a child born in prison and had a huge impact on society. Human stories are what motivate me.

My favourite films are "Leave these Kids Alone", "The Congo Dandies", "Antarctica: Ready for Winter", "H2WOE" and "China's Digital Detox".

Note on RT

RTД Documentary channel joined the RT TV family in 2011.

Since then, it has produced and broadcast more than 1000 films — about private struggles and global milestones, the human condition and the expanses of nature, tales from the past and events unfolding before our eyes.

RTД filmmakers have travelled across the world, painting compelling portraits of people and places across the word. Their work has won the world's leading media and industry awards.

RTД films are streamed on rtd.rt.com