

# A JOURNEY OF 1000 MILES STARTS WITH A SINGLE STEP

A FILM BY MARGRIET JANSEN



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## OVERVIEW

TITLE	A Journey of 1000 Miles Atarts With a Single Step
DURATION	Television 53' and cinema 78'
YEAR OF PRODUCTION	2021
WORLD PREMIERE	Autumn 2021
LANGUAGES	English, Mongolian, Dutch
SUBTITLES	English
GENRE	Documentary, sustainability, way-of-life

DIRECTOR   PRODUCER	Margriet Jansen   MJCpro
POST-PRODUCTION	Ton Wolswijk   Metropolisfilm
FESTIVAL HANDLING	Margriet Jansen   MJCpro margriet@mjcpro.nl   +31 6 51807743
SALES AGENT	Margaret Stanneveld   Dutch CORE m.stanneveld@dutch-core.nl   +31 6 51 13 50 80

WEBSITES	<a href="http://www.mjcpro.nl/mongolia">www.mjcpro.nl/mongolia</a> <a href="http://www.dutch-core.com">www.dutch-core.com</a>
IMDB	<a href="https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3226018">https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3226018</a>
ISAN	0000-0005-CB73-0000-F-0000-0000-T

FORMAT	1920 × 1080 (Full HD), color
DCP	2K flat (1998x1080), 2 ch audio, 25 fps
FRAME RATE	25 fps
ASPECT RATIO	1:85 (1998x 1080)
AUDIO	3.1 (L C R sub)
OTHER FORMATS	2K h264 mov / mp4 1.78 (16:9) audio LtRt / stereo, 25 fps





## LOGLINE

**Two entrepreneurs, Dutch and Mongolian, are on a journey to achieve a traceable and sustainable horse leather chain while keeping local cultural values alive. A documentary with the beloved Mongolian horse in the key role.**

## SYNOPSIS

Two entrepreneurs, the Dutch Matthea and the Mongolian Zack, set up a traceable horse leather chain while keeping the local cultural values alive.

The film introduces the audience to the life on the Mongolian steppe, where horses are iconic animals. Overgrazing and climate change have a huge impact on the life of the nomads. By processing hair and hides instead of throwing them away, herders seek to give their beloved animals a second life. 'Sustainable manufactured horse hides and -hair can play a key role in the survival of nomadic herding', Zack and Matthea state. They hope their enterprise can create new opportunities for Mongolian herders.

But it's a huge challenge. Sustainability is not simply a checklist, especially not in the leather sector. This sector is very polluting and uses water and energy resources in huge amounts. At the same time, Matthea and Zack are facing different dilemma's: the ongoing process of up-scaling; technicians who feel uncertain about new sustainable tanning recipes; the long distance between the Netherlands and Mongolia and the difficulties to control the whole production chain.

Share the experience of the two entrepreneurs operating with their partners in the land of the living legends, on the Mongolian steppe.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Many years ago, I got to know Matthea van Staden. As a Dutch anthropologist, she was and still is passionate for Mongolia. With enormous drive she is fighting to keep Mongolia on 'the right path'. In her eyes, a path where the herders keep their nomadic way of living and traditional values, while making economic progress and improving their living conditions. Meanwhile climate change and overgrazing of the steppe create more and more problems.

Knowing that Mongolian nomads traditionally use all the hide and hair of their horses, she can't bear to see wasted hides and hair rotting along the road. For the herders it is also painful to see parts of their beloved horses decaying. Matthea, together with her business partner Zack Dagvadorj, tries to give the whole of the horse an added value. We can only understand the importance of horses for the Mongolian herders by gaining knowledge of their horse culture, it remains an unknown culture for many of us. This film shows us a part of this fascinating cultural aspect of Mongolia.

CEO's of almost all companies are currently talking about sustainability but how sustainable are their companies? It is easy to pay lip service to the issues. Very often the word is not followed by actions, or, if so, the actions get postponed. I want to show with this film, what it means to produce in a sustainable manner and how difficult this path is, especially in the leather sector. Not to discourage people but to stay realistic and inform people about what is going on below the surface.

Local production is one way to help our planet. But although they still have a long way to go, that is exactly what Matthea and Zack are striving for. They are really anxious about Chinese exploitation of raw materials from Mongolia. Armed with idealism and tenacity Zack and Matthea take on the might of China.



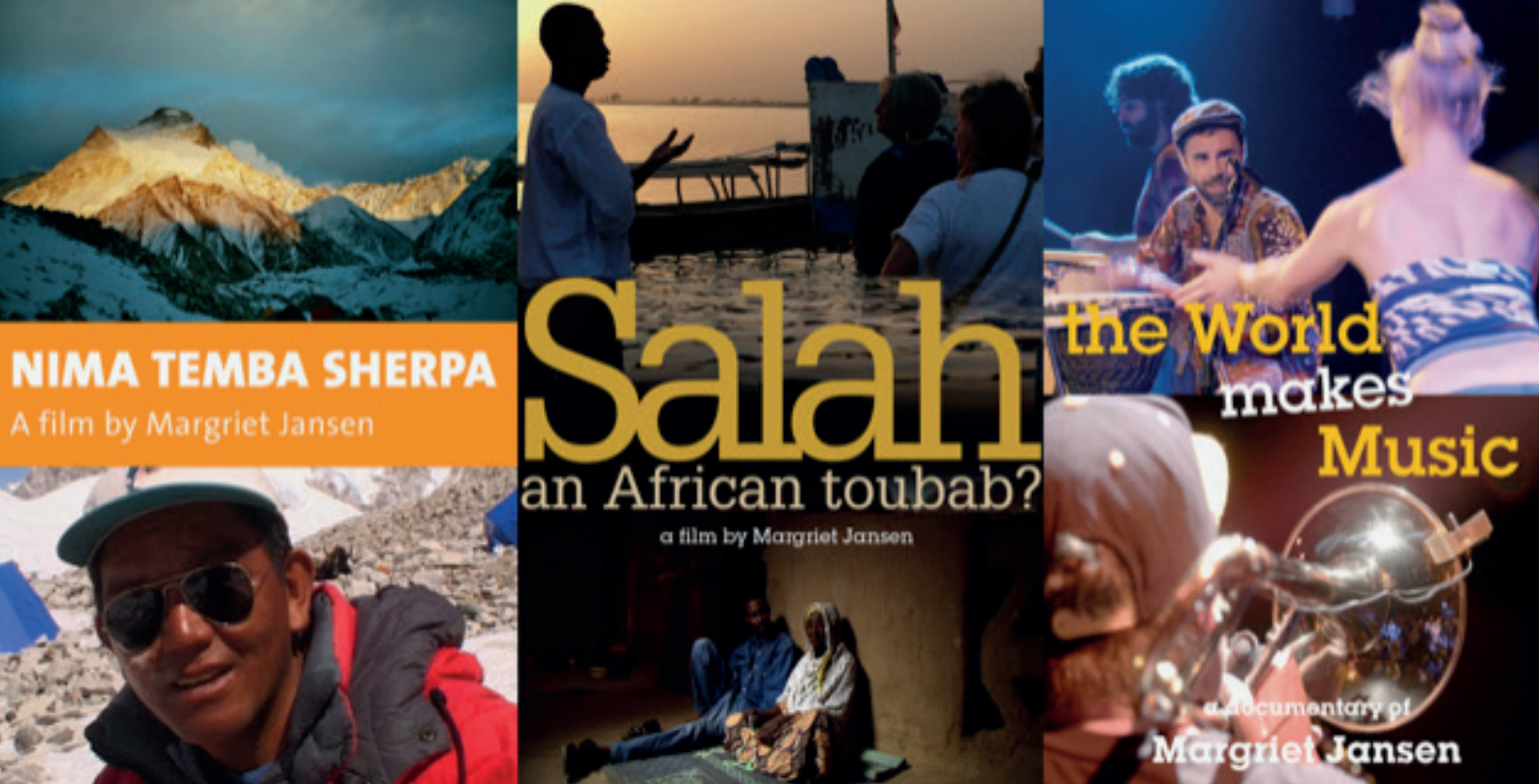


## MEET MATTHEA AND ZACK

Although not her chosen profession, Dutch anthropologist Matthea van Staden is currently a business woman. Being so much involved and enamored with Mongolia she saw only one option to help the country, which was by doing business. With a realistic view she wants to protect 'unspoiled and traditional' Mongolia from destructive industrial influences from outside, such as introducing central located huge slaughterhouses. Without neglecting the economic benefits, she is not only signaling these problems but has become an active participant in the solution. As an entrepreneur, she goes all the way to improve the situation of the 'traditional' herders by doing business together with her Mongolian business partner Zack Dagvadorj.

Zack used to be a police officer but he stopped this career not being satisfied with this work. Being born in a small village in the remote area of West-Mongolia he had one concern about the development he saw. Traditionally, the Mongolian people use horse meat for their household food consumption only. Hair and hide are applied for warm overcoats, ropes and other purposes. However, he saw Chinese merchants buying horse hides and hairs in bulk at very low prices. For years Zack's concern was: "If we, the Mongolians, would be able to process the lovely animal's hides and hairs and make quality products meeting human needs, it would be a big step to symbolizing and bestowing the second lives to the lovely animal". But he had no idea how to deal with it in practice. At that time, he met Matthea, and she introduced him with the concept of sustainability. Since then, they have been working together and made, in the meantime, quite some progress.

The concept of 'sustainability' is nowadays easily misused, but the ambition to really become more sustainable requires a lot of commitment, faith and trust. Matthea van Staden and Zack Dagvadorj have taken up the challenge and started a process with the aim to realise a production chain in Mongolia of sustainable and traceable horse tanning.



## BIOGRAPHY MARGRIET JANSEN

In 1982 Margriet got her degree at the Social Academy De Jelburg in Baarn. After a couple of years social work, she started working at the Audio-Visual Centre (AVS) in Utrecht. She ended an intensive audio-visual course in social work and education, successfully in 1984.

In 1993 she finished her study Film-art at the University of Amsterdam with a specialisation in Visual Anthropology. During her study she followed several courses e.g. Director for One-camera and Writing for Television Documentaries at the Dutch Media Academy.

In 1995 she started working independently combining this with the function of managing director of the Vista – Far Reaching Visuals foundation in Amsterdam. This foundation produces documentaries from an anthropological perspective and develops educational material (video and CD-ROM) for the secondary education in the Netherlands, Belgium, England and Germany. In the year 2000 she started working at Alice O – education in a global perspective, as project manager education. From 2009 till 2013 she worked at the Tropical Theatre as programmer for the youth and educational programs.

## FILMOGRAPHY

### A JOURNEY OF 1000 MILES STARTS WITH A SINGLE STEP (2021)

Two entrepreneurs, Dutch and Mongolian, are on a journey to achieve a traceable and sustainable horse leather chain while keeping local cultural values alive. A documentary with the beloved Mongolian horse in the key role.

### THE WORLD MAKES MUSIC (2016)

Music lovers relive emotions they experienced during their favourite live concerts. They recall how music has touched them and even changed their lives.





SALAH, AN AFRICAN TOUBAB (2008)

A tourist guide in Mali, Africa. He is considered a man with the character and behaviour of a white man in the eyes of his family.

NIMA TEMBA SHERPA (2004) a portrait of a Sherpa guide climbing 8000-meter peaks twice a year leading the westerners to the summit.

BEYOND DEVELOPMENT (2000)

A Ghanaian and a Filipino student during their study at the ITC in the Netherlands and one year later in Ghana and the Philippines.

WELCOME TO KARENNI (1994)

Burmese refugees make a living as best as they can, while maintaining their own culture in the refugee camps in Thailand.

WITCHCRAFT AS RELIGION (1993)

Modern witches in the Netherlands, adherents of their own religion.