



Bratan

A FILM BY
BAKHTYAR KHUDOJNAZAROV

RESTORATION BY
VEIT HELMER



Press Release

Wild Bunch International acquires foreign distribution rights to *Bratan*, Bakhtyar Khudojnazarov's debut film restored by Veit Helmer, to be presented in Venice Classics on Sept 2nd.

Bakhtyar Khudojnazarov made his extraordinary debut, *BRATAN (aka Brothers)* when he was only 25. It already bore the hallmarks of truly great cinema – a poetic mastery of space and landscape, character and story, and luminous black and white cinematography.

Brothers Farukh (17) and Little Fatsy (7) live in a small Tajik town. Raised by their grandmother since their parents separated, they decide to find their father who works as a sanatorium doctor in a distant city. Thus begins an extraordinary train journey across the breadth of Tajikistan, over hills and mountains, through cities and villages, finally reaching the Afghan border.

Bakhtyar Khudojnazarov was born 1965 in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan which at that time was a Soviet Republic. After working as an assistant director, he was accepted to the prestigious film school VGIK in Moscow, where he directed three short films before making his feature film debut, *Bratan* (1991).

In 1994 Khudojnazarov moved permanently to Berlin but continued to make films in Central Asia. Producer Karl Baumgartner (Pandora Filmproduktion) became his close collaborator.

His second film *Kosh ba Kosh* (international title *Odd and Even*) won the Silver Lion in Venice 1993 and his third, *Luna Papa*, was a box-office hit in cinemas around the world. Khudojnazarov created a stunning oeuvre of visually breathtaking films before his tragic death in 2015.

In 2017, Bakhtyar Khudojnazarov's friend and colleague, German filmmaker Veit Helmer started to search for the whereabouts of the early films. At his own expense, and after several years of research and work, Helmer completed the restoration of *Bratan* in 2022.

"My introduction to the cinema of Bakhtyar Khudojnazarov was *Luna Papa*, which came as a real aesthetic shock back then. I went on to discover his other films, and to watch the rise of this director from Tajikistan who would go on to capture the world cinema stage before illness cut short his unique trajectory. It is as a tribute to his extraordinary talent, but also to that of producer and friend Klaus Baumgartner, unequalled in his ability to discover this sort of gifted filmmaker, that we have decided with great pleasure to join forces with Veit Helmer to give a second life to Bakhtyar's oeuvre, to enable it to be rediscovered. *Brothers* is his opening act, and it is our hope that *Kosh ba kosh* and *Luna Papa*, his second and third features, which are currently being restored, will in due course take their place in this rediscovery." Vincent Maraval

"*Bratan* is a real gem. I am very excited to present the restored version of the lost 35mm in Venice. Thanks to Vincent Maraval and the amazing Wild Bunch International team, audiences around the world can now rediscover this extraordinary film." Veit Helmer

BRATAN - CREDITS

Director	Bakhtyar Khudojnazarov
Production	Tajik Film Soyus Telefilm
Running Time	98'
Language	Russian,Tajik
Country	USSR
Year	1991
Main Cast	Timur Tursunov, Firus Sasaliyev, N. Arifova
Screenplay	Bakhtyar Khudojnazarov, Leonid Machkamov
DP	Achmad Bakajev
Editor	Tatiana Maltseva
Production Designer	Nigmat Jouraiev
Costume Designer	A. Allabergenova
Music	Achmad Bakajev
Sound	Rustam Achadov
Restoration	Veit Helmer-Filmproduktion
Laboratory	Cinegrell

About Wild Bunch International

Based in Paris, Wild Bunch International (“WBI”), is a world-renowned independent film sales company that secures distribution for over 30 films per year. Led by veteran film executive Vincent Maraval, WBI pioneered the independent foreign sales model as it exists today, cultivating relationships with the highest caliber of filmmakers and a brand that is recognized for critical and commercial success alike. Characterized by its diverse and innovative slate of films from all over the world, WBI’s strength for the past decade has been investing not only in European local language box office hits such as *The Artist*, but also in English and foreign language films which have won countless awards - *Spirited Away*, *Blue is the Warmest Color*, *The Wrestler*, *Shoplifters*, *Titane* and *Happening* to name a few.

About the restoration

In 2017, Khudonazarov’s friend and colleague, German filmmaker Veit Helmer, started to investigate the whereabouts of the early films. Most had been made with co-producers from Europe and their materials stored in laboratories in France and Germany.

But the whereabouts of the picture and sound negatives of Khudonazarov’s debut-“*Bratan*” proved to be a mystery. There were several 35mm prints, subtitled in various languages, but the distribution companies who owned the rights no longer existed, and all distribution rights had expired. The original negative could not be found in the film archive in Tajikistan, nor in the state film archive in Moscow.

The former sales agent of the film, Christa Saredi, gave Veit Helmer a clue. *Bratan* had been produced by Tajik Film Studio in Dushanbe, on behalf of Soviet Television, as part of EKRAN, a program to support filmmakers in the Soviet republics of Central Asia. But by the time the film was completed, the Soviet Union had collapsed.

Veit Helmer managed to locate the negative at the State television archive in Moscow.

The archive scanned the negative on a resolution of 2.150 x 1582 pixels, 10 bit and delivered DPX-files via upload to Cinegrell in Berlin, who made the restoration.

The most complicated part of the restoration was to determine the color tint.

Colorist Mario Hartz made five more versions over the course of a year, with different intensities of sepia. These were shown to Bakhtyar Khudonazarov’s close collaborators and relatives, before settling on a very subtle sepia tint.

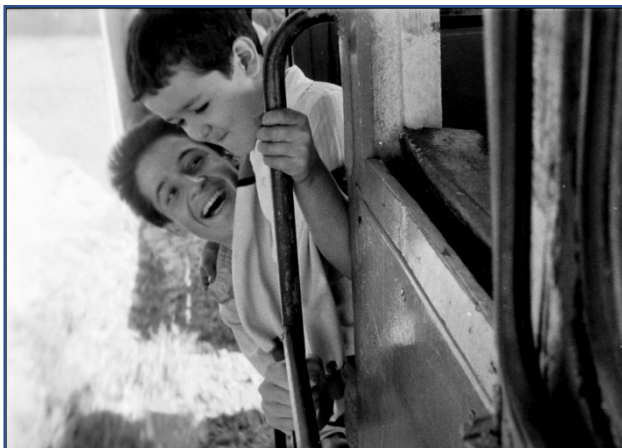
The restoration was completed in July 2022.

International publicity

MANLIN STERNER

Mobile : +46 763 76 9933

manlin@manlin.se



Link for the stills: <https://we.tl/t-ns2hte5Xr6>