

GOLDEN KINGDOM

A FILM BY BRIAN PERKINS



**BANK &
SHOAL**

“What brings you to this road?”



GOLDEN KINGDOM is a narrative feature film about four orphan boys, novice monks living in a Buddhist monastery in a remote part of Northeast Burma. The head monk departs on a long journey from which he may never return, leaving the boys alone in the middle of the forest.

Once the boys are on their own, strange, magical occurrences begin to pass. Orphan WITAZARA realizes he must protect the three other boys throughout this series of bizarre events, which threaten to unravel the fabric of the young monks' reality.

Burma's Buddhist monasteries have long been a refuge for children orphaned by natural disaster, communal violence, and disease. The monks also take in boys whose impoverished parents do not have the means to sustain them with sufficient clothing, food and shelter. These boys become novice monks at the monastery.

The older monks raise and educate these boys, and the local villagers keep the orphans fed with alms. It is this world that the story of GOLDEN KINGDOM inhabits and brings to life on the screen.



After a military coup in 1962, the country of Burma, then Southeast Asia's wealthiest, a glittering jewel of sophistication and treasure, became synonymous with corruption, poverty, repression and violence. Only within the past two years have the first political and economic reforms begun.

Throughout these decades of turmoil, the Buddhist monks have remained a prominent feature in society. The monasteries serve a vital function in a society that has seen over 50 years of continuous civil war and military misrule.

Filmed on location in the Shan State of Burma, **GOLDEN KINGDOM** is the first narrative film shot by foreigners in Burma, also known as Myanmar, since its recent opening to the outside world.

As such, the film not only entertains, but also gives audiences a gripping view onto day-to-day life in a land that is transforming by the moment.



FILM BY BRIAN PERKINS

American filmmaker Brian Perkins has traveled extensively through the remote parts of Asia and India. After creating a network of relationships in the monasteries and villages of Burma -- picking up conversational Burmese along the way -- he was in a unique position to bring *GOLDEN KINGDOM* to audiences, meeting all of the extreme challenges shooting on location in the country provided.

While a graduate student at UC-Berkeley, Brian received the Eisner Prize in Film and Video, and was recipient of numerous acknowledgments during his studies at New York University. He has directed numerous music videos in Los Angeles and New York City, and was involved in Alma Harel's *BOMBAY BEACH* (2011), which premiered at the Berlinale and won the Tribeca Film Festival's top prize that year.

In 2013, Perkins founded Bank & Shoal, an independent feature film production company based in the United States. Bank & Shoal is dedicated to bringing intelligent and impactful projects to audiences in the United States and Europe.

GOLDEN KINGDOM is Brian's debut feature film.



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY – BELLA HALBEN

Bella Halben is a feature film director of photography living in Hamburg, often working with such directors as Oscar-winner Caroline Link and award-winning filmmaker Hans Steinbichler. Some selected feature films as DoP include: BAADER (2001), HIERANKL (2002), WINTERREISE (2005), DAS HERZ IST EIN DUNKLER WALD (2006), IM WINTER EIN JAHR (2007), DAS BLAUE VOM HIMMEL (2011) and EXIT MARRAKESH (2013).

PRODUCER / 1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - MATT O'CONNOR

Matt O'Connor's credits range from Kelly Reichardt's award-winning MEEK'S CUTOFF (2010), to David Sedaris' C.O.G. (2013) as 1st Assistant Director, as well as producer on many projects.

SOUND DESIGN AND EDITORIAL - DAVID C. HUGHES

Veteran sound designer David C. Hughes has worked on dozens of projects, and is a longtime collaborator of David Fincher. Some credits include: HER (2014), THE SOCIAL NETWORK (2011), MINORITY REPORT (2002), and FIGHT CLUB (1999). David's work has gained numerous Academy Award nominations and MPSE Golden Reel Sound Effects wins along the way.

EDITOR – SEBASTIAN BONDE

German editor Sebastian Bonde has cut numerous films, including collaborating with director Christian Alvert on PANDORUM (2008), two episodes of the famous German crime series TATORT, and the forthcoming BANKLADY (2014). Sebastian also has served as editing mentor for Tom Tykwer's training initiative in Nairobi, Kenya, One Fine Day Films.

PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER - ALEX ALTMAN

Washington native Alex Altman has been as a production sound mixer for nearly a decade. He has worked with acclaimed director Harmony Korine on his last two films, SPRING BREAKERS (2013) and TRASH HUMPER (2009), and has also toured around the world for projects as varied as National Geographic and Taylor Swift's tour documentary.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER/VFX SUPERVISOR - MILES LAURIDSEN

Currently residing in Vancouver, BC, Miles works as a Senior Compositor for such companies as Image Engine and MPC. With credits ranging from TRON: LEGACY to IRON MAN 2, Miles helps create the magical world that the young boys inhabit in GOLDEN KINGDOM.





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