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ROMANCE BLOOMS ON THE STUNNING KAZAKH STEPPE: ZEITGEIST BOWS CANNES-WINNER "TULPAN" ON DVD

New York (July 22, 2009) — **Winner of the Prix Un Certain Regard at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival**, **TULPAN** is a charming, deadpan love story set against the epic and primal landscape of Kazakhstan's Hunger Steppe. One of the most awarded foreign films of last year, **TULPAN** also garnered prizes at the Tokyo International Film Festival, the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, the Times BFI London Film Festival, The Reykjavik International Film Festival, and the Zurich Film Festival, among many others. A sleeper hit during its national theatrical run in 80 markets, **TULPAN will be released on DVD on September 22, 2009.**

The first narrative feature from acclaimed Kazakh documentarian Sergey Dvortsevov (*Paradise, Highway*) is a gorgeous mélange of tender comedy, ethnographic drama and wildlife extravaganza. Following his Russian naval service, young dreamer Asa returns to his sister's nomadic brood on the desolate Betpak Dala (Hunger Steppe) to begin a hardscrabble career as a shepherd. But in order to tend a flock of his own, Asa must win the hand of the only eligible bachelorette for miles—his alluringly mysterious neighbor Tulpan. Accompanied by his girly mag-toting sidekick Boni (and a menagerie of adorable lambs, stampeding camels, mewling kittens and mischievous children), Asa will stop at nothing to prove he is a worthy husband and herder.

Dvortsevov melds his closely observational documentary style with an absorbing narrative, producing a film at once masterfully composed and effortlessly natural. With stunning cinematography and the spirit of crowd-pleasing travelogues as *The Story of the Weeping Camel*, **TULPAN's** gentle humor and extraordinary landscapes transport audiences to this singular, harshly beautiful region and its rapidly vanishing way of life.

Zeitgeist's DVD release of **TULPAN** features an anamorphic transfer created from Hi-Def elements and enhanced for widescreen televisions. Supplemental materials include the theatrical trailer; optional English subtitles; and **an extensive interview with director Sergey Dvortsevov, from *Cinema Scope* magazine.**

TULPAN Film/DVD info: 2008 • 100 minutes • Kazakhstan • Color • In Kazakh with optional English subtitles • 1.85:1 original theatrical aspect ratio • Stereo • Not Rated

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary as one of America's preeminent independent distributors, New York-based Zeitgeist Films has built an impressively diverse catalogue of foreign, documentary and arthouse titles by such renowned directors as Todd Haynes, Jan Svankmajer, Peter Greenaway, Abbas Kiarostami, Guy Maddin, Kirby Dick, Atom Egoyan, Agnès Varda, François Ozon, Derek Jarman, Yvonne Rainer, Olivier Assayas, Philippe Garrel and the Quay Brothers. Recent releases include Oscar winner **Nowhere in Africa**; blockbuster doc **The Corporation**; dance doc hit **Ballets Russes**; Oscar nominee **Sophie Scholl—The Final Days**; Oscar nominee **My Country, My Country**; Sundance winner **Into Great Silence**; and 2008 Oscar nominee **Trouble the Water**. Launched in 2001, Zeitgeist Video has released dozens of highly praised DVDs, including the recently-released remastered Two-Disc Edition of Quay Brothers shorts, entitled **PHANTOM MUSEUMS**; a Four-Disc Box Set of Derek Jarman masterworks entitled **GLITTERBOX**, starring Oscar winner Tilda Swinton (*Michael Clayton*); an Essential Edition of Olivier Assayas' cult fave **Irma Vep** starring Maggie Cheung; and a brand-new "Repressed and Remastered" Edition of Guy Maddin's 1992 mountain film classic **Careful**.



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CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR *TULPAN*

"Might be described as an epic landscape film, a sweetly comic coming-of-age story or a lyrical work of social realism." —A.O. Scott, ***The New York Times* (Critic's Pick!)**

"[Grade] A! There's no room for mush in filmmaker Sergey Dvortsevov's triumphant, intimate drama, not when the necessities of daily life are so elemental, and so tenderly observed."

—Lisa Schwarzbaum, ***Entertainment Weekly***

"This joyous, one-of-a-kind movie is a must for anyone who doubts that the cinema has surprises still left in store." —Scott Foundas, ***L.A. Weekly***

"Dvortsevov could be the most artistically driven documentary filmmaker since Werner Herzog... In every respect, this unclassifiable movie is an amazing accomplishment." —J. Hoberman, ***The Village Voice***

"★★★★! *Tulpan* is an amazing film.... I swear to you that if you live in a place where this film is playing, it is the best film in town.... There has to come a time in everyone's life when they see a deadpan comedy about the yurt dwellers of Kazakhstan." —Roger Ebert, ***Chicago Sun-Times***

"*Tulpan* has just about everything anyone could want in a movie... In a film packed with emotion, there is not a trace of sentimentality, perhaps because Dvortsevov is a superb dialectician with a sense of humor that is both absurdist and tender." —Amy Taubin, ***Artforum***

"With a deadpan charm all its own, *Tulpan* ends up dealing with some fairly serious questions on the order of how you make peace with a dream." —Kenneth Turan, ***The Los Angeles Times***

"★★★★1/2! Remarkable.... Jola Dyleska's stark, color-saturated hand-held camerawork captures both the alien majesty of the steppes and the warmth and resourcefulness of its inhabitants." —Ty Burr, ***Boston Globe***

"Gorgeous and subtle.... An extraordinarily photographed handheld docudrama about a way of life that is none too slowly vanishing." —Andrew O'Hehir, ***Salon***

"Rare is the film that captures a landscape and way of life with such veracity, intensity, and poetic empathy. If you can imagine a Kazakh-desert version of the Antarctic substation in John Carpenter's *The Thing*, you'd be in the right ballpark." —Chris Chang, ***Film Comment***

"A one-of-a-kind film.... It is quite extraordinary, as well as resistant to nearly any peg you try to hang it on. Gently comic, ultimately stirring... the world Dvortsevov chronicles pays loving attention to the lives of both humans and animals.... Who needs special effects when life itself is the most extraordinary special effect imaginable?" —Michael Phillips, ***Chicago Tribune***

"Director Sergey Dvortsevov has an astounding ability to choreograph miracles with camels, toddlers, pregnant sheep and nonprofessional actors. The long, unedited scenes unreel like improv comedy alongside awkward episodes of courtship that could come from a Central Asian *Seinfeld*." —Colin Covert, ***Minneapolis Star Tribune***

"Remarkable look at life among Kazakh shepherds mixes bizarre humor, quirky characters, and stunningly shot naturalism into a strange hybrid of narrative and documentary, full of transcendently beautiful moments." —Miranda Siegel, ***New York Magazine* (Critic's Pick!)**