From the Steppes to the City: A Celebration of Music from Inner Mongolia

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Although Mongolians are a race of musicians, the kind of pseudo-folk music prohibited in nationally run theaters and auditoriums in Inner Mongolia is far from the long-song and horse-head fiddle music of the grasslands. AnDa Union is bound by a mission to promote the essence of this music. As Nars says, “Most of the band members have been playing together since childhood. As adults, we studied professional instruments together. We are like a family. Ten years ago, AnDa Union was forged, and we haven’t looked back.”

The group members describe themselves as a cross-cultural band with a unique style. The singer and tour manager Jo-Ann Nars, who runs a very successful Mongolian bar in Hohhot with her mother, a dancer from the Inner Mongolia National Song and Dance Troupe, lives in Hohhot with his wife, a children’s TV presenter for Mongol TV, and their baby girl.

Sophie Lascelles (Producer/Director) grew up traveling the world with Footsbarn Travelling Theatre. Inspired by the many cultures and influences she encountered, her work encompasses many aspects of the visual and performing arts world. She collaborates with directors and theater companies, performing internationally in venues such as London’s Globe Theatre and the Edinburgh and Avignon festivals. Lascelles’ work as a visual artist focuses on 16mm film projection and site-specific installation. She is represented by Danielle Arnaud contemporary art space and has exhibited extensively across the UK, with commissions from Harewood House, Tatton Biennial, and the Tate Gallery. In 2008 she met AnDa Union and fell in love with their music and cultural style. She went on to produce and co-direct the AnDa Union feature film.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Special thanks to David Fraher, Kat Duvcic, Sanj Altan, Tim Wilson, Ken Carlson, Ashley Narimatsu, our friends and family in Inner Mongolia.
In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted inside the theater.

**AnDa Union**

*From the Steppes to the City: A Celebration of Music from Inner Mongolia*

AnDa Union

**Nars, morin huur, tabshur, hoomei**

Biligbaatar, urtyn dua

Chingeel, moonduur

Hadaniibaa, Mongolian drum

Monkhjavaa, morin huur, hoomei

Otgobayar, morin huur, tabshur, hoomei

Saikhanhakhaa, morin huur, tabshur, vocals, hoomei

Tsetsegmaa, urtyn dua

Urn, morin huur, tabshur, hoomei

Urjen, morin huur, hoomei

All music arrangements by AnDa Union except “Heemoor,” composed by Ilata, and “Galloping Horses,” composed by Chi Bulag

Management: Tim Pearce and Sophie Lascelles

Education Assistant: Pascal Pearce

Translator: Tiansang (Jane) Zhang


Film (showing in lobby): AnDa Union: From the Steppes to the City

Directed by Tim Pearce, Sophie Lascelles, and Marc Tiley

Produced by Eye 4 Films Ltd.: Tim Pearce and Sophie Lascelles

Executive Producer: Suzanne Alizart

Edited by Richard Graham

Cinematography by Ula Pontikos

Film courtesy of Eye 4 Films Ltd.

The 2011/12 national tour of the AnDa Union is part of a major, multiyear cultural exchange with Minneapolis-based Arts Midwest, the Chinese Ministry of Culture, and the US Major University Presenters consortium. Support for the tour has been provided by the Ministry of Culture, People’s Republic of China.

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

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