

DEPARTEMENT CULTUUR, JEUGD & MEDIA

ULTIMAS 2016

Flemish Culture Prizes

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ULTIMA 2016 FILM PIETER-JAN DE PUE

Pieter-Jan De Pue (born in 1982) is an independent film-maker from Ghent. He graduated from the RITS school for audiovisual and performing arts in Brussels in 2006. The following year he started shooting his debut project, the docu-fiction 'The Land of the Enlightened'. In order to do this, he travelled around Afghanistan for an extended period while photographing the country and its people for organisations such as the International Red Cross, Caritas International, the United Nations and international demining organisations.

Short summary: *In the vast mountain region of the northern Afghanistan, the gang of Gholam Nasir raid caravans and trade scavenged Soviet landmines, raw lapis lazuli and black opium for food and fuel. Possessing an unfaltering talent for improvisation and an inexhaustible eagerness to learn, they navigate a harsh reality as Western forces begin to pull out of the country, all the while dreaming of themselves as warriors and kings in a future Afghanistan.*

'The Land of the Enlightened' premiered in 2016 at the Sundance Film Festival, the biggest American festival for independent film. De Pue is currently working on his second full-length film, 'Two Poachers', about two brothers leaving their hunters' life and going off to a far away war.

'[The Land of the Enlightened](#)' has already been shown in Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK, Ireland, Poland, Germany, Norway, Australia and on Netflix. The film was selected for a whole series of festivals worldwide and won many great awards including:

- Nominated for Best Documentary at the European Film Awards 2016 (Warsaw, Poland)
- Special Jury Award for Best Cinematography at Sundance Film Festival 2016 (USA)
- Special Jury Award at Documenta Madrid 2016 (Spain)
- Audience Award and Professional Achievement Award at Tarkovsky Film Festival 'Zerkalo' 2016 (Russia)
- Artistic Vision Award at DocAviv Film Festival 2016 (Israel)
- Audience Award at Anonimul Film Festival 2016 (Romania)
- Phoenix Award at Cologne Film Festival 2016 (Germany)
- Audience Award at Olympia Film Festival 2016 (Greece)
- Audience Award at Costa Rica International Film Festival 2016 (Costa Rica)

De Pue has also made a short film that was aired on the Belgian TV channel Canvas last year, 'Girls and Honey', a short documentary about an elderly couple who continue to live on the front-line in eastern Ukraine.

<https://www.canvas.be/video/girls-and-honey>

<http://www.pieterjandepue.be>