

## Document Citation

Title	<b>The adventures of Aligermåa</b>
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Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	2000 Oct 23
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Aligermåas aventyr - i vildhastarnas dal (The adventures of Aligermåa), Lasmanis, Andra, 1998

# THE ADVENTURES OF ALIGERMAA

(ALIGERMAAS AVENTYR)

(DENMARK — DOCU)

*Varuh*  
10/23-24/00

A Manden Med Cafaen/Migma Films production. Produced by Palle Vedel, Anna Eriksson.

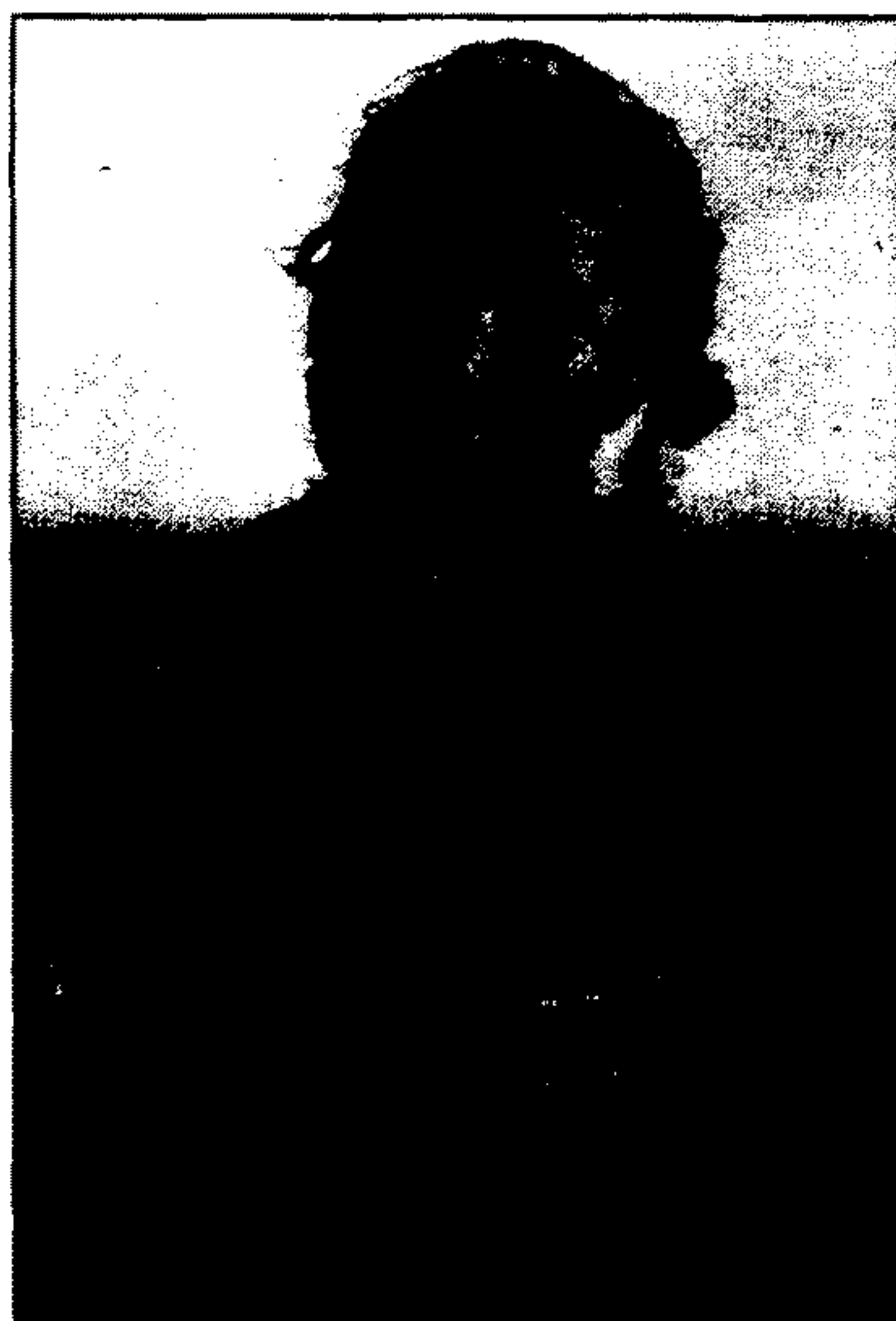
Directed by Andra Lasmanis. Screenplay, Staffan Julen. Camera (color), Lasmanis; editor, Niels Pagh Andersen; music, Peter Adolfsson; sound, Iben Haahr Andersen. Reviewed at Mill Valley Film Festival, Oct. 13, 2000. Running time: 67 MIN.

Voice (narrator): Lena Klingvall

By DENNIS HARVEY

**A**contempo "National Velvet" with a decidedly exotic twist, Danish-made docudrama "The Adventures of Aligermmaa" will fascinate viewers of all ages with its look at one little girl's summer vacation — on the vast rural steppes of her native Mongolia, that is. Leisurely and straightforward, short feature is a nice throwback to days when deftly packaged educational value sans "roller-coaster" pacing could sustain young attention spans; pic will make a fine family-fare item for global TV, with lack of subtitle-necessitating dialogue a major sales plus.

Nine-year-old Aligermmaa spends the academic year at a boarding school, but looks forward to breaks when she can travel back to her family's remote hut. Already well accustomed to tending livestock, she's chosen to spend most of her stay studying with a locally famed trainer, prepping for a prestigious regional horse race for juveniles. Though pic sports little scripted "plot," small fry at Mill Valley screening were clearly enrapt by real-life protagonist's skill, determination and growing confidence as a rider.



**EQUESTRIAN EXCELLENCE:** "The Adventures of Aligermmaa" centers on a 9-year-old Mongolian girl preparing for a horse race.

Reflecting Eastern values without preachiness, emphasis here isn't on winning, but on rising to challenges both physical and philosophical — "You must tame yourself" as much as your steed, Aligermmaa learns.

Beauty of the domesticized wild horses, sweeping landscapes and colorful local garb is well captured by astute lensing; other tech aspects are modest but solid. Simple voiceover narration from Aligermmaa's p.o.v. (though spoken in Danish) can easily be redubbed for foreign markets.