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## Mountain Cat

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### Abstract

This is a review of the short film, *Mountain Cat* (2020), directed by Lkhagvadulam Purev-Ochir.

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### Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film and is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He is also the editor of the *Continuum Companion to Religion and Film* (2009).



**Mountain Cat, dir. Lkhagvadulam Purev-Ochir**

A young woman is taken to the Shaman who has the power to protect her. The Shaman tells the young woman that she is like a wild cat prowling around, but that he will offer her his protection. Eventually the young woman uncovers the identity of the Shaman and turns the tables. Now who has the power? This short film reminds me of *The Wizard of Oz*, where Dorothy pulls back the curtain to discover that the Wizard is a fake.

There are two clear messages in this film. First, we ought to be wary of any Shaman wearing a mask. This is true not only for someone dealing with a religious Shaman, but for any situation in which we are considering following someone wearing a mask. Second, we ourselves are often more powerful than we think we are, and we should consider taking control of our own lives and decisions, rather than turning our own powers over to someone else.