

Beirut Art Film Festival – BAFF, in collaboration with AUB – Archaeological Museum,
presents

SAVING MES AYNAK.

Conflict between cultural preservation and economic opportunity.

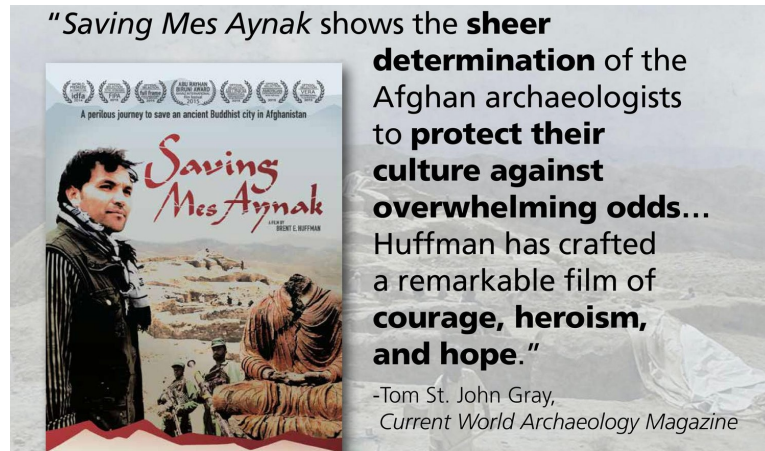
Multi awarded documentary film, directed by **Brent Huffman** in 2016, 60 minutes, English.



Copyright Brent E. Huffman, Seated Buddha

Saving Mes Aynak follows Afghan archaeologist Qadir Temori, as he races against time to save a 5,000-year-old archaeological site in Afghanistan from imminent demolition. A Chinese state-owned mining company is closing in on the ancient site, eager to harvest \$100 billion dollars' worth of copper buried directly beneath the archaeological ruins. Only 10% of Mes Aynak has been excavated, though, and some believe future discoveries at the site have the potential to redefine the history of Afghanistan and the history of Buddhism itself.

The film examines the conflict between cultural preservation and economic opportunity through the lens of the Afghan archaeologists and local villagers who work and live near Mes Aynak. Qadir Temori and his fellow Afghan archaeologists face what seems an impossible battle against the Chinese, the Taliban and local politics to save their cultural heritage from likely erasure. Teaser : <https://youtu.be/yL2wjoydYKc?si=meCxxwIDkAtwLqZv4>



Brent E. Huffman is an award-winning director, producer, writer, and cinematographer of documentaries and television programs. His work ranges from documentaries aired on Netflix, VICE, The Discovery Channel, The National Geographic Channel, NBC, CNN, PBS, MTV, and Al Jazeera, to Sundance Film Festival premieres, to ethnographic films made for the China Exploration and Research Society.

He has also directed, produced, shot, and edited documentaries for online outlets like The New York Times, TIME, VICE NEWS, Salon, The Atlantic, Huffington Post, and PBS Arts.

Huffman has been making social issue documentaries and environmental films for over two decades in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. These films have gone on to win numerous awards including a Primetime Emmy, Chinese Academy Award, Silver Plaque from the Chicago International Film Festival, IAFOR Documentary Film Award, MacArthur Foundation Grant, Best Film at CinemAmbiente International Environmental Film Festival, Grand Prize and Audience Award at Arkhaios Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Festival, Best Conservation Film-Jackson Hole, ten Cine Golden Eagle Awards, and a Grand Jury Award at the American Film Institute's SILVERDOCS. Huffman was also an editor of Julia Reichert's and Steven Bognar's Primetime Emmy winning PBS documentary series "A Lion in the House" now on Netflix.

Among Huffman's documentaries films: Saving Mes Aynak, Finding Yingying, and Strands of Resistance.