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NEWSBEAT SIBERIA

PULSE OF PEACE PICTURES
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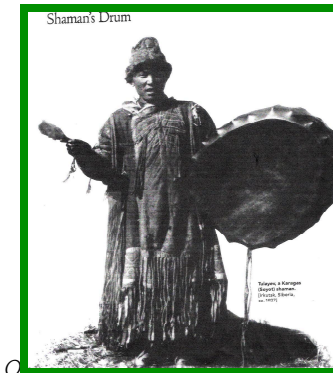
BARBARA BORDEN REPORTS... WHY SIBERIA

“WHY SIBERIA? WHAT WAS IT THAT BROUGHT YOU TO THIS FARAWAY LAND?” I’VE BEEN ASKED THIS QUESTION MANY TIMES. I WILL ATTEMPT AN ANSWER AS I DESCRIBE MY JOURNEY TO KHAKASSIA TO PLAY MUSIC AND SPEND 10-DAYS WITH A SIBERIAN SHAMAN ACCOMPANIED BY DAVID L. BROWN, FILMMAKER OF KEEPER OF THE BEAT.

THE PHOTO (TOP RIGHT) OF A SHAMAN AND HIS DRUM IS WHAT FIRST CAUGHT MY ATTENTION AND BEGAN TO PULL ME TO SIBERIA TWENTY YEARS AGO.

SYNCHRONISTICALLY, A MUSICIAN FRIEND, LUCIA COMNES, SHOWED ME A DRUM THAT SHE HAD BROUGHT BACK FROM HER TRAVELS TO KHAKASSIA TWO YEARS EARLIER. WHEN I REALIZED SHE HAD THE EXACT SAME DRUM AS THE SHAMAN IN THE PHOTO, I SAID, “I MUST GO TO THIS PLACE!”

SHE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR US TO PERFORM AT A FESTIVAL IN ABAKAN, , TO MEET THE SIBERIAN SHAMAN DRUM MAKER , SERGEY CHARKOV, AND THEN TO SPEND TIME



WITH SIBERIAN SHAMAN TATIANA KOBZHIKOVA. WHEN I MET TATIANA, SHE FELT LIKE A SISTERS.

AS I EXPLORED THIS BEAUTIFUL AND SPACIOUS LAND, I FOUND PARTS OF MYSELF I DIDN’T EVEN KNOW WERE MISSING. I HAD NO IDEA I WOULD FEEL SO AT HOME IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD. I FELT EMBRACED BY THE LAND, WELCOMED BY THE PEOPLE AND NOURISHED BY THE FOOD, BEAUTY AND CUSTOMS OF KHAKASSIA - A SMALL RUSSIAN REPUBLIC CLOSE TO MONGOLIA AND TUVA IN SOUTH CENTRAL SIBERIA.

EVEN THOUGH MY PARENTS WERE BORN IN THE UKRAINE AND EVEN THOUGH I DO NOT SPEAK OR UNDERSTAND RUSSIAN, I FEEL TOTALLY CONNECTED TO ALL THAT I EXPERIENCED AND HOPE TO RETURN.

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TO SEE THE 30-
MINUTE SAMPLE
DOCUMENTARY
