

# The Daily Transcript<sup>®</sup>

San Diego's Business Daily

---

NEWS | SAN DIEGO | ARTS

## Photos reveal real story of now-famous Kazakhstan

By **BRIE IATAROLA**, The Daily Transcript  
Thursday, February 15, 2007

---

Thanks to "Borat," the glorious nation of Kazakhstan emerged from a bundle of obscure central Asian countries to a popular one that many moviegoers could pronounce, maybe even identify on a map.

Too bad the Foreign Ministry threatened to sue star Sacha Baron Cohen for his "derogatory" depiction of the state after his social experiment hit theaters. Allow intrepid photographer Wayne Eastep to do some artistic damage control. Eastep will be on hand 4 p.m. Sunday at the Mingei International Museum in Balboa Park to discuss the "Soul of Kazakhstan" -- the land where women warrior chiefs ruled, the first apples blossomed, horses were domesticated and the Silk Road began -- as he unveils his collection of photographs in conjunction with "Of Gold and Grass -- Nomads of Kazakhstan."

Although Eastep's honest perceptions of the culture, history and people probably won't generate as much horrific laughter as Borat's did, at least the Foreign Ministry won't get mad.

Best Friends Forever? Not when two teenage buddies -- who shared cigarettes under the stars at music camp and fantasized of starting a band together (ignore the fact that they lived in different states) -- venture down their own paths to artistic greatness, in Itamar Moses' refreshing and funny play "The Four of Us."

As novelist Benjamin (played by Gideon Banner) and playwright David (Sean Dugan) reveal their lofty aspirations while experiencing a summer in Prague, they make a deal: to buy lunch for the one who hits it big first. When Benjamin finally pens a piece worth \$2 million and a big-name star secures the movie rights, the quietly competitive vibe that once lurked under admiration surfaces, tainting a friendship that seemed destined to withstand almost anything.

"The Four of Us" is not so much an exploration of jealousy and how success can poison a friendship, but rather a realization that people to whom we feel closest can change when they step outside their comfort zones in pursuit of bigger dreams. The show, directed by Pam MacKinnon and recommended for mature audiences, is currently playing in the Old Globe's Cassius Carter Centre Stage until March 11. Call (619) 234-5623 or visit [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org) for play times and ticket information.

---

Copyright | Privacy Policy | Acceptable Use Policy

---

All contents herein copyright *San Diego Source* © 1994-2018