

Genghis Blues (2000)

12:45—1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14 at Oakland 0318

Thursday, February 16 at **Somerset 0101**

Paul Pena (1950-2005), born nearly blind, played blues guitar with the greats: T-Bone Walker, B. B. King, Bonnie Raitt, Muddy Waters, and Jerry Garcia to name a few. In 1984, Pena discovered Tuvan “throat-singing” on a shortwave program of Radio Moscow. Tuva is a small, isolated country located between Siberia and Mongolia.

Pena had to know more about this musical sound that thrilled him like no other ever had. He could find no one in this country who could tell him about throat-singing so he taught himself. It took eleven years, but he mastered the art.

In 1995, the then totally blind blues musician became the first American to compete in a multi-harmonic throat-singing contest. In multi-harmonic singing, the artist sings two notes at the same time. (Try it!) Many find they cannot forget the sound.

This film is about exploration and friendship. It is the story of a man who powered his difficult life with curiosity and love of music. Pena's story inspires us to take a fresh look at the world, its people, and the music we find there.

