HUNTERS AND GATHERERS
The 2013 Yangon Film School Art of Documentary Editing Course

Since its inception in 2005, the non-profit organisation Yangon Film School has brought together experienced filmmakers from around the world and young Burmese men and women with little or no prior media experience for residential trainings in all aspects of filmmaking – with a particular emphasis on documentary.

In 2013, under the aegis of the Goethe Institute Myanmar, the school launched a Documentary Competition to encourage second year students to identify and film topics of their own choosing. After spending the first half of the year hunting for engaging footage in locations all over Myanmar, from Kachin in the north, Chin in the northwest to southern Mon, nine directors joined seven fellow student editors and three international editing tutors at a quiet resort near the ‘Golden Rock’ for a six-week editing workshop. While the monsoon rains poured down, the students set about gathering up the choicest parts of their raw material and weaving them into nine intriguing films.

This DVD contains all nine competition entries and a short film About the 2013 Art of Documentary Editing Course from which they emerged.

In 2013 the Yangon Film School’s partners were:

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Email: yfs:yfs@googlemail.com
Website: yangonfilmschool.org

2013 | 16:9 Anamorphic | English Subtitles | DVD PAL | 230 mins
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A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
Duration: 42’29"
Director: Soe Moe Aung, Camera: Khin Maung Kyaw, Sound Recordist: Sai Kong Kham
Editor: Myo Min Khin, Editing Mentors: Melanie Sandford & Jessica Ehlerbracht

Artist, philosopher, teacher, one-man-band and loving husband and father, the versatile and irrepressible Han Shwe is something of a Burmese ‘Renaissance man’. This uplifting documentary follows him as he works tirelessly to scrape together a living for his wife and children and incredibly still finds time to promote democracy in his rural locality in transitional Myanmar.

Winner of the 2013 Goethe-Institut Myanmar Diamond Documentary Award

CHOICES
Duration: 21’36"
Director: May Htoo Cho, Camera: Kyaw Ko Ko, Sound Recordist: Sai Kong Kham
Editor: Zaw Win Htwe, Editing Mentor: Melanie Sandford

Onetime puppeteer Aye Aye Thwe remembers how she escaped enslavement in Malaysia and returned to her native Yangon as a struggling single mother.

LADY OF THE LAKE
Duration: 21’29"
Director & Editor: Naing Oo, Camera: Khin Maung Kyaw, Sound Recordist: Sai Kong Kham
Editing Mentor: Melanie Sandford

‘A beautifully filmed, rare, quasi-ethnographic glimpse of some of Myanmar’s powerful supernatural beliefs and their meaning for the people who practice them in this stunning lakeland region not far from Yangon’

Winner of the 2013 Goethe-Institut Myanmar Jade Documentary Award

LAST KISS
Duration: 21’56"
Director & Camera: Seng Mai Kinaw, Camera & Sound Recordist: Sai Kong Kham
Editor: Zin Mar Oo, Nu Nu Hlaing, Editing Mentor: Tuula Mehtonen

Images of the fighting between Myanmar’s military and the Kachin Independence Army – and the refugee camps in Laiza engendered by the civil war - are interwoven with poems written by Jaing Chying; her words give an unmistakable voice to those caught up in this bitter conflict.

PRECIOUS
Duration: 16’12"
Director & Cinematographer: David Kyaw Thet Aung, Editor & Sound Recordist: Sai Nyi Nyi
Editing Mentors: Jessica Ehlerbracht, Tuula Mehtonen

A short documentary observing some of the people involved in the – often risky – business of gemstone extraction in Myanmar.

AMHYA – SHARE
Duration: 17’54"
Director & Cinematographer: Mya Darli Aung, Sound Recordist: Su San Zaw Win
Editor: Myo Min Khin, Editing Mentor: Melanie Sandford

Amhya – Share documents an age-old but now dwindling tradition whereby monks cook up a meal from leftovers. The meal they make symbolises Buddhist precepts of unity and sharing.

SILENT TALKER
Duration: 15’28"
Director, Sound Recordist & Editor: Kyaw Myo Lwin, Camera: Tun Lynn
Editing Mentors: Tuula Mehtonen, Melanie Sandford

Juxtaposing everyday scenes in Yangon with extracts from a friend’s poems and his own ruminations, the filmmaker ponders the state of his native Myanmar and its people as they move towards democracy.

SOLOMON
Duration: 23’38"
Director: Anna Biak Tha Mawi, Camera: Khin Maung Kyaw, Sound Recordist: Sai Kong Kham
Editor: Khin Myanmar, Editing Mentors: Jessica Ehlerbracht & Melanie Sandford

An encounter with the filmmaker’s uncle, the charismatic commander of the Chin National Front Solomon Thang Ding, that also takes a look at the political reforms that Chin State - Myanmar’s poorest region - is undergoing in the wake of Myanmar’s transition.

Winner of the 2013 Goethe-Institut Myanmar Ruby Documentary Award

WHEN THE BOAT COMES IN
Duration: 30’01"
Director & Cinematographer: Khin Maung Kyaw, Sound Recordists: Sai Nyi Nyi, Hnin Ei Hlaing
Editor: Hnin Ei Hlaing, Editing Mentor: Tuula Mehtonen

Aung Kyaw Naing and Ma Cho Lay are members of a fishing community struggling to make a living along a stretch of coastline near Thanbyuzayat in Mon State in Myanmar. Soon they will be faced with a curtailed fishing season as a result of new government legislation.

Winner of the 2013 Goethe-Institut Myanmar Jade Documentary Award