In 2010, Yangon Film School filmmakers completed three films for the development sector: filmed over a period of almost eight months, *Rice – Towards a Better Future* is an elegiac description of a rice-growing project in the Ayeyarwaddy Delta which, if implemented all over the country, has the potential to improve the lives of millions relying on this staple foodstuff – either as producers or as consumers. *Hidden Wounds* follows *Shalom Foundation*-trained trauma healers in the Delta as they help communities affected by Cyclone Nargis to regain psychological well-being. Finally, *Respectful Encounters*, which was made for the *Local Resource Centre* and also filmed in the Delta, takes a look at the importance of the concept of ‘accountability’ as an integral but sometimes underestimated part of community-based response.

These three documentary films provide another engaging insight into how development organisations are promoting change in Myanmar – they also admirably demonstrate the role that YFS filmmakers are playing in illuminating their efforts.

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DVD PAL | 4:3 Letterbox | English Subtitles | Approx. 68mins
STORIES FROM MYANMAR 2010
Three documentaries about development projects made by students of the Yangon Film School

RICE - Towards A Better Future


Duration: 32’17”

Filmed during an entire rice cycle in an Ayeyarwaddy Delta area badly affected by Cyclone Nargis, this sumptuously photographed documentary follows the fortunes of one farmer who took part in a unique project designed to improve rice yields and quality in order to meet the exacting standards of the international rice market. As the initially sceptical Ko Win Khin comes to grips with the new rice-growing techniques and begins to see how they can enhance his traditional methods, miller U Ohn Hann and agronomist U Moe Naing Oo from two local organisations behind the initiative explain how this ground-breaking project could have a major impact on the livelihoods of farmers across the country.

Yangon-born Tay Zar Win Tun first encountered documentary films in Japan where he spent four years working for an electronics company. Returning to Myanmar in 2005 to take over his father’s photographic stores he nonetheless pursued his passion for film by working as a cinematographer and sound recording engineer on Myanmar feature films. Since joining YFS in 2007 he has initiated a string of documentaries; these include his directorial debut Water Boy as well as films about monastery education and the controversial Ayeyarwaddy Myitsone dam project.

Hidden Wounds

Camera and Sound: Awipi, Editor: Kyaw Myo Lwin, Editing Mentors: Jessica Ehlebracht and Regina Bärtschi

Duration: 17’36”

When Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar in May 2008, a team of healers trained by the local NGO Shalom Foundation went to the Ayeyarwaddy Delta to provide emergency trauma care for victims of the disaster. Filmed and narrated by a member of this team, Hidden Wounds takes us on a journey to some of the affected communities and describes the delicate process of helping those suffering from invisible wounds to accept what has happened and regain a sense of security that will eventually lead to psychological well-being.

Videographer Awipi is a member of the Myanmar non-governmental organisation Shalom Foundation which provides trainings on trauma management to development workers, community leaders and volunteers to enable them to extend psycho-social support to those who have been traumatised by armed conflicts, violence, displacement or natural disasters. Guided by YFS editing mentors Jessica Ehlebracht and Regina Bärtschi, YFS sound recordist and editing student Kyaw Myo Lwin who joined the school in 2007, learned how to shape an affecting chronicle from over sixty hours of novice filmmaker Awipi’s video material.

Respectful Encounters

Director and Editor: Eh Mwee, Camera: Khin Khin Hsu, Sound: Hnin Ei Haiing, Kyaw Ko Ko, Editing Mentor: Regina Bärtschi

Duration: 17’17”

A crucial aspect of the Yangon-based Local Resource Centre’s work is to establish and enhance mechanisms to ensure accountability to communities. This short documentary takes a look at the importance of accountability as an integral but sometimes underestimated part of community-based response. Interweaving lively excerpts from an accountability training workshop with scenes of beneficiaries and development staff in the field, Respectful Encounters enables us to hear all sides of the accountability project, and understand what needs to be done to ensure that its implementation becomes second nature – for all those involved.

Director, cinematographer and editor Eh Mwee first joined YFS in 2005. After completing a Masters degree in gender and development studies in Bangkok, she returned to Myanmar where she worked for a number of development organisations including Orfan and the Myanmar Baptist Convention before resuming her film training at YFS in 2009. Eh Mwee’s 2005 portrait of a waitress at a Yangon restaurant A Day with Aye Nan Lin was one of the first YFS films to be broadcast on TV. Respectful Encounters, which she also edited, marks her first NGO-commissioned work.