The Long Way Home (08’15")
2009

Synopsis

Seduced by promises of a lucrative job far away from his village, 17-year-old Ye Win Tun decided to leave his parent's farm in the Ayeyawaddy Delta. But all too soon he found himself trapped in a gruelling round of badly paid, hard labour – with no hope of escape. In The Long Way Home, this teenager looks back on his ordeal and his rescue, and describes how fortunate he feels to be back at home with his parents once again.

Credits

Director: Lay Thida
Camera: Thaidhi and Mya Darli Aung
Sound: Hnin Ei Hlaing
Edit: Lay Thida

Biography

Lay Thida was born in 1983 in Loikaw, Kayah state in eastern Myanmar. An English graduate (Taunggyi University), she joined the YFS in 2005. A regular sound recordist on YFS productions, her directorial debut Just A Boy earned her a Heinrich Boell Foundation Documentary Award in 2007. Her subsequent work includes portraits of an ex-poppy grower (A Farmer's Tale, 2007) and a young development worker (The Change Maker, 2008), and a short documentary about domestic violence in Shan State (Unreported Story, 2011). In 2010 she received a Charles Wallace Trust Fellowship to attend a documentary course at the National Film and Television School in the United Kingdom, which culminated in the production of a short documentary, Wrong Side Up. Alongside her work as a filmmaker she has co-founded the Myanmar-based NGO Better-Life which supports in particular children, women and the most vulnerable people in Myanmar.

Filmography (selection)

2005 Peace Of Mind (10’11”, sound recordist)
2006 A Million Threads (15’20", sound recordist)
2006 A Sketch of Wathone (14’58", sound recordist)
2006 The Uninvited Guest (13’49”, sound recordist)
2006 Just A Boy (13’05", director and editor)
2007 The Merry Widows of Nam Mun Village (22’22", sound recordist)
2007 A Farmer's Tale (18’17", director and editor)

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2008  The Change Maker (15'59", director and editor)
2009  Listen to Us (18'43", director and editor)
2009  The Long Way Home (8'15", director and editor)
2009  Our Forests, Our Future (23'15", sound recordist)
2011  Unreported Story (12', director)
2011  Wrong Side Up (12'22", director and editor)
2011  Bungkus (The Parcel) (18'50", director)

This documentary was made by Yangon Film Services and Productions, a Myanmar-based film production resource dedicated to the creation of a diverse media culture in Myanmar.