

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 Ayeyarwaddy 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: Thaidi 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)

- 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.