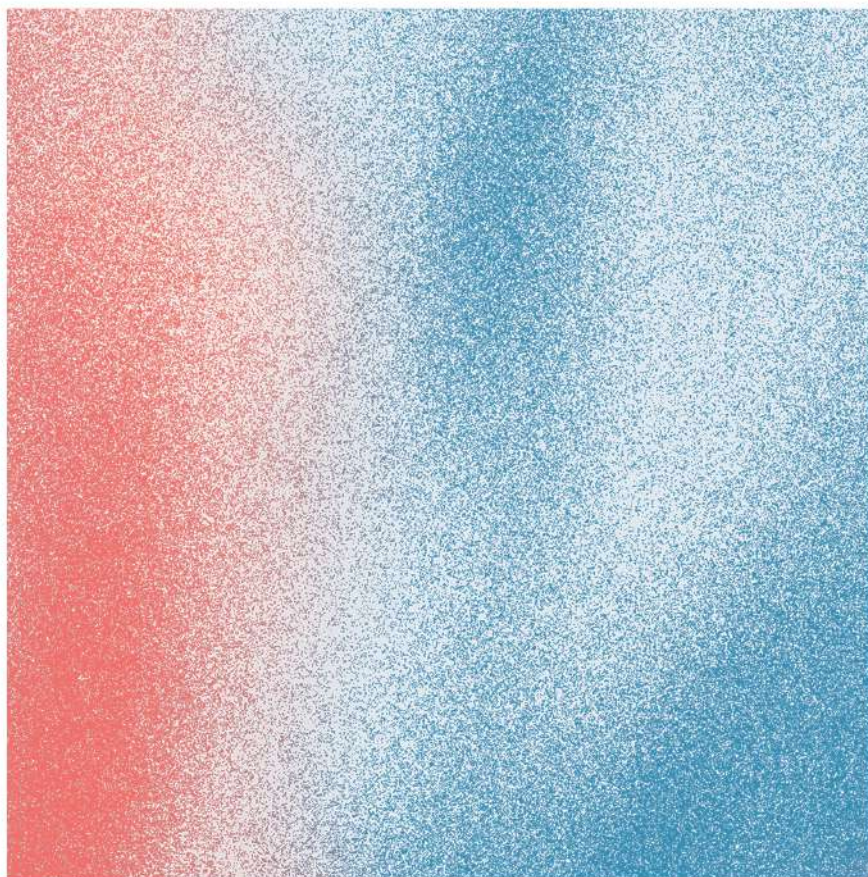


Open City Docs School





© Anak Malaysia [Sarah Cowan, 2019] - One World Media Student Award Winner 2019



In this brief booklet you will find described the graduation film projects of what must now be the largest MA in documentary film in the UK. In our fifth year, represented here, we took in over 100 students in five studios each exploring the world of factual filmmaking in slightly different ways. Studios 1, 3 and 5 take the field of creative non-fiction while 2 trains students to make work for broadcast and the new narrowcast media. Studio 4, by contrast, trains students in the ever-widening field of immersive factual storytelling. As these fields of practice have diverged, we hope and expect that by 2021 these last two studios will constitute their own Masters programmes.

Planning is also actively underway for our move, starting in 2022 and completed in 2023, to London's newest quarter, The East Bank (AKA the former Olympic Park) where along with a host of London-based global cultural institutions UCL's Future Media Studio will have the space to spread its wings and seek new vistas.

The MA in Ethnographic and Documentary Film relies upon the talent and generosity of scores of industry professionals who give their time to training our students and to all of them we say a warm thank you!

Michael Stewart, Director of Open City Docs

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STUDIO 1

Experimental & Cinematic Non-Fiction

Lasse Johansson, James Price,
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Bonnie Rae Brickman

"Studio One has a philosophy of helping students to find their voice by introducing them to the multiple grammars of non-fiction film. This knowledge and practice enables these young filmmakers to choose their own path with confidence. This year's graduates once again demonstrate the range and vitality of the non-fiction form.

We saw a beautifully observed portrayal of a veteran environmental campaigner battling for her legacy in Italy; the tale of a group of young urban Dutchmen attempting to find a happier life in the depopulated hills of Portugal; and "urban miners" scratching out a life by collecting metal from the rubbish dumps of Ghana.

We saw London and its Overground through the eyes of Chilean lovers; Cockneys charmed in an inner-city square. We journeyed with a true English eccentric through mystical suburbs; and with pigeon-racers in the post-industrial valleys of South Wales.

We saw Chinese men looking for a Vietnamese brides; and families ripped apart by AIDS from contaminated blood. What characterises many of these films is the search for a better life, even if that search is often disappointed. Our graduates display a curiosity to explore both the multiplicity of the worlds around us, and the ways they can tell those stories."

James Price



REMEMBER WHEN WE USED TO TAKE THE TRAIN?

Dir. Patricio Alfaro
27' / 2019

An essay film that establishes a sort of love-hate triangle between the filmmaker, his wife and the city of London, shown (mostly) through the Overground. An autobiographical documentary made not with real archives, but with images that represent a distant past on the verge of being forgotten.



BLINDNESS IN CHINA

Dir. Xinyu Chen
19' / 2019

Zheng Rongquan, who is one of only ten blind university students in China, has managed to graduate this year. However, due to the fact that visually impaired people are rarely employed in the education industry in China, he is facing enormous challenges trying to start his career as a teacher. The film records the story that unfolds as he suffers various setbacks, profiling him and his blind friends as they work towards achieving the lives they want.





MIDWEEK, A MARKET IN SOFIA

Dir. Teodosia Dobriyanova

16' / 2019

Shot at the Women's Market in Central Sofia, Bulgaria, *Midweek, A Market in Sofia* is a portrait of this place and the people who form a microcosm within it. Following a day in the life of the urban space, the film is an ode to the extraordinary within the ordinary; choreographing the mundane towards something much greater.



PLASTIC SISTER

Dir. Xinyu Gao

28' / 2019

"Plastic Sister, I haven't seen you for a long time. Maybe I can never see you again." Every mask has its own story, something hiding behind it that might at any time be revealed. In this film, there are two girls hidden by their masks: one in front of the camera and one behind. *Plastic Sister* presents the journey that connects them.





THE WARRIOR OF ORENTANO

Dir. Manon Girault

22' / 2019

Fiamma is an octogenarian environmental activist. She lives with her dog, Saks, and only occasionally sees her son. *The Warrior of Orentano* is a portrait film about a lack of control that unveils itself one day at a time for the vulnerable elderly.



REHEARSING UTOPIA

Dir. Rosie Gist

30' / 2019

Following a public casting call, 14 Londoners embark on a transformative journey: devising a new community play at the Young Vic Theatre. Given the timely opportunity to create their dream country, what will this group of strangers imagine? Can a utopia be realised, if only inside the theatre's walls?





A TALE FOR THE TIME BEING

Dir. Siu Ki Ho

30' / 2019

Whilst Portuguese youngsters flee their rural hometowns as soon as they can, many young internationals cannot wait to take their place in the picturesque countryside. Fed up with capitalist consumer society, they long for a more communal, sustainable, and authentic place to call home. They look to build a brave new way of thinking. Or is this mere escapism?



JUST DANCE

Dir. Xiaotian Ju

26' / 2019

A film about two Kenyan girls with tough lives and troubling backstories, trying to make the most of their lives in the slum they live in. Sheila loves dancing and believes it has the power to help her even though she is just an average dancer, while Idah has real talent for photography but rarely has the chance to do the thing that she excels at. Both have experienced hardships, but are still able to move past it to find a way to do what they love.





MOTHER'S LOVE

Dir. Qianhui Leng

30' / 2019

This film tells the story about the filmmaker's family: a matriarchy that includes her great-grandma, grandma, mother and her. Small gestures such as cooking, housework, and even their quarrels reveal familial love. In this family of four generations of women, each new era sees ideas of motherhood expressed in a different way.



BORN AND BRED

Dir. Xuanye Li

22' / 2019

In this film, a Chinese filmmaker meets a community of elderly cockneys in East London. Despite their difference in background, the community embraces this peculiar filmmaker with open arms, and they gradually coming to understand each other. Though they might be old, their spirits remain as youthful as their pink hair and vibrant blue eyes.





YOUTH

Dir. Peilin Li
23' / 2019

A reflection on youth; a meditation on spiritual homeland; a quest of universal human experience, *Youth* is a journey in which a 69-year-old British outsider artist takes a 23-year-old Chinese filmmaker back in time, travelling with her through the early years of his life.



FOR SIFU

Dir. Xinyi Liu
17' / 2019

"When you have a dream, and a passion, and you really want to do something, you just do it." This film is about the relationship between an Italian man and his martial arts teacher. Leaving his family, his job and his girlfriend behind in Italy, this man has been living in London for four years now. The only thing keeping him there is his kung-fu master.





ENNIE

Dir. Mamaponya Motsai
24' / 2019

Ennie, a single mother of five, works as a maid for an elderly man. All she wants is some sort of security for herself and her younger children. Her only option is to marry into the family she works for, to a man whom no one would want their daughter to be wedded to.



PLAY WITH DEATH

Dir. Yunchao Ni
23' / 2019

This film tells the story of a young Chinese actress in London, Liu Xiao, who is preparing for a solo performance in a play about death. Following the project's preparations, the film looks at how this young Chinese actress balances her daily life and the deeper realm of memory, exploring how she deals with her sense of self and her relationship to her dead father.





FAR AWAY

Dir. Kun Sun
20' / 2019

The film closely follows two children in a remote, mountainside primary school, both in and around the classroom. This summer, they both have their own little wishes in mind. Step by step, they make small strides to achieve them, but the future always seems so far away.



SOLOIST

Dir. Weize Sun
19' / 2019

Soloist is an essay film about being single. It is an intimate, deeply personal journey in which the film's main character is its director, Weize Sun, a 24-year-old single woman living in London. It explores what she and her friends, and a host of chance contributors, think about being single within a society that pressures people to get together and stigmatises those who find themselves alone.





IN THE ROOM

Dir. Anni Teng
21' / 2019

Peiyao and her mother live in Shanyang County, in China's Shaanxi Province. Peiyao has lived with her mother - who is disabled and unable to use her legs - since she was four years old. Living in poverty and experiencing many other pressures, the family does not have it easy. How have Peiyao and her mother survived for twelve years living such a hard life?



SHADOW WORK

Dir. Francesca Tesler
22' / 2019

Shadow Work follows Kubi May, a modern day witch and practitioner of paganism who straddles the boundary between psychology and spirituality, using her beliefs to help others overcome the pain in their past.





THE PIGEON MEN OF TOWNHILL

Dir. Bryn Thomas

28' / 2019

Dene and Andrew's season has been building up to this moment. 31 pigeons have been sent 460 miles away for the biggest race of the year. All they can do now is wait and hope. *The Pigeon Men of Townhill* is a window into the sport of pigeon racing and the lives of those who take part in it.



VIETNAMESE BRIDE

Dir. Ge Tian

30' / 2019

Vietnamese Bride is a film about a Chinese man who has been single all his life and now wants to marry a Vietnamese woman, and a Vietnamese bride who has been living in China for 3 years. The film contrasts the Chinese man's struggle to find love in Vietnam, in which his difficult demands are revealed; and ends with the Vietnamese wife's life in China, showing the other side of the picture.





HER

Dir. Xin Wang
24' / 2019

"I might not be your son anymore, but I will always be your child." After coming to the USA to study as a graduate student, Eva also embarked on a new journey in her life: becoming a girl. In this new environment, she struggles and tries her best to work hard for the ideal life and the identity that she desires.



THE BURNING FIELD

Dir. Zhan Ziqi
30' / 2019

There are thousands of people working as scrap workers in Agbogbloshie, in Accra, Ghana; and Abdallah Muntaka is one of them. The air pollution caused by the open-air burning of electronic waste has raised Muntaka's concern, who is trying to stop them from burning waste in this way.





A GOOD HARVEST

Dir. Jiashuo Zhang

24' / 2019

This film is about the current life of four ordinary villagers in China who were infected with HIV in a disaster that took place two decades ago, poisoned by polluted needles from transfusions made during China's 'plasma economy' blood-selling boom in the early 1990s. As time passes, they all find a different way out by fighting, healing, and trying to forget.



THE SLEEPLESS TIME

Dir. Tingzhi Zhang

22' / 2019

Looking up towards the new tower blocks that surround him, far away from the familiarity of his former home, a man remarks that "when you are old, people stop caring about you." Shot from the perspective of his granddaughter, *The Sleepless Time* follows an older couple in China forced to leave their country cottage and head to the city. Mixing musings from their old life with observation of the place they now inhabit, the film ruminates elegantly on ageing and memory.



STUDIO 2

Documentary For Broadcast & Beyond

Lucy Sandys-Winsch,
Juliet Brown,
Bonnie Rae Brickman

2018-19 reaped rewards for previous Studio 2's 'Documentary for Broadcast and Beyond' graduates, with Sarah Cowan winning the One World Media Student Awards, Banuta Kalns-Timans' nomination for a Grierson Student Award, and Shanu Subramaniam's for an International Emmy. Following on from that, 2019 Studio 2 graduates produced an exceptionally wide range of work, making documentaries they really care about to reveal issues of both personal and universal importance.

A highlight this year is *Separation*, an exquisite film about one young girl's plight facing poverty and male preference in rural China; while *In Search of Miao* reveals how the Chinese Miao minority culture is fast disappearing due to tourism. The wide range of other international stories include the daily struggles of life in a Lagos slum in *Makoko Diaries*; and *We Have Each Other*, a gentle portrait of those growing old in a communal house in Zurich. Strong British stories include *The Wishing Washing Line*, a moving film about making the dreams of the elderly come true, while *In Search of Zen* follows a young English boy's quest for zen among the Shaolin monks. Studio 2 is committed to supporting students find their own filmmaking voice to explore world-wide issues whilst preparing them to be as employable as possible in the documentary industry.

Lucy Sandys-Winsch



HAPPISBURGH DIARIES

Dir. Henrietta Cloake
24' / 2019

A woman meditates on the physical erosion of her village, Happisburgh, Norfolk, and the fading memory of her mother. Structured around a personal diary, the film blurs documentary and fiction to raise questions about the relationship between space and memory.



ABANDONED CHILDREN

Dir. Zeping Feng
22' / 2019

A film about a group of abandoned children looking for their lost family. After a serious food shortage in Jiangnan, some children were abandoned by their parents at birth. Half a century has passed and these children have grown up. They want to figure out where they came from.





HOMETOWN DREAMER

Dir. Lan Lei
20' / 2019

Linsen is a small village near where the filmmaker was brought up. In the last decade, it has turned from being the richest village in the region to becoming the poorest. Peng Haibo, an entrepreneur who was born in Linsen and then moved to Shenzhen to work as a lawyer, hopes to change things. This film shows his determination to save his home village, and how he balances the demands of his village regeneration project, his job as a lawyer, and his commitments to his family.



MAKOKO DIARIES

Dir. Victoria Ndoh
19' / 2019

Makoko Diaries is a film about a filmmaker's return to Makoko, a slum in the city where she grew up. Travelling through the eyes of the filmmaker we get to meet some of the residents and find out what it's like to live in the Lagos slum, hearing about the kind of issues the residents face daily, and seeing what their outlook on life is. A film in the form of a diary, in *Makoko Diaries*, the filmmaker reflects what she sees on the visit through her recollections of her past.





IN SEARCH OF MIAO

Dir. Meixun Wang

20' / 2019

The Miao are an ethnic group in China, one of 55 officially recognised minority groups in the country. To see whether authentic Miao culture still exists in China, this film takes the journey from Xijiang to Nanhua. One is a famous tourist destination, whilst the other is a remote and poor village. Zhi, a Miao girl who struggles to accept her own cultural history, reflects the conflicts between generations. Over time her attitude towards Miao costume and culture starts to change.



SEPARATION

Dir. Han Wei

32' / 2019

"Their father died, their mother left. I raise them alone." *Separation* is an observational film following a little girl called Rongju, who has been separated from her mother since the age of two. The film focuses on Rongju's daily life with her younger brother and grandmother, looking at how a lack of parental care has influenced her life, and the challenges she faces in balancing work, study and play.





A BOND IN LIEDE

Dir. Chia-I Weng

21' / 2019

The film records the villagers of Guangzhou's Liede village as they make their preparations for the region's Dragon Boat Festival, exploring the customs that lie behind this inherited tradition. With more than 50 million people involved in races around the world each year, dragon boat racing is an established practice, but in Liede it is particularly popular. There, the boat is the bond that brings the villagers together.



WISHING WASHING LINE

Dir. Qiuyu Xu

24' / 2019

This film is about a project called the Wishing Washing Line, a programme which helps older people in care homes see their wishes fulfilled. It shows the stories of three residents in care homes whose wishes are granted, as well as the founder of the initiative's attempt to bring this project further afield than the UK. This film brings to light the loneliness and isolation faced by many elderly people in care homes, showing how even small gestures can help make life easier for those who find themselves alone.





SEARCHING FOR ZEN

Dir. Tianpeng Yao

23' / 2019

In *Searching For Zen* a British boy named Junayde comes to China in search of something called 'Zen'. It is said that Zen can make people stronger and eliminate all their troubles in life. Is such a thing possible, and if so, can he find it?



OPERA FANS

Dir. Qiuyu Yu

18' / 2019

Opera Fans depicts a group of amateur Beijing Opera lovers from the Jiangdong Beijing Opera Troupe in Nantong, in China's Jiangsu province. Such is their passion for this form of opera, they have independently organised a tour to attend the performance. The film shows fragmented stories from the preparation of the tour, leading up to the show. It reveals the affection and care they devote to promoting this unique traditional art that brings them together.





WE HAVE EACH OTHER

Dir. Zora Zlot

22' / 2019

We Have Each Other follows the lives of twelve friends who have grown elderly together in a shared house. Now in their eighties, the pace of their lives has slowed down and they are forced to adapt to getting old. Issues such as loneliness, health and death arise as they approach the end of their lives.



STUDIO 3

Cinematic Documentary Storytelling

Dieter Deswarte, Dylan Howitt,
Michael Ho

With creativity and skill our 2018-2019 students told engaging, powerful stories from across the globe for their graduation films. Throughout the year we encouraged our students to discover their voice through experimentation and constant practice. This led to a wide array of documentary stories, from grandparents facing arrest as they fight the global climate crisis to personal films exploring the impact Idi Amin's regime had on one family. With their cameras in hand they captured with passion and concern our world's present state of affairs and the legacy of our past actions. But subject matter is not the only thing that differed this year as some students questioned the documentary form and found new and collaborative ways to engage the people they documented. So we are proud to present to you the class of 2018-2019 and we hope you'll enjoy this year's cohort.

Dieter Deswarte

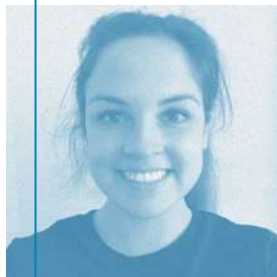


GREEN AND GREY

Dir. Lucia Amoroso

22' / 2019

Having spent their lives relatively unconcerned with environmental issues, it was only when Phil and Fi reached grandparenthood that they gained a new perspective on things. Retired, unsuspecting delinquents, they harness their power as elders in the fight for climate justice, hoping to secure a safe planet for their grandchildren to inherit.



LAMONT, I LOOK TO YOU

Dir. Caroline Brouckaert

25' / 2019

Underneath his acrylic nails and long cascading braids, 19 year old LaMont is braver than most as he works towards his dream of becoming a famous R&B performer. Despite experiencing prejudices, both subtle and overt, LaMont's journey is one of aspiration and self acceptance.





WORKSHOP

Dir. Chris Groenveld

28' / 2019

From an empty wing of the Greenwood Centre for Independent Living erupt spontaneous scenes of tenderness and wit, as a group of mixed-ability adults undergo a weeklong intensive filmmaking workshop. In negotiating how to capture their surroundings, minds often labelled 'inaccessible' or 'unfocused' unveil something unequivocally human.



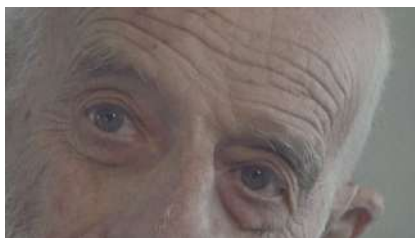
BEIJING LOVE STORIES

Dir. Qianwei Lin

21' / 2019

Once a week, hundreds of single elderly people gather in Beijing's Tiantan Park seeking a date in their "sunset" years. For these lonely hearts, in this city, in this era, at this age, looking for love is too complicated. This film is about the stories the filmmaker found in this park.





THE SCULPTOR

Dir. Indigo Lowndes

15' / 2019

Phillip King rose to prominence in the 1960s, emerging as one of Britain's leading sculptors. Set within his decaying studio this film follows the creative process of an artist as he reflects, through archive and personal memory, on his life and work.

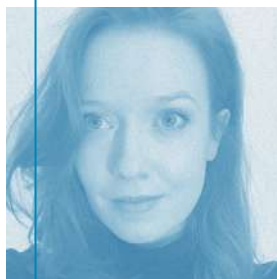


THINGS WE LEAVE BEHIND

Dir. Grace Waters

15' / 2019

Things We Leave Behind follows a filmmaker's efforts to better understand her deceased father through the objects she has left, including forgotten photographs, hazy memories and the things that she collected on the day he died. A mission to decode a mysterious person inspires a journey into the past, one that brings into question the stories we tell ourselves and the ways we deal with loss.





NSENENE PT. 2

Dir. Apolo Wilson
22' / 2019

Idi Amin's reign of terror continues to affect millions decades after the end of his presidency. Having lost his grandfather to an unconscionable act of violence during this period, Apolo seeks to discover how he relates to a country he never had the opportunity to grow up in.



GIRL AT SEVENTEEN

Dir. Luyi Yu
21' / 2019

Jiangruo Ye is a seventeen-year-old transgender girl living in China. She has started to transition in secret, changing clothes and living two lives so that her parents don't know her truth. This film reveals the difficulties she faces with her family and school, but also shows her fledgling friendships with transgender friends, girls who share the same struggles.





EXAMINATION

Dir. Shiyang Zhan

23' / 2019

Examination is a personal documentary about the turbulent relationship between the filmmaker's sister and their parents as the pressure mounts ahead of the High School Entrance Examination. After much consternation, as the end of the exam period approaches, the young girl at the centre of the film starts to feel free of her parents' constraints, beginning to embrace a new chapter in her life.

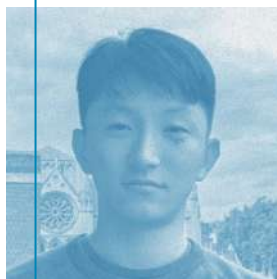


OUR FAMILY: PHILIP AND MARTIN

Dir. Zhang Musheng

23' / 2019

Philip and Martin have been together for 46 years. In this film, Philip looks back on their past, using his personal experience to describe gay life in Britain in the 1970s: the history of the first Pride parade in London, the formation of the Gay Liberation Front, and the emergence of AIDS. The film also tells the touching love story that the two men share.





THE LAST PUPPETEER

Dir. Xiaoning Zhang

25' / 2019

The Last Puppeteer records a family of puppeteers in Huanxian, in China's Gansu Province. Zhichang Xie is already 52 years old, the last of five generations of puppeteers. His three-year-old grandson may be the last hope the family has of continuing this tradition.



LOVE TUTOR

Dir. Yuxiang Zhang

20' / 2019

In Chengdu, in China, there is a course that teaches boys how to chase girls. The 'love course' last 7 days and costs £1500. Mr.Play-boy, is a well-known love tutor in the course. The film tells how he teaches boys to chase girls, weaving in his own love story inbetween.





HERO PAWS

Dir. Xiaoyun Zhao

16' / 2019

Angie, a former medic, met Vidar in Afghanistan. Vidar used to be a military dog, but at some point, he started to become scared of the sounds of weapons and explosives. After Angie returned from Afghanistan, she decided to rehome Vidar and help ease him into his retirement. Since then, they've become inseparable.



A FAMILY DIVIDED

Dir. Jingyan Zhu

16' / 2019

This film tells the story of a family divided by the Chinese Civil War. A young man in the family starts a journey to reconnect with the lost side of the family in Taiwan. *A Family Divided* explores the lost stories of the past, whilst also reviewing the relationship between Mainland China and Taiwan since 1949.

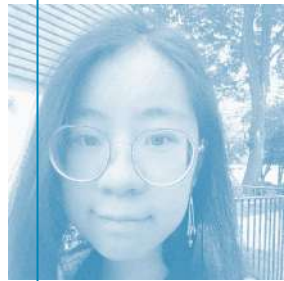




BIG JOY

Dir. Yue Zhu
18' / 2019

This film is about Big Joy, who is 62 years old but has felt that he should be a woman ever since he was young. However, he is too poor to afford the sex-change surgery, turning instead to crowdfunding to pay for the procedure that he needs in order to move on with his life.



STUDIO 4

360: Immersive Factual Storytelling (VR/AR)

Dinah Lammiman, Jayisha Patel,
Rafael Lino, Anatole Sloan,
Jeremiah Ambrose, Jack Reynolds,
Axel Drioli, Ben Huss-Smickler

Launched in September 2017, UCL's Studio 4 (Immersive Factual Storytelling (VR/AR)) was one of the first to embark on a training programme around the fast developing genre of Virtual Reality. Now in its third year, the course has had to adapt to continuing changes in the VR world. Straight from the cutting rooms of the best VR production houses, our tutors have mentored students on this journey while also encouraging them to learn to teach themselves, to equip them for this constantly evolving medium and marketplace.

From day one they have filmed with 360 cameras, mastered spatial audio, learnt the basics of coding and games engines, and explored immersive storytelling alongside a continuing programme of industry engagement. The results are some exciting and ambitious VR experiences, presented here, three of which featured in this year's Open City Documentary Festival. The VR story has changed course once again. The hype has gone a little quiet. But immersive storytelling is here to stay, changing the way we interpret and represent our world. And UCL Studio 4 graduates are shaping that future, with many of them now working full time in the Virtual Reality field.

Dinah Lammiman



2019 LONDON HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Dir. Xinyi Dang, Jingyuan Wang, Haiqin Weng
5' / 2019

This 360° film introduces viewers to the 2019 London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival, the leading UK event for one of the most colourful types of Chinese pageantry. Now in its 24th year, the all-day competition hosts 40 competing teams and attracts more than 10,000 visitors, offering the opportunity to catch a glimpse of Chinese culture in London.

Commissioned by Notting Hill Genesis as a 'virtual day out' for their immobile, housebound clients.



EXPLORING THE WOODBERRY WETLANDS

Dir. Xinyi Dang, Jingyuan Wang, Haiqin Weng
5' / 2019

This 360° film is set within Hackney's Woodberry Wetlands, a haven to wildlife in the heart of residential London. Opened in 2016, this publicly accessible space has 2 large reservoirs, and 11 hectares of land that is home to a diversity of plant and animal species. Using special sound recording techniques, this film is designed to relax viewers within this calm natural setting.

Commissioned by Notting Hill Genesis as a 'virtual day out' for their immobile, housebound clients.



CAMBRIDGE AND XU ZHIMO

Dir. Xinyi Dang, Jingyuan Wang, Haiqin Weng

7' / 2019

Shot on location, this 360° film presents the story of Chinese poet Xu Zhimo, a student at Cambridge University a century ago. A leading figure of China's modern poetry movement, this film looks at the role Cambridge played in his life. It explores how the city's tranquility inspired him, and the role that Britain's cultural and literary scene played in shaping his work.

Commissioned by Notting Hill Genesis as a 'virtual day out' for their immobile, housebound clients.



RICHMOND PARK

Dir. Jinyi Wang, Xiaocheng Wang, Wanling Wu

6' / 2019

This serene 360° film transports viewers to various corners of Richmond Park, situating viewers within the most calming areas of London's largest Royal Park. Its narration crosses the park's storied history, whilst also demonstrating the park's current day function as a reserve for natural and animal life, and as a respite from the hustle and bustle of city life for the people of London

Commissioned by Notting Hill Genesis as a 'virtual day out' for their immobile, housebound clients..



CORNWALL

Dir. Jinyi Wang, Xiaocheng Wang, Wanling Wu

12' / 2019

Digging into the rich history of Cornwall, this 360° film visits various locations across the area such as Land's End, the Minack Theatre, St Ives, and Penzance. It explores the area's natural landscapes and its colourful, complex history, and introduces viewers to those who are involved with preserving the Cornish language, music and traditions.

Commissioned by Notting Hill Genesis as a 'virtual day out' for their immobile, housebound clients..



FINDING HOME

Dir. Hanyu Hu, Ying Huang, Zongfan Li, Yueshu Liu

Duration Varies / 2019

In this trilogy of instructional interactive experiences, VR's value as a therapeutic tool is demonstrated through three dramatisations of the experiences of foster parents learning about the realities of care. Filmed with actors replicating real world experiences, each scenario depicts how VR is used with foster families for training purposes; pre-adoption assessment and post-adoption support.

In the first film, a grandfather who has been taking care of his grandchildren in the place of their unwell mother learns about better ways to communicate with the children and help them to process their feelings. In the second, a foster father who is struggling with his adopted child's continual bad behaviour learns how experiences the child had before they met may have informed the ways he is acting out now. The third sees a couple who are waiting to adopt assuming the perspective of an unborn child, challenging preconceptions they hold about the right age for adoption by demonstrating how trauma can be transmitted even when a child is still in the womb.

Commissioned by the Cornerstone Partnership.



OFFING

Dir. Shih-An Chen

9' / 2019

On a small volcanic island located southeast of Taiwan lives a group of people of Austronesian descent - the Tao tribe - who rely on the sea for survival. Their annual 'Flying Fish Festival' is an important traditional culture. These islanders have an inseparable relationship with the flying fish, and they are facing a crisis that seems to be in the offing.



HOW TO NOT BE AN ADULT

Dir. Victoria Lyu, Hanwei Wang, Qiuxuan Wang, Ping Zhao

Duration Varies / 2019

How To Not Be An Adult is an interactive, therapeutic game-based VR experience aimed towards those approaching adulthood, designed to de-stress. Those entering this experience travel back to their childhood and encounter items from their past, triggering memories. This causes them to re-experience vital moments related to love, freedom, creativity, and courage. In the end, after packing up all the pieces, they are sent back to the real world.



THE DREAM OF AN AUTISTIC MAN

Dir. Yuying Chen, Yilun He, Han Yang, Fangcheng Yin
14' / 2019

"What he sees is different from what we see." Tielin Yin is a 34-year old Chinese painter with autism. He is unable to speak and is entirely dependent on his parents, due to a lack of government provision for the disabled. Concerned for his future, his father holds an exhibition of his paintings, hoping to establish a professional career and a future support structure for Tielin. This poignant tale explores mortality, vulnerability and family relationships in modern China.



FRAGMENTS OF HER

Dir. Yubo Cao, Shuya Luo, Qiner Lyu, Eunhyeon Park
Duration Varies / 2019

This project is an interactive experience about the grandmother of one of the filmmakers who is suffering from dementia and is losing her memories. Constructing a conceptual space to represent her inner world, the filmmakers hope to recall the pieces of her life through the childish paintings she has been making in her later life. Navigating this interactive space, the viewer will encounter some existential puzzles relating to dementia and come to understand the filmmaker's growing respect for his grandmother's inner imagination and artistic ability.



STAY WITH ME

Dir. Hui Huang, Siyu Li, Yujiao Sun

7' / 2019

Stay With Me tells the story of a mother from a migrant family who wants her children to attend school in Guangzhou. Looking into the impacts of China's 'hukou' system - in which points are assigned to citizens based on various criteria - the film shows how children with migrant worker parents are unfairly adversely affected and often unable to access free schooling opportunities. Finally, the mother achieves her desire that the whole family can stay together in the city.



YOUTOPIA

Dir. Tianyuan Liu, Hao Zhang, Jingyi Zhang

10' / 2019

This project explores Beijing's 706 commune, an alternative lifestyle community where anyone is welcome, whatever they believe. A hybrid film that layers animation over real world recordings, *Youtopia* profiles two of the individuals who have come to make this unusual place their home, showing what the commune offers them in contrast to the confines of their upbringing and the rigid expectations that Chinese society has imposed on them.



THE POWER OF TREES

Dir. Xinyi Kuang, Zhiyi Zheng
6' / 2019

In this 360° experience, viewers reach unexpected heights, fully immersing themselves in the life of a tree as seen from the top of the canopy. Taking viewers to the treetops just as dawn breaks, the sun is seen rising through the leaves amidst a thrilling soundscape that captures the sounds of spring birds and other mammals. Leaving the treetops, the viewer travels over the Chatsworth Estate, overlooking the forests, the lake, and all the stately homes. The project ends back at the top of the trees, letting viewers relax among trees and wildflowers, transported to a calming forest.

Commissioned by the Royal Horticultural Society for exhibition at the Chatsworth Flower Show.



MY FAMILY VACATION

Dir. Xinyi Kuang, Zhiyi Zheng
6' / 2019

Using playful 3D animations, nine-year-old Emily takes viewers with her on her family's vacation to Broadstairs beach. Viewers are invited to join their family picnic, listen to them talking about the area's local culture and their memories of this place, giving them the rare chance to see the world through the eyes of a child.

Commissioned by Notting Hill Genesis as a 'virtual day out' for their immobile, housebound clients.



BY THE BEACH

Dir. Xinyi Kuang, Zhiyi Zheng

5' / 2019

This 360° film takes viewers to Brighton Beach, where they can relax on a seaside rock and enjoy a gorgeous sunset by the beach. The film's sound design reveals that much is happening in the peripheries of the frame. Kids are playing and laughing. Couples are cuddling and kissing. The sea breeze is whispering. Alongside a peaceful melody, the sun gradually disappears behind the ocean and the mountain, covering the world in a warm orange blanket.

Commissioned by Notting Hill Genesis as a 'virtual day out' for their immobile, housebound clients.



STUDIO 5

Narratives In Non-Fiction

Edward Lawrenson,
Sophie Fiennes, Juan Soto

Studio 5 is a place for students who want to engage creatively with documentary today – through their own filmmaking and through thinking about the work of other documentarians and artists. At the heart of this studio's practice is a reflection on what it means to frame the world in front of your camera. The films we present here – including a vivid portrait of a Scottish environmentalist, a poignant trip home for a Ukrainian exile, and a moving visit to a residential school for children and parents – all respond to that vital question with imagination and searching curiosity.

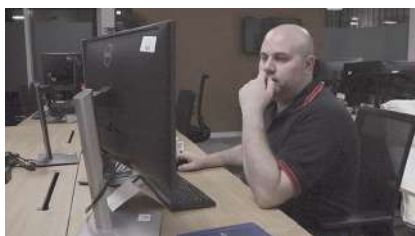
Edward Lawrenson



THE BITTER BUDDHA

Dir. Dantong Ge
25' / 2019

The Bitter Buddha is an unorthodox archive based biography of an unusual man: Ho, a Peking Opera fanatic who ran a private theatre in a restaurant in Beijing in the 90s. It tells the story of how Ho saved the Peking Opera performers who lost their job during the Cultural Revolution, only to be abandoned by them when he went bankrupt.



OUTLET

Dir. Xiaoyan Li
19' / 2019

Amongst the hustle and bustle of the big city, each and every ordinary person has their own secret stories. Graeme sits quietly at his computer coding everyday; his colleagues have no idea how amazing his life is outside of work. He has his own way of resisting normality and finding comfort in who he is. In this world, everyone can find their own particular outlets through which they can escape and express themselves.





LOVE ME, CARE FOR ME, AND RESPECT ME

Dir. Jinlin Liu

30' / 2019

Hui, Bin and Ting joined a parent-child summer camp teaching them how to communicate with each other better. At the beginning, Hui was unwilling to communicate with others, even refusing to sit in the group; Bin didn't communicate with her mother; Ting's father even left his son alone. Through various activities and over time, each of them manages to change their attitudes and see things with a different perspective.



EDUCATOR

Dir. Runli Lyu

15' / 2019

This is a film about the public and private life of a 50 year-old man who is fighting for his dreams. Fu Sheng has started a new kind of kindergarten, one where he can practice his own idea of education. Through the centre's unusual and innovative approach to learning, play and care, he aims to challenge and change China's traditional education system.





WHAT SHE LEFT BEHIND

Dir. Maria Montella
22' / 2019

What She Left Behind retraces the life of the filmmaker's grandma's caregiver Maria, after she migrated from Ukraine to Italy in order to provide for her family. Covering a period from before the dissolution of the Soviet Union to the present day, the film gives her space to tell her story.



THE WOMAN WHO PLANTED TREES

Dir. Elspeth Parsons
22' / 2019

The Woman Who Planted Trees is a portrait of Rachel, a Scottish tree planter, and the natural world in which she is deeply immersed. She is adopted and semi-nomadic but for 35 years has grown her own roots in over 9 million trees. A Rachel-and-Goliath story, we follow her in her attempts to clean up the forestry industry.





SEEKING AND LOSING

Dir. Hanbing Shao
19' / 2019

Seeking and Losing follows four stories that emerge from a Taoist temple. In the temple, the priest will come into contact with many people every day, some of who are tourists, and some who come with their own questions and queries. This film shows three tourist's stories, and that of the priest himself, who sees his own attitudes start to change.



LEISK SAU PASVAJOT

Dir. Astijus Taujanskas
18' / 2019

This film follows the extraordinary life of a local priest Kestutis Rugevicius in Kaunas, Lithuania. There, Kestutis plays the role of a mentor and spiritual father for the afflicted people of the city. Assuming a taxing social responsibility, Kestutis devotes all of his energy towards helping anyone that comes to him.

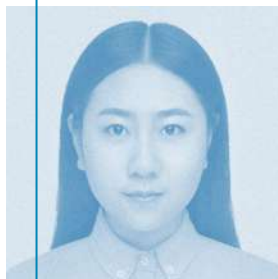




UNSPOKEN

Dir. Jie Yang
22' / 2019

Yang Shuo doesn't talk so much, but he does smile a lot. Yang Shuo, the filmmaker's little brother, suffers from Down Syndrome. This touching film about him captures his daily life during an unhappy period, looking to better understand his behaviour by closely observing his body language. By looking and listening in order to notice what often goes unsaid, *Unspoken* develops a picture of Shuo by letting those that he is closest to speak on his behalf.



THE SPRING OF SHAR MANGAS

Dir. Lu Zhang
30' / 2019

The spring has never been a pleasant season in Inner Mongolia. Living in a small city in the middle of this vast steppe, a Mongolian restaurant owner, Shar Mangas, hatches an ambitious plan. Over the coming summer, he is hoping to take ownership of a pasture in order to chase his own freedom.





HALF THE SKY BEHIND THE MOUNTAINS

Dir. Roujiang Zhou

20' / 2019

Half the Sky is part of a proclamation made by Mao Zedong that "women hold up half the sky." On the China-Myanmar border, Hong, a Chinese mother and farmer, and her cousin Lu, are working hard to prepare for the Songkran Festival. How can they balance work and family commitments, and still ensure that their children find time for the educational opportunities they missed out on? This film is dedicated to all the mother farmers in China.



MFA Creative Documentary

Sophie Fiennes,
Kim Longinotto,
Riete Oord



BEYOND ILLUSION AND DOUBT

Dir. Gwen Thurstan

46' / 2019

Beyond Illusion and Doubt follows a young man named Jay who is moving from London to Senegal, having being instructed by his Guru to undertake a spiritual mission. Jay embarks on a journey to spread revelation and find salvation, accompanied by his wife and closest disciple. The trio have become disillusioned with life and are seeking a higher purpose. Beginning with optimism, this becomes a sometimes difficult and doubt-filled search for the right path. They try to subdue this doubt by holding on tighter to their beliefs and any affirming signs.



THE BROTHERS OF CHARTERHOUSE

Dir. Charlie Scrimgeour

35' / 2019

The Charterhouse, located in central London, has been an almshouse for over 400 years. *The Brothers of Charterhouse* is a portrait of the current residents as they navigate ageing as a community. The film captures an important and difficult time in the almshouse's long history. One of the residents has passed away, causing some turmoil amongst its ranks; and after 400 years as a male only institution, The Charterhouse is finally opening its doors and allowing women to live there for the first time.



Image: Vanishing City by Nie Lan-shan

MA in Ethnographic and Documentary Film Practice at UCL Anthropology

This unique practical MA programme is based out of UCL but run by leading film practitioners, offering high-quality practice-based learning in a top level university research environment.

Offers the choice of 5 Studios ('Experimental & Cinematic Non-Fiction', 'Documentary For Broadcast & Beyond', 'Cinematic Documentary Storytelling', 'UCL 360: Immersive Factual Storytelling (VR/AR)', and 'Narratives In Non-Fiction').

Students will produce 3 non-fiction films in various modes, developing a diverse portfolio of work, before producing a graduation film of 15-25 minutes in length.

Students have their own camera equipment and editing suites year-round, and a dedicated senior mentor guiding them through their final graduation film.

For more information please visit:
opencitylondon.com/school



Image: Disconnected by Alice Aedy

MFA in Creative Documentary (Practical) at UCL Anthropology

A 2 year MFA providing all the technical and intellectual resources required to not just make outstanding non-fiction moving image, but to discover new ways of looking at the world.

An advanced practical programme that also draws upon broad-based anthropological and critical thinking about the social and cultural world.

Students will leave with a deep practical knowledge of the craft of non-fiction filmmaking, and a mid-length (40mins+) feature documentary film to their name.

Taught by leading filmmakers: directors **Sophie Fiennes** (*Grace Jones: Bloodlight & Bami*, *The Perveri's Guide to Cinema*), **Kim Longinotto** (*Salma, Divorcee Iranian Style*), and producer **Riete Oord** (*The Leader*, *His Driver* and *The Driver's Wife*).

For more information please visit:
opencitylondon.com/school





UCL 360 is the Immersive Factual Storytelling (VR / AR) studio in UCL's MA Ethnographic & Documentary Film – the first course of its kind in the UK, and one of the first in the world.

Provides students with the foundations in immersive factual storytelling formats – teaching filmmaking, spatial sound and post-production techniques for 360° VR.

Offers access to 360° filming equipment throughout the year, alongside introduction to a wide range of the latest VR / AR and other immersive technologies.

Receive training from experts sitting at the heart of this new, fast-moving media sector, and become involved in shaping immersive factual filmmaking for the future.

For more information please visit:
opencitylondon.com/school



A practice-based MA for those who are starting innovative businesses where the way you do things is as important as what you do. It's an application of creative practices to making and doing things that people need or want.

Students begin their enterprise during the course in small practical steps to deliver value and then implement iterative processes to create customers and grow a circle of interest in their product or service.

Creative and collaborative techniques are taught by leading creative practitioners from the UK's performing arts communities including Improbable, Danny Scheinmann and Ed Woodall.

The programme draws on social theory from UCL Anthropology and Enterprise models including Lean Startup and Design Thinking.

For more information please visit:
ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught-degrees/creative-collaborative-enterprise-ma



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TUTORS

Michael Stewart (Course Leader, Open City Docs School)

Founder of Open City Documentary Festival and MyStreet Films. He has worked on or produced ten documentaries for Granada (*Disappearing World*) and the BBC (*Everyman*, *Timewatch*).

Sophie Fiennes (Tutor, MFA)

Sophie Fiennes' feature documentaries include the acclaimed *Grace Jones: Bloodlight and Bami*; her collaborations with Slavoj Žižek, *The Pervert's Guide to Cinema* (2006), and *The Pervert's Guide to Ideology* (2012); and her portrait of German artist Anselm Kiefer, *Over Your Cities Grass Will Grow*.

Kim Longinotto (Tutor, MFA)

Kim is an award winning British documentary filmmaker, well known for making films that highlight the plight of female victims of oppression or discrimination. Longinotto has made more than 20 films, usually featuring inspiring women and girls at their core. Some of her films include *Shinjuku Boys* (1995), *Divorce Iranian Style* (1998) and *Salma* (2013).

Riete Oord (Tutor, MFA)

Riete Oord has produced and directed a range of award winning documentaries for BBC 1 and 2, Channel 4 and The Discovery Channel. Her work includes *Make Me a German*, the BAFTA nominated, *The Leader, The Driver and the Drivers Wife*, directed by Nick Broomfield, the RTS and the Grierson award winning *Aileen Wuornos – The Selling of a Serial Killer*.

Sandhya Suri (Senior Tutor, MA)

Sandhya is a British-Indian writer/director based in London. Her feature documentary *I For India* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival before being released theatrically to critical acclaim. She also made a fiction feature *Santhosh* (2016) and the archive based *Around India With a Movie Camera* (2018). Her short *The Field* (2018) won the TIFF Short Cuts award.

Richard Alwyn (Senior Tutor, MA)

Richard specialises in intimate portraits of ordinary people caught at extraordinary moments in their lives. In 2002 he made the BAFTA nominated fiction feature *Stopping Distance* for the BBC. In 2006, he won the Prix Italia for The Beslan Siege. Recent work includes two trilogies for BBC Four, *Catholics* and *Cathedrals*, and a film about the loss of language, *Speechless*.

Dylan Howitt (Senior Tutor, MA)

Dylan is a filmmaker with many years of experience telling compelling stories from all around the world. He's directed, filmed and edited for: NETFLIX, BBC, ITV, C4, Five, Sky, Discovery, British Council, Christian Aid, and the Open University, amongst others. His BBC series, *Matters of Life and Death*, was nominated for a BAFTA. *Out of Thin Air* is his first feature film.

Lasse Johansson (Course Tutor, MA)

Lasse is a self-shooting documentary director with a background in fine art and sociology. As well as making his own independent films Lasse works as a freelance cameraman and editor making films for a variety of charities, non-profit and educational organisations, and as a media trainer on projects aiming to empower local voices and media organisations.

James Price (Course Tutor, MA)

James' films have been shown on the BBC, Channel 4, and More4, in art exhibitions and at film festivals worldwide. Some recent projects include *Reading Pepys* (Kings College London); *Chandigarh Corrections Omissions* (Linköping University); *The Body Adorned* (Horniman Museum), and *What is Freedom?* (Channel 4).

Dieter Deswarte (Course Tutor, MA)

Dieter is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and editor based in London. He works often with international charities and arts organisations, making films with topics ranging from wildlife conservation projects in Zambia to research on disability related bullying in the UK. His most recent film *St Helena, An End to Isolation* was broadcast on BBC News.

Lucy Sandys-Winsch (Course Tutor, MA)

Lucy is a multi award-nominated director, series producer and executive producer, with a strong track record across landmark documentary strands such as Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* and BBC's *Modern Times*. Her work has been nominated for Griersons and BAFTAs

Edward Lawrenson (Course Tutor, MA)

Edward is a London-based filmmaker whose films (*Uppland, 2018, Abandoned Goods, 2014, with Pia Borg*) have played at a number of festivals, including Sundance, LFF, True/False, Venice Architecture Biennale, and Cinéma du Réel.

Bonnie Rae Brickman (Editing Tutor, MA)

Bonnie is a New York-born, London-based Film and TV Editor with over twenty-five years' experience, with credits including Julie Andrews' *Opening Night on Broadway*, American Playhouse, and *Shining Time Station*. She was honoured with four New York Area Emmy Award Certificates during her ten years at WNET/thirteen, and has screened worldwide.

Ariadna Fatjo-Vilas (Editing Tutor, MA)

Ariadna is freelance editor with over 10 years experience. Films she has worked on (inc. *The Act of Killing, Your Truly, Estate. A Reverie*) have played in festivals worldwide (inc. Berlinale, Sundance and Toronto) and won accolades include an Oscar nomination, a BAFTA award, and a Grierson Award nomination, amongst others.

Michael Ho (Editing Tutor, MA)

Michael studied editing at the NFTS in 2006. He's cut short films, music videos, and documentaries for television, as well as working as an assistant editor in TV drama and feature films. He recently directed a short film about his father for BBC4/BFI: *From HK to MK*.

Juan Soto (Editing Tutor, MA)

Juan's collaborations as a film editor include works by artists such as John Akomfrah, Gideon Mendel and Juan delGado, amongst others, and on feature films such as *The Dragon Defence; In The Studio; and The Man Who Always Did His Part*.

Dinah Lammiman (Senior VR Tutor, MA)

For many years, Dinah was a senior broadcast journalist for the BBC. Latterly she's worked extensively in immersive media, specialising in binaural / other sound concepts, as well as producing mobile phone games and VR/360 installations for clients such as the National Trust, the Royal Collection, Oslo's Fram Museum and SS Great Britain.

Jayisha Patel (Senior VR Tutor, MA)

Jayisha is an award winning filmmaker who works at the intersection of cinematic film and VR. Her films (*A Paradise, India's Wushu Warriors, Notes to my Father VR, Circle*) have premiered at festivals such as Berlinale, TIFF, Sundance, Locarno and New York Film Festival amongst others, and won various awards.

Jeremiah Ambrose (VR Tutor, MA)

Working in the areas of digital art, media futures and experimental practice, Jeremiah's practice-based PhD looks at emergent narratives and interaction aesthetics in VR and interactive 360° film.

Axel Drioli (VR Tutor, MA)

Axel is a freelance Immersive audio designer and producer, who has worked on international 360 and VR projects. Some of his recent clients are Mixed Immersion, Visualise, Picture This Production, 1.618 digital, Pebble Studios and more.

Anatole Sloan (VR Tutor, MA)

Anatole is a co-founder and managing director at Zoya, a Soho based film production company specialising in creative advertising and digital content.

Rafael Lino (VR Tutor, MA)

Rafael is a VR post-production specialist, currently freelancing and working on projects for clients such as UNESCO and Tate Modern. Previously he was a part of film production collective LUMATERA, and was involved with pioneering 3D360 capture methods at Visualise.

THANKS

TUTORS

Sophie Fiennes, Kim Longinotto, Riete Oord, Richard Alwyn, Dylan Howitt, Sandhya Suri, Katharine Round, James Price, Dieter Deswarte, Lasse Johansson, Lucy Sandys-Winsch, Edward Lawrenson, Chloe White, Juliet Brown, Pinny Grylls, Vanessa Stockley, Bonnie Rae Brickman, Ariadna Fatjo-Vilas, Juan Soto, Michael Ho, Vera Simmons, Dinah Lammiman, Jayisha Patel, Rafael Lino, Anatole Sloan, Jeremiah Ambrose, Axel Drioli, Jack Reynolds, Ben Huss-Smickler, Clarice Hilton.

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