



26th European Film Awards

European Documentary 2013

THE ACT OF KILLING

DIRECTED BY: Joshua Oppenheimer, Christine Cynn & Anonymous

PRODUCED BY: Signe Byrge Sørensen

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Mariano Arango de Montis & Lars Skree

EDITOR: Niels Pagh Andersen

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: Anonymous

ORIGINAL SCORE: Elin Øyen Vister



In a country where killers are celebrated as heroes, the filmmakers challenge unrepentant death squad leaders to dramatise their role in genocide. The hallucinatory result is a cinematic fever dream, an unsettling journey deep into the imaginations of mass-murderers and the shockingly banal regime of corruption and impunity they inhabit.

Production:

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Press:

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World Sales:

Cinephil
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Denmark/Norway/UK
159 min

www.theactofkilling.com

Director's Statement:

In February 2004, I filmed a former death squad leader demonstrate how, in less than three months, he and his fellow killers slaughtered 10,500 alleged 'communists' in a single clearing by a river in North Sumatra. When he was finished with his explanation, he asked my sound recordist to take some snapshots of us together by the riverbank. He smiled broadly, gave a thumbs up in one photo, a victory sign in the next.

Two months later, other photos, this time of American soldiers smiling and giving the thumbs up while torturing and humiliating Iraqi prisoners, appeared in the news (Errol Morris later revealed these photographs to be more complex than they at first appear). The most unsettling thing about these images is not the violence they document, but rather what they suggest to us about how their participants wanted, in that moment, to be seen. And how they thought, in that moment, they would want to remember themselves. Moreover, performing, acting, and posing appear to be part of the procedures of humiliation.

These photographs betray not so much the physical situation of abuse, but rather forensic evidence of the imagination involved in persecution. And they were very much in my mind when, one year later, I met Anwar Congo and the other leaders of Indonesia's Pancasila Youth paramilitary movement.

THE ACT OF KILLING was made in collaboration with an Indonesian crew that must remain anonymous for their safety.

Joshua Oppenheimer

Born in 1974 in Texas, USA, Joshua Oppenheimer has worked for over a decade with militias, death squads and their victims to explore the relationship between political violence and the public imagination. Educated at Harvard and Central St Martins, London, his award-winning films include THE GLOBALIZATION TAPES, THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE, THESE PLACES WE'VE LEARNED TO CALL HOME and numerous shorts. Oppenheimer is Senior Researcher on the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council's Genocide and Genre project and has published widely on these themes.

THE ACT OF KILLING

Festival Participation/Awards:

Docs Barcelona FF 2013: Grand Prize
Berlin IFF 2013: Panorama Audience Award
BAFICI Buenos Aires IFF 2013
CPH:DOX 2012: DOX:AWARD
Goa IFF of India 2013
Norwegian IFF (Haugesund) 2013
IndieLisboa 2013: Amnesty Int'l Award
Documenta Madrid 2013: First Prize of the Jury, Audience Award
Moscow IFF 2013
One World FF Prague 2013: Best Film
Sarajevo FF 2013
Sheffield DocFest 2013: Audience Award
Silverdocs Festival Washington 2013
Sydney FF 2013
Tallinn Black Nights FF 2013
docaviv FF Tel Aviv 2013
Telluride FF 2012
Thessaloniki IFF 2013
Toronto IFF 2012
Kerala IFF Trivandrum 2013
Yamagata Int'l Doc FF 2013: Mayor's Prize
ZagrebDox 2013: Movies That Matter Award
Danish Robert 2013: Best Documentary

Joshua Oppenheimer

Filmography:

1997 THESE PLACES WE'VE LEARNED TO CALL HOME, short
1997 THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE
2001 LAND OF ENCHANTMENT, short, co-directed with Christine Cynn
2003 THE GLOBALIZATION TAPES, doc., co-directed with Christine Cynn
2007 SHOW OF FORCE, short

L'ESCALE STOP-OVER

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY: Kaveh Bakhtiari

PRODUCED BY: Elisa Garbar, Heinz Dill, Olivier Charvet & Sophie Germain

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Kaveh Bakhtiari

EDITOR: Kaveh Bakhtiari, Charlotte Tourres & Sou Abadi

ORIGINAL SCORE: Luc Rambo



In Athens, Amir, an Iranian immigrant, has a modest flat which has become a place of transit for migrants who like him have chosen to leave their country. But Greece is only a stop-over, all of them hoping to reach other Western countries. They find themselves stuck at Amir's, hoping for ID documents, contacts and the smuggler to whom they might entrust their destiny.

Production & Press:

Louise Productions
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Production:

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World Sales:

Doc & Film International
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Switzerland/France
100 min



Director's Statement:

Thanks to my last short movie, LA VALISE, I was invited to several film festivals and thus had the opportunity to travel around the world for the first time in my life.

Crossing borders when travelling to my destinations, I couldn't help thinking that a decade earlier I had no passport and that no country recognised me as one of its citizens.

When I was invited to a festival in Greece, I received a phone call and learned that my cousin, whom I hadn't seen for years, had left Iran illegally. He managed to reach Turkey and made it to Samos Island, where he was eventually imprisoned. We met in Athens upon his release. He took me to his 'home', a small flat rented by Amir who was also accommodating other illegal migrants.

I rediscovered the impenetrable world of illegal migrants, smugglers and destinies suspended in time. I had access to this world through my cousin, but above all because the migrants considered me an alter ego: someone who had succeeded, who had been accepted, adopted and educated by the European continent.

This privileged position was certainly the main reason that motivated me to make this movie, which I shot from an intimate perspective, eating and sleeping next to them for several weeks.

Thanks to this perspective the audience gets under the skin of the migrants throughout the film. What will happen the day no migrants want to knock on our door anymore? Could it be the warning sign that it is now our turn to leave our country and become migrants?

www.escalefilm.com



STOP-OVER

Festival Participation/Awards:

Cannes IFF 2013
La Rochelle IFF 2013
DOK Leipzig 2013
The Times bfi London FF 2013
Festival du nouveau cinema Montreal:
Prix AQCC
Mumbai FF 2013
Namur IFF 2013: Prix Special du Jury
Sarajevo FF 2013
Thessaloniki IFF 2013



Kaveh Bakhtiari

Filmography:

2002 LES MILLE ET UNE NUIT, short
2003 BLEU-BLANC, short
2004 A DEMAIN, short
2005 ICOGNE, short
2005 PORTRAIT CHEZ ETIENNE, short
2006 MAKING OF MON FRERE SE
MARIE, doc.
2007 LA VALISE, short

L'IMAGE MANQUANTE

THE MISSING PICTURE

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY: Rithy Panh

PRODUCED BY: Catherine Dussart

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Prum Mésa

EDITOR: Rithy Panh & Marie-Christine Rougerie

ORIGINAL SCORE: Marc Mader



For many years, I have been looking for the missing picture: a photograph taken between 1975 and 1979 by the Khmer Rouge when they ruled over Cambodia... On its own, of course, an image cannot prove mass murder, but it gives us cause for thought, prompts us to meditate, to record history. I searched for it vainly in the archives, in old papers, in the country villages of Cambodia. Today I know: this image must be missing. I was not really looking for it; would it not be obscene and insignificant? So I created it. What I give you today is neither the picture nor the search for a unique image, but the picture of a quest: the quest that cinema allows.

Production:

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World Sales:

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Press:

Laurence Granec & Karine Menard
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France/Cambodia
90 min

www.filmsdistribution.com



THE MISSING PICTURE

Festival Participation/Awards:

Cannes IFF 2013: Prix Un Certain Regard
Jerusalem FF 2013
Karlovy Vary IFF 2013
Melbourne IFF 2013
Moscow IFF 2013
Mumbai FF 2013
Namur IFF 2013
Pusan IFF 2013: Asian Filmmaker of the Year
Telluride FF 2013
Toronto IFF 2013
Viennale 2013



Rithy Panh

Filmography:

2000 QUE LA BARQUE SE BRISE, QUE LA JONQUE S'ENTROUVRE
2002 S21, THE KHMER ROUGE KILLING MACHINE, doc.
2003 THE PEOPLE OF ANGKOR, doc.
2005 THE BURNT THEATER, doc.
2006 PAPER CANNOT WRAP UP EMBERS, doc.
2008 THE SEA WALL
2010 DUCH, MASTER OF THE FORGES OF HELL, doc.
2011 SHIKU



Founded in 1988, the European Film Academy (EFA) now unites 2,900 European film professionals with the common aim of promoting European film culture. Throughout the year, the EFA initiates and participates in a series of activities dealing with film politics as well as economic, artistic, and training aspects. The programme includes conferences, seminars and workshops, and a common goal is to build a bridge between creativity and the industry. These activities culminate in the annual presentation of the European Film Awards.

