

CHAU, beyond THE LINES

directed by courtney marsh



PRESS KIT



Synopsis

Chau, a teenager living in a Vietnamese care center for kids disabled by Agent Orange, struggles with the reality of his dream to one day become a professional artist.

Historical Background

From 1961 to 1971, the United States sprayed 20 million gallons of herbicides onto the dense jungles of Vietnam in order to rid the Northern Vietnamese Army of food and cover. Among these herbicides, the most widely used was Agent Orange.

Although originally said to be harmless to humans, the chemical has been associated with serious health issues. The Red Cross estimates that three million Vietnamese have been affected by dioxin, including at least 150,000 children born with serious birth defects.



Director's Statement

Eight years ago, I travelled to Vietnam with a fellow filmmaker to make a documentary on the plight of the street kids in Ho Chi Minh City. However, not too long into our trip, we were introduced to a small Peace Camp for kids disabled by Agent Orange, tucked away in the back of a maternity hospital. When I entered, something struck deep inside me and we decided to volunteer there for a week, becoming close with the kids almost instantly. We asked them if we could film their lives, and thus, began a two month journey that would span out into an eight year endeavor.

When I started the film 7 years ago, what really stuck out to me is that kids are kids, no matter what label the outside world gives them. The children in the camp were poster children for Agent Orange, a chemical they didn't really know or think about. They cared about candy, soccer, toys, and their own dreams. It was those children's perspectives transcended the gravity of the Vietnam War for me.

And as I finished this film, what I saw and began to believe was the truth of the unconquerable human spirit. I followed Chau because of his relentless pursuit for his dream to be an artist. He taught me to hope in a world where, most often than not, there is a lack of such. If we could all look at the larger picture, focus on what we have rather than what we don't have, perhaps our seemingly impossible dreams would be actually within our reach.



Filmmakers

Courtney Marsh - Director / Producer / Story By / Editor

Originally from South Florida, Courtney received her BFA from UCLA's School of Film & Television. Upon graduating, Courtney worked extensively in the camera department under the mentorship of Salvatore Totino, ASC AIC. Her short films have screened internationally and she has participated in programs with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences as well as Film Independent. Courtney is currently touring the festival circuit with two short films, while developing her first feature film. *For more information: www.courtneymarsh.com*

Jerry Franck - Producer

Originally from Luxembourg, Jerry moved to the U.S. and graduated from Columbia College with a BFA in Film Production. Jerry has been producing Courtney's films for the past 5 years, recently bringing *Chau, beyond the lines* to fruition after it was at a total standstill.





Marcelo Mitnik - Executive Producer / Story By

Marcelo grew up and studied film in Argentina, and earned his MFA in Screenwriting at UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television. His work as a writer, in English and Spanish, has been recognized with a British Academy of Film and Television (BAFTA/LA) Fellowship, a Sloan Award, among others. His work as a director has been selected for over sixty film festivals and has been recognized with multiple awards.

For more information: www.mitnik.org

Duy Nguyen - Associate Producer / Translations / Addt'l Camera & Editing

Duy Nguyen recently received her B.F.A. in Visual Arts Media with an emphasis in Film and Video at the University of California, San Diego. She immediately moved to Los Angeles to pursue film, with *Chau, beyond the lines* being her first extensive completed work on a film. Duy assisted with the translations, the editing, camera as well as various producing aspects. She is currently in the early processes of writing a new film inspired by her Vietnamese heritage, titled *Xanh Xanh / Blue Green*.

Technical Specifications

Genre	Documentary Short
Runtime	34 minutes
Shooting Format	HD
Screening Formats	DCP / BluRay / HD File
Country	USA / Vietnam
Language	Vietnamese
Subtitles	English / Spanish

Contact

Sales, Screenings, & Licensing

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