

BURMA SOLDIER

FILM TITLE: "BURMA SOLDIER" (Feature Documentary)
RUNNING TIME: 70min and 56min broadcast version
YEAR OF COMPLETION: 2010
FORMAT: HDcam
PRODUCTION COUNTRIES: Ireland, Burma (Myanmar), Thailand, USA
DIRECTORS: Nic Dunlop, Annie Sundberg, Ricki Stern
PRODUCER: Julie leBrocq
EDITOR: Sinead Kinnane
MUSIC: Paul Brill, U2
CAST: Myo Myint
NARRATION: Colin Farrell
CAMERA: Michael Glowacki, Nic Dunlop (still photography)
PRODUCTION CO: leBrocq Fraser Productions Ltd.
in association with Break Thru Films

LOGLINE:

"Burma Soldier" is the powerful story of a former junta member and Burmese soldier who risks everything to become a pro-democracy activist.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

The film provides a rare glimpse of a brutal dictatorship seen through the eyes of a courageous former soldier who, quite literally swapped sides. The documentary offers an exclusive and rare perspective, from inside the heart and mind of a man who lays bare an understanding of a brutal regime and the political and psychological power of the junta over his country. He reaches out to the military asking them to examine their responsibilities as soldiers and to reflect on their duty to protect of the people that make up the nation they are sworn to serve.

LONG SYNOPSIS:

"Burma Soldier" provides a rare glimpse of a brutal dictatorship seen through the eyes of a courageous former soldier who, quite literally, swapped sides. The documentary will offer an exclusive and rare perspective, from inside the heart and mind of a former Burmese soldier who lays bare an understanding of a brutal regime and the political and psychological power of the junta over his country.

BURMA SOLDIER

In 2008, a 46-year-old man called Myo Myint walked through the gate of a Burmese refugee camp and travelled to Bangkok airport, where his first ever plane-ride took him 12,000 miles to the USA. There, on a humid Indiana evening, he embraced a brother he had not scene in almost 20 years.

This emotional reunion marked the end of one chapter in an extraordinary life and the beginning of a new one. For Myo Myint is no ordinary refugee. As a young man, he joined the Burmese army, which has ruled the country for almost 50 years; he witnessed atrocities committed by his comrades against his own people. Later, he became a democrat, joining the mass movement led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi; he was jailed and tortured. He fled Burma with a unique and heartrending story.

Burma's tortured history provides the backdrop to Myo Myint's tale. Born in 1963, a year after the military seized power in Burma, Myo Myint grew up under the military. Later, as a teenager, he joined up to be a soldier on the frontline of brutal jungle wars against his own people. Shelled in a minefield, he lost a leg, an arm, and fingers. This single event changed his life.

After his discharge he dedicated his life to bringing peaceful change to Burma. He joined the momentous 1988 protests, meeting Suu Kyi herself and later, crutches in hand, giving speeches outside military bases. Eloquent and charismatic, he convinced hundreds of his former brothers-in-arms to join his fight for democracy.

It didn't last. The junta's spies arrested and jailed him, and he endured 15 years of abuse, sickness, and neglect in Burma's gulag. Crippled by landmines, scarred by torture, Myo Myint's body is almost a symbol of his shattered country, his survival a tribute to the resilience of his long-suffering people.

Those people rose up again in 2007, led by Buddhist monks, and again, they were crushed by the military. Despite global condemnation, despite strict sanctions by the U.S. and other countries, the junta remains as entrenched as ever. By putting a face to the demonized institution, Myo Myint's story also gives us new ways of understanding Burma's generals - and, perhaps, new ideas for dislodging them.

"Burma Soldier" follows Myo Myint's transformation from a soldier of the junta to a fighter for democracy; from a prisoner of the regime to a free man in a foreign land. It is the story of an entire nation seen through the eyes of one remarkable person - a story of enduring courage against overwhelming odds.

BURMA SOLDIER

CREDITS:

Executive Producer Julie leBrocqy
Producers: Julie leBrocqy, Annie Sundberg, Ricki Stern, Nic Dunlop
Directors: Nic Dunlop, Annie Sundberg, Ricki Stern
Writers: Nic Dunlop & Annie Sundberg
Editor: Sinead Kinnane
Score: Paul Brill
Music: "Walk On" by U2
Camera: Michael Glowacki
Cast: Myo Myint Cho
Narration: Colin Farrell

PRODUCTION COMPANY:

JULIE LeBROCQUY launched LeBrocqy Fraser Productions Ltd in Ireland in 2002. It was formed as a global independent production house with the intention to finance, produce, and distribute high quality feature length motion pictures.

Filmography: *Osama* (2003) Winner Golden Globe Best Foreign Film by Siddiq Barmark, Afghanistan: *Story Undone* (2004) Winner Silver Leopard Locarno FF by Hassan Yektapanah, Iran: *Buai Laju Laju* (2004) Winner Best Actor Malaysian FF by U-Wei Bin HajiSaari, Malaysia *Rambutan Tree* (2006) Director's Fortnight, Cannes 2006 by U-Wei Bin HajiSaari, Malaysia: *Wangi Jadi Saksi* Theatrical Play by U-Wei Bin HajiSaari, Malaysia '06 & Singapore '07: *Bibi* (2007/8) by Hassan Yektapanah *I Come With The Rain* (2008) by Tran Anh Hung (2009). *Burma Soldier* (2010) by Nic Dunlop,annie Sundberg Ricki Stern

www.lebrocqyfraser.com

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY/FILMOGRAPHY:

NIC DUNLOP is an Irish photographer and author, based in Bangkok and represented by Panos Pictures in London. His work has appeared in numerous publications worldwide, including *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Daily Telegraph*, and *The New York Times*. He has also worked for the Mines Advisory Group, Greenpeace International, and UNICEF. In 1994, he published a book on the devastation wrought by landmines with Paul Davies entitled "War of the Mines" (Pluto Press). In 1999, he received an award from Johns Hopkins University for Excellence in International Journalism for exposing Pol Pot's

BURMA SOLDIER

chief executioner, comrade Duch. Duch is currently one of five former Khmer Rouge leaders awaiting trial for his role in the genocide. Nic's book, *The Lost Executioner*, is a real-life detective story on how he found comrade Duch, a man responsible for some of the worst atrocities in the killing fields. The research was supported by a grant from the Fund for Investigative Journalism. Nic is currently completing a photo-led project on Burma's dictatorship. *Burma Soldier* will be his debut as a director.

www.nicdunlop.com

ANNIE SUNDBERG & RICKI STERN's include the current release *Joan Rivers; A Piece of Work* which premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival where it won the US Documentary Prize for Best Editing; the 2008 Emmy and Gotham nominated documentary feature, *The Devil Came on Horseback*; and the 2007 Oscar short listed, Emmy and Spirit Award nominated feature *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, which won the prestigious Dupont Columbia University Award in 2007. They are currently in post-production on *Burma Soldier*, the story of a former junta member and Burmese soldier who risks everything to become a pro-democracy activist. They live in New York City.

Filmography: Joan Rivers - A Piece of Work (2010, 84min, IFC Films; Sundance Film Festival US Documentary Competition, Best Editing Prize): *The Devil Came on Horseback* (2007, 85min. NatGeo; multiple 2009 Emmy nominee, 2008 Amnesty International UK Media Award Winner Best Doc, Sundance 2007 and Gotham Award nominee): *The Trials of Darryl Hunt* (2006, 102min, HBO; Sundance 2006, 2008 Dupont Award, 2008 Emmy nominee, short listed for the 2007 Academy Awards for Best Documentary, and 2007 Independent Spirit Award nominee for Best Documentary.): *Tully* (2002, 102min; Toronto, London, LA Festivals, nominated for 4 Independent Spirit Awards including Best Film 2003): *In My Corner* (2000, 60min; PBS/POV) "One Survivor Remembers" (1996, 35min, HBO; Oscar for Best Short Subject Documentary and Emmy winner for Non-Fiction special.)

www.breakthrufilms.org