



PRESS RELEASE

15 October 2014

The Luang Prabang Film Festival (LPFF) is thrilled to present this year's grant recipients of the Lao Filmmakers Fund.

Founded and operated by LPFF, the Lao Filmmakers Fund is the country's first and only regular granting system specifically for making film. The Fund is publicly generated, and allows Lao filmmakers to apply for small grants to help make their film projects possible. Grants are currently available once per year, and successful projects are chosen by the Luang Prabang Film Festival's Board of Directors, based on the merits of the project, as well as an organized and feasible budget and plan for execution.

This year, 100% of the sponsorships of the American Film Week (co-organized by LPFF and the US Embassy Vientiane) went directly into the Lao Filmmakers Fund. Ultimately, an incredible \$15,000 USD was contributed by Coca-Cola, the Motion Picture Association, and Lao Ford City, and made available to artists seeking to make films in Laos.

The following projects were awarded 2014 grants:

Those Below

Director: Xaisongkham Induangchanthy

Those Below is a fictional drama highlighting the effects of the secret war in Laos. Although the war ended more than four decades ago, its legacies remain and continue to haunt those involved and affected – be it Lao villagers living in the UXO-contaminated areas or veterans in the USA. Currently studying in New York, Xaisongkham will return to Laos with a small team to shoot this film, his thesis project. This is the second time Xaisongkham has received a grant from the Lao Filmmakers Fund.

Motion of Life 2

Director: Vilayphong Phongsavanh

A short documentary about freerunning, this film will highlight a new sport that is currently popular amongst young Lao. Freerunning requires physical strength, constant practice, speed, agility, and extreme flips. Vilayphong plans to shoot much of his film with a flying drone, against a background of important historical and cultural sites around Laos. Vilayphong also won Third Place in the American Film Week's short documentary competition about wildlife protection.

The fifth Luang Prabang Film Festival will take place 6-10 December 2014, screening 28 feature films and four programs of short films from across Southeast Asia. Supplementing these screenings will be exhibitions, panel discussions, and live performances. All activities during the festival are free and open to the public.