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PRESS RELEASE

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Today, the Luang Prabang Film Festival (LPFF) and Lao New Wave Cinema (LNWC) released the first installment in a series of videos for their newest educational activity, “Filmmaking 101.”

LPFF is an annual celebration of Southeast Asian Cinema held in the UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang, Laos. The seventh festival, which featured 32 feature films from the region, occurred earlier this month, 2-7 December.

LNWC is a film collective co-founded by a group of young filmmakers residing in Laos with the aim of changing the face of the Lao movie industry.

The “Filmmaking 101” program consists of nine short tutorial videos for Lao filmmakers in the Lao language, all of which will be released on YouTube and Facebook as an ongoing reference for creators of media in Laos.

Hosted by Kaewkun Saengphachan (a well-known Lao actor, singer, and filmmaker) and Anysay Keola (president of Lao New Wave Cinema and writer/director of *At the Horizon* and *Above it All*), each video focuses on a different aspect of film production. The first video, called “Top 10 Mistakes Beginner Filmmakers Make,” shows amateur directors what not to do when they are starting work on a film.

Produced at the Lao New Wave Cinema studio in Vientiane by LPFF and LNWC team members, the videos feature practical shots and detailed explanation regarding numerous skills needed for filmmaking, like how to prepare for a production, ways to achieve certain visual effects, or tips for high-quality editing.

Festival Director Gabriel Kuperman states that since moving to Laos and founding LPFF, he has noticed an unfortunate lack of film educational opportunities.

“Starting the process of making a movie can be daunting, especially in Laos, where resources are limited,” said Kuperman. “I wanted there to be a resource that new Lao filmmakers can draw upon and come back to as more and more people begin to make films.”

In a country with no film schools and a nascent film industry, the videos are designed specifically for filmmakers with little to no budget in order to show how accessible filmmaking can really be.

“We hope the ‘Filmmaking 101’ series will be like a starter kit for amateur Lao filmmakers, who don’t yet have the opportunity to study film in their own country or their own language,” said Keola, who himself studied film at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

Support for select episodes was granted by The Asia Foundation and the US Embassy Vientiane.