

## MISSISSIPPI DELTA – 2 WEEK DOCUMENTARY WORKSHOP

DATES: February 14<sup>th</sup> – February 27<sup>st</sup>, 2010  
 LOCATION: **Clarksdale, Mississippi**  
 ROOM & BOARD: Included  
 TRAVEL: Additional Cost. Must be organized by student.  
 TUITION: \$2,350.00  
           Barefoot Alumni- 8% discount  
 DEPOSIT: \$400.00  
           Deposit is non-refundable. Deposit must be in by  
           December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Balance due - January 15<sup>st</sup>, 2010.  
 INSTRUCTOR(S): Chandler Griffin  
 CONTACT: chandler@barefootworkshops.org

*"My life was changed and I learned such a love of this medium and so much info that my head is busting."*

*Karen Kohlhaas,  
Delta 08 student*



### HISTORY

The Mississippi Delta is rich in oral history and holds old and new stories waiting to be discovered and shared with the rest of the world. Explore new ideas at the birthplace of blues artists like Robert Johnson, B.B. King, Sonny Boy Williamson, Howlin' Wolf, and Muddy Waters. Walk the fields and film where cotton was king and interview the people who lived and breathed the civil rights movement. Visit endless catfish farms spread across vast cotton fields. Tell stories about factories closing and the importance of preserving local economy. Experience a historical place and meet people waiting to share their personal stories of hardships, inspiration and triumph.

### CONTENT

This 2-week delta workshop is designed for new documentary filmmakers who want to launch their careers in film and television documentaries or for those with experience in some aspects of filmmaking that are looking to expand their skill, understanding and mastery of the whole process. Producers, cinematographers, editors and writers with narrative experience who are considering working in non-fiction filmmaking are also encouraged to enroll. This workshop is ideal for working professionals who want to develop important skills, which will allow them to work with other filmmakers.

The workshop is unique because it explores every aspect of documentary filmmaking. Led by filmmaker and founder of Barefoot Workshops, Chandler Griffin along with three other instructors will help you develop an understanding for the visual structure, style, and production requirements of a wide variety of documentaries along with storytelling and the art of writing and directing. This will include laying a visual foundation by spending many hours exploring how light, composition, and the decisive moment make up the image. Many different lighting techniques and styles will be covered. Editing demos use Final Cut Pro. Using case studies along with student's ideas, the goal of the course is to provide an intense overview of the art of documentary productions. Every student will learn how to evaluate non-fiction ideas,

create their own ideas and develop an understanding of documentary film aesthetics and the storytelling process.

### **THE PROGRAM**

The workshop meets formally 6 days each week. There will be lectures, screenings, presentations, technical demos, a review and critique of dailies, supervised editing sessions, discussion of documentaries, and individual meetings with the Chandler and the other instructors.

The workshop combines lectures and presentations with supervised and formal instruction in production laboratories (camera, lighting, sound, editing), shooting on location, transcribing, screening and discussion of current and classic documentaries.

### **PRODUCTION**

The workshop will break into groups with each group producing a completed 7 to 10 minute piece shot on HDV and edited with Final Cut Pro. Students will meet and scout their subjects then write outlines to guide their production. From there they will conduct interviews, tape B-roll and coverage for a sequence, record sound and take their material into post-production. They will be instructed in creating first an edit on paper using the note card method, then on the computer, where after assembly into a final edit, they will color correct, mix sound and add titles to their finished work. The projects will encompass the diversity of documentary styles and allow the individual the chance to problem-solve by learning to work as a team.

### **PRESENTATION**

On the last night of the workshop the documentaries will be screened for the community to enjoy. The filmmakers are encouraged to invite family and friends. Because of the full support of The Mississippi Film Commission, documentaries produced with Barefoot Workshops are automatically accepted for a special screening at the Crossroads International Film & Video Festival in Jackson, Mississippi, and students are encouraged to submit to other festivals around the world.

### **VISITING ARTISTS**

Barefoot Workshops invites visiting artists to attend this workshop. Artists working in all mediums are encouraged to apply. The duration of stay varies with each individual. In the past photographers, filmmakers and musicians have visited the program.

Barefoot Workshops will be accepting filmmakers for enrollment in upcoming Delta Workshops. These filmmakers will bring their documentary work in progress to the workshop and spend two weeks writing and editing the film. Read what one of 2006's visiting filmmakers had to say.

*"When Jason and I went to Clarksdale, Miss. to be Visiting Artists at Barefoot, we had over 60 hours of footage and were looking for support and guidance in writing the film. The two and half weeks we spent at Barefoot was an incredibly focused, challenging and inspiring experience... During our time in Clarksdale we completed a trailer that we will use to raise production funds and wrote 60 pages of our rough draft. As a first time filmmaker, I felt really grateful to be able to work with such dedicated and knowledgeable people like Chandler and Jack, as every stage of making your first film is challenging and new territory."*

—Monika Navarro

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Barefoot's goal is to create responsible filmmakers who care about the world around them and who make it a point to give back to the people they work with. The point of the workshop is to enrich and empower people at a grassroots level, through learning and exchange. Barefoot encourages students internationally, to find their voice as filmmakers, while improving conditions locally by passing on their knowledge and skills others.

• 134 Haven Ave. 6G • New York, NY 10032

Tel: 917-385-9343 • Email: [chandler@barefootworkshops.org](mailto:chandler@barefootworkshops.org) • URL: [www.barefootworkshops.org](http://www.barefootworkshops.org)