

## MISSISSIPPI DELTA – 2 WEEK DOCUMENTARY WORKSHOP

DATES: September 4<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
 LOCATION: **Clarksdale, Mississippi**  
 TUITION: \$2,239.00  
 DEPOSIT: \$500.00  
 Deposit is non-refundable & non-transferable.  
 Deposit due - May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.  
 FINAL PAYMENT: Balance due - July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.  
 HOUSING: Housing is NOT included and should be booked through The Shack Up Inn. Pricing on housing varies depending on your choice and what is available. Please contact the The Shack Up Inn immediately to book your room. shackup@shackupinn.com / (662) 624-8329  
 MEALS: Meals eaten during class are included in tuition. Meals eaten out (optional) are the responsibility of the student.  
 INSTRUCTOR(S): Chandler Griffin, Edward Symes & Yoni Brook.  
 PAST INSTRUCTORS: Alison Fast, Julie Winokur, Julie Drapkin and Jack McDonald  
 CONTACT: info@barefootworkshops.org

*"What makes this workshop rise so far, far above is how fully all of the instructors give of themselves – they give not just what they know, but also who and what they are. It's one of those impossibly wonderful experiences that really does have to be experienced to be understood."*

Paula Froke, USA  
 Deputy National Editor  
 Associated Press

### OTHER DELTA WORKSHOPS HAPPENING DURING SEPTEMBER:

- \* 1-Week Photographing The Mississippi Delta  
 Instructor: David Turnley  
 August 28<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- \* 1-Week Editing Documentary - Mississippi Delta  
 Instructor: Tyler Hubby  
 September 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011



### 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. Step into Juke Joints and hear how Delta and Hill Country blues still shapes the lives of North Mississippi. Walk the fields and film where cotton was king. 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. Meet local artists who call THE DELTA their home. 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 who 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 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 using Lowel and Lite Panel lighting kits. Editing demos use Final Cut Pro. The goal of the course is to provide an intense overview of the art of the documentary process. 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.



## **PHILOSOPHY**

At Barefoot Workshops, students don't study textbooks, they make films.

But we also say, "It's not about film," meaning that the experience you have telling someone's story, and how that experience changes you, your subject, and the community is what Barefoot is all about.

Learning how to tell a story well will move your audience, which is both exciting and a humbling experience. Students learn that the filmmaker/artist becomes "the keeper" of a person's story. Your subject will entrust you with their story and it becomes your responsibility to honestly tell that story. Sitting at the Barefoot screening that ends each workshop, you will see your film impact your subjects and their friends, family and community. There is nothing else like this experience and it will change your life.

On Monday of Week 1, it seems impossible that you will have completed documentary by Friday of Week 2. But since 2005, our students' track record is 100%. We are very proud of this, and the dedication of our students and teachers in the intense process of filmmaking.

At the final screening, people don't just applaud the filmmakers, they also applaud the people whose stories were told. We always have the filmmakers and subjects stand up so that they can be acknowledged. It's a beautiful thing to witness. This is when it clicks for most people and they realize that their film is much bigger than they are. It's empowering.

At Barefoot Workshops, you stand in cotton fields and listen to stories about the difficult life of sharecroppers, when we sit on the banks of the Mississippi River, you hang out in a juke joint and hear sounds that have defined American music. You are part of history in an incredibly rich area of the United States.

Those of us who teach with Barefoot have seen all of these things over and over. It's what brings us back every year to repeat the impossible process of making a documentary in twelve days.



### **THE PROGRAM**

The workshop runs **every day**. 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 demos (camera, lighting, sound, editing), story structure, shooting on location, transcribing, screening and discussion of current and classic documentaries.

We screen on the last Friday of the workshop. The following Saturday will be used as a time to reflect and make any final changes to the films before posting to the internet

### **PRODUCTION**

The workshop will break into groups of three with each group producing a completed 7 to 10 minute piece shot on video and edited with Final Cut Pro. Students will break into groups based on stories they have chosen. Barefoot **does not** choose the story for students. We have tons of ideas and will share many of them, but it is up to the individuals to decide what films should be made. By day two every person in the workshop will have a few ideas for stories. Those ideas will be pitched in a group session. Stories are then chosen based on the obvious and what is realistic. The faster groups form, the faster the films start. Once students let the subject(s) know and the subjects are open to the idea of being filmed, students must start to schedule interviews and when scenes will be filmed. Groups will then write outlines to guide their production. From there they will conduct interviews, film B-roll and coverage for a sequence, record sound and take their material into post-production.

Students are walked through the process of creating first an edit on paper using the note card method. All interviews will be transcribed, which simplifies the writing process. Once the story has been written, students then move on the computer, where after assembly into the final edit, they will color correct, mix sound and add titles to the finished documentary. 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. Collaboration is an important part of this process.

## PRESENTATION

On the last Friday of the workshop the documentaries will be screened for the community to enjoy. The filmmakers are encouraged to invite family, friends and individuals featured in their documentary. All films are screened at 7pm.

Because of the full support of The Mississippi Film Commission, documentaries produced in Barefoot's Mississippi Delta documentary workshops are automatically accepted for a special screening at the Crossroads International Film & Video Festival in Jackson, Mississippi.



## HOUSING

All students live on Hopson Plantation at The Shack Up Inn. [www.theshackupinn.com](http://www.theshackupinn.com)

Students are responsible for booking their own rooms and should contact The Shack Up Inn as soon as a deposit has been paid. (662) 624-8329

Housing Options:

- #1 Shacks. A shack has two bedrooms and shares a bathroom.
- #2 Bins. A bin is more like a hotel room and is single occupancy.

Shacks are considered more rustic and authentic. Both have heat and AC. All bins are designed the same way, while shacks are all different. Please visit The Shack Up Inn website for more information on housing options. [www.theshackupinn.com](http://www.theshackupinn.com)

Wireless is available at The Shack Up Inn. Washer and dryer is also available. Detergent not provided.

## 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.

Read what one of 2006's visiting filmmakers had to say.

*"When Jason and I went to Clarksdale, Mississippi 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  
Director, "Animas Perdidas"  
2010 PBS National Broadcast - Independent Lens

## **AIRPORT**

Please fly into the Memphis (MEM) airport. It is very easy to get to Clarksdale from Memphis, 80 minutes... assuming you don't get lost in a cotton field. Highway 61 runs from Memphis down to Clarksdale and we are right off the highway set back in a cotton field. Please visit [The Shack Up Inn](#) for directions. If you have a smart phone just enter "001 commissary circle, clarksdale ms" in it and it will lead you down the highway.

## **WHEN TO ARRIVE AND WHEN DO WE START**

The class officially runs from September 4<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. We recommend that all students arrive on Sunday the 4th in the early afternoon 1 or 2pm arrival. If you have them time, consider coming down the day before and relaxing before it all starts. It will be a very long workshop once we begin on Monday morning. If you want to come down a day earlier, let the Shack Up Inn know by emailing them at [shackup@shackupinn.com](mailto:shackup@shackupinn.com). If you are coming down a day early, check with the shacks before you book your ticket to make sure housing is available.

We will have an informal meeting after dinner on Sunday evening (Sunday the 4th) at 7pm and class officially starts on Monday morning at 9am.

## **WHEN TO LEAVE**

The workshop is over on the morning of Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>. Checkout is at 11am. People pack up and are usually headed back to the Memphis airport in the late morning or early afternoon. A 1pm or 2pm departure is normal.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The easiest way to rent a car is through the Memphis airport. People who know each other could consider splitting the cost of renting a car to make it cheaper but there is no guarantee that you will be making the same documentary.

## **EQUIPMENT**

ALL Equipment is provided. If you are using a Canon XHA1s or something similar, feel free to bring your camera along. The workshop is sponsored by Canon USA, Sennheiser, Lowel Lighting, Bogen Imaging, B&H, Tekserve and Lite Panels. Each team gets their own camera, tripod, shotgun mic, wireless mic and MAC laptop assigned to them.

We HIGHLY recommend that all students bring an external hard drive to back up projects. When the workshop is over you will want to take your documentary and Final Cut Pro project home. Barefoot will have a copy of your film on our drive, but it's one of the most important things you will take with you.

Suggested hard drive: Barefoot Workshops **highly** recommends purchasing a [Glyph Porta Drive](#) (Glyph-Technologies 500GB PortaGig 50 Portable Hard Drive (7200rpm). This drive is \$200.00 at B&H and Tekserve. Drives are inexpensive these days so go with the best. This drive will not go down. If it goes down during the workshop, I'll personally call Glyph and have it replaced.

## **SHOULD I BRING MY LAPTOP**

YES.... it will be hugely helpful to have your laptop. Barefoot will assign your team a laptop but it's a huge help to have your own for research and transcribing. If you have a MAC, I highly recommend you bring it. I can load transcription software on your computer, which will speed things up when typing out your interviews.

## **FOOD**

Meals are provided but we recommend that you purchase snacks if you want something other than the three meals a day. Some people hit the Whole Foods in Memphis when they land. There are grocery stores nearby so it's no big deal to purchase things locally. We'll occasionally go out to an optional "dinner out" where students are responsible for their own meal. If you opt out, there is always a meal at home. On designated days students will be allowed to go out on their own. You'll want to get out for meals when you can. We spend so

many evenings in the classroom that it's nice to get out. But there is always dinner at home if you choose to stay in.

### **DIETARY NEEDS**

Please let us know if you have any dietary needs that should be addressed.

\* Vegetarian, gluten free, etc.

### **RESEARCH/IDEAS FOR STORIES**

If you want to get a jump on ideas and learn about the "characters" in town please feel free to start looking around. Please note that 99% of people just show up and find a story within 48 hours. No big deal and we anticipate this part of the process.

### **WHO OWNS THE RIGHTS AND WHERE DO TAPES LIVE?**

Barefoot Workshops shares copyright privileges with its students. Barefoot Workshops retains the masters of all footage filmed during the workshop. Mini DV copies of footage and final projects are made by students at their expense (this is why we suggest you buy a hard drive for the workshop). Barefoot Workshops reserves the right to use any and all footage or media projects produced by students in our workshops for any purpose including sale, promotion and advertising.

Individuals who enroll and create projects during a Barefoot Workshop **must** acknowledge Barefoot Workshops on all materials published or mass-produced videos.

The Barefoot Workshops logo should be included in a prominent or easily visible place in the beginning of the video and at the end of the video and the following language should be used:

1. This film was created during the Barefoot Workshops program, (insert workshop location).
2. More information about Barefoot Workshops can be found at: [www.barefootworkshops.org](http://www.barefootworkshops.org).
3. © 2011 Barefoot Workshops, (student's names if they choose to add)

\* Plates for this information will be provided during the workshop. \*

Students cannot, at a later date, add additional copyright information to the end of any documentary produced during a Barefoot Workshops program. For example, a student cannot form a production company later and add the production company as a copyright holder.

If it is anticipated that displaying the Barefoot Workshops logo or placing this language in project publications will be detrimental to Barefoot Workshops, individuals must contact Barefoot Workshops to request a waiver of this requirement prior to publication or mass production.

If videos produced during a Barefoot Workshop are submitted to film festivals, broadcasters or for online, Barefoot Workshops must be notified before the submission and then notified again should the video be selected.

Barefoot Workshops has the legal right to post all workshop material on the Barefoot Workshops website and on any other websites associated with or in partnership with Barefoot Workshops.

We are here to support you as storytellers and filmmakers. We are also personally invested in helping archive the Mississippi Delta. Our goal is to document and tell as many unique stories in the Delta as possible. After nine documentary workshops, we've amassed over 400 hours of footage and we've interviewed more than 120 people in The Delta. Barefoot Workshops will house all the original tapes from the workshop in The Delta Archive. The tapes stay in the Delta... with the community.

\*\* By paying deposit and tuition, students agree to these non-negotiable terms. \*\*

## **WEATHER**

September is a great month to be in the Delta. It's warm during the day but without the heavy summer heat and humidity. Bring bug spray or buy some locally.

## **WHO DO I MAKE A FILM WITH?**

Documentary filmmaking is a collaborative project. You will have two partners who work with you on the documentary. Each team will consist of three individuals. In past workshops, we've consistently found that the best films were made with three members, so we're using the knowledge to give you the best experience.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Expect to have long days with this workshop. We are here to teach all of you how to make documentaries... we are not on vacation.

Please make sure you rest before the program. It is an intense and rewarding experience for all of us. The workshop will push you to the limits of what you think you can do. You need all the energy you can get coming into the workshop so please don't arrive exhausted or you won't make it through the program.

We have a zero tolerance for drug use. If you are found with drugs, you will be told to leave. This is not up for discussion. If we go out for dinner, you're welcome to have a drink but we don't allow drinking during class. We do support coffee makers...

## **QUOTES FROM ALUMNI**

*"It was very well drilled that it's about learning and trying to understand the true story of a place or a person and connect with them. Also about the responsibility you have telling one's story. Barefoot Workshops was an eye opening, heart enlarging and taste developing experience. You learn so much you can feel the growth."*

Gabriella Willenz, Israel  
Delta 2010 – September

*"It changed my life... It is about the story, about people, about moving others."*

Yara Hannema, Holland  
Delta 2010 – September

*"Barefoot is beyond your expectations and brings your documentary dreams to reality!"*

Nina Shah, India  
Delta 2010 – February

*"Overall something has shifted inside of me in a positive way – which if you could put that in context – is huge. But as I am still processing – having just got home last night -it has changed me in ways that are still intangible. I have a fire in the belly that hasn't burnt in five years. So that's quite something... If you want to learn to create films spend three years at film school, if you actually want to make films spent two to four weeks at a Barefoot Workshop, It's quite a ride, but worth it."*

Edwina Mason, Australia  
Delta 2010 – February

*"Making a film about a subject you have not yet decided, with someone you have never met before, and who obviously has a different approach and point of view than you, in a town and state you have never been before, learning all the process from basic camera operating to lighting and interview techniques, ending up in editing in FCP, all in less than 2 weeks, is quite of a challenge. And this is the interesting part of it. It is real. You have to make a film, a real film, about 10 minutes long, and you have no choice, but it has to be a good film and it better look good, because you are showing it to over 50 people at the end of the course. The structure of the program, its flexibility, its friendliness, the informal and unique aspect of the*

*location, the sharing between students, and the learning from the teachers who are all talented professional, makes this workshop unique and fully worth it. I have validated a lot of my previous technical skills during the workshop, and we have concluded it with an 8 minute film which I liked a lot, sorry but I am just sincere here. It is the result of a combined effort with my partner student, where we fully dedicated our efforts to reflect a small side of someone's life into this short film, and we succeeded. I am extremely motivated in continuing further in this direction, and making this a new starting point in my career. "*

Jean-Hugues Houdin, France  
Delta 2010 – February

*"I think that beyond the actual final product, a film, the Barefoot Workshops instills the sense that the documentary workshop experience is about honoring the creative process, collaboration, and being a conduit for the sharing of people's voices. I think the name "Barefoot" implies walking in this world with a sensitivity and respect for different cultures and people. I think "It's not about the film" to imply that it is not just about the external manifestation of a story told through film, but rather the transformation of self in relationship to others through the act of listening. Thanks to the Barefoot Workshops, I successfully got my feet wet in learning the basics of documentary filmmaking. I walked away with a short, ten minute, documentary that has impacted my life, profoundly connected me to a place (Clarksdale, Mississippi) and hopefully inspired those who told their stories. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to discover the power of listening and storytelling"*

Hilary Cline, USA  
Delta 2010 – February

*At the risk of sounding hyperbolic, I want to tell everyone that this workshop inspired a confidence and freedom to create I haven't felt in years. I came to Mississippi hoping to complete something from start to finish—to have a finished product. I left feeling simultaneously more capably human and artist than I have in years. Worlds have opened up for me I didn't know existed, and now I see the potential for documenting Stories everywhere.*

Susan Fritz, USA  
Delta 2010 – February

*"Exceptional quality and value for those interested in expanding their knowledge and ability in documentary story telling."*

John Buffaloe, USA  
Delta 2010 – February

*"It's about the experience of learning the craft, engaging with your surroundings, and collaborating with your peers. It's commendable to create an award-winning doc but the experiences listed above far outweigh awards and nominations. Chandler, his selection of top-notch instructors, and phenomenal support staff create the most worthwhile environment and experience for learning documentary filmmaking. These educators are infinitely passionate about not only creativity and craft, but also the latest technology. Most important, Barefoot Workshops creates a comfortable environment where collaboration, communication, learning, and progress come naturally because of the instructors' ability to instill passion in creatives of all ages and ethnicities."*

David Wright, USA  
Delta 2010, February

*"I asked virtually no questions ahead of time; just went on a very strong gut feeling and instinct that this would be something very, very special. To say it and you came through is the understatement of the century. As I've said many times, words just can't possibly do it justice. Floyd in the cotton field. Lighting lessons at midnight. Dinosaur tails and spectacular sunsets and soul-rocking music and the 24-hour pure passion and dedication of four fantastic instructors. Total immersion, an instant family, friends for life – it was the spirit as much as*

*all the phenomenal technical knowledge that made this so extraordinary. What makes this workshop rise so far, far above is how fully all of the instructors give of themselves – they give not just what they know, but also who and what they are. It's one of those impossibly wonderful experiences that really does have to be experienced to be understood."*

Paula Froke, USA  
Delta 2009, September

*"It has made me realize that the responsibility of telling a truthful story supercedes all obstructions, distractions, and doubts. The world today is so prone to skip the most valuable aspects of humanity, and we are compelled to capture and illustrate those very moments on film. If you want to tell a story that matters, a story that changes the world, come to Barefoot and let your voice be heard."*

Stephen Moody, USA  
Delta 2009, September

*Delta '09 was an amazing experience. Not only did I learn an incredible amount in a condensed period of time, but I grew to know and understand a new place and people, I developed relationships with folks from all over the world and I was able to get away from life's busyness and follow my heart for two weeks.*

Vince Caperelli, Jr., USA  
Delta 2009, February

*Barefoot in Clarksdale is a workshop experience you will find nowhere else in the world. There is no way to re-create Clarksdale - the most interesting people and their incredible stories run rampant. And the land is as much a part of the experience as the people. But the end result, a short documentary, is only part of the experience. The intense learning from the instructor's expertise (many times one-on-one), the close working relationships with strangers turned classmates turned friends, and the voice of the Mississippi Delta and the characters that live there all combine to create a very intense, surreal experience.*

Wade Grayson, USA  
Delta 2009, February

*It's about what you learn about yourself and the connections you learn to make with other people as you tell stories... A Barefoot workshop is THE place to learn about all aspects of documentary filmmaking and about the creative process. Every single aspect, from location to instruction to equipment, is top notch and it is the best deal going. It is life changing.*

Karen Kohlhaas, USA  
Delta 2009, February

*I came to this workshop from a still photography point of view, hoping to find a way to supplement the creativity of my Nikons with video for my project. I left with a new respect for the unique powers of video to convey the essence of a subject. I suspect the vision of students of Barefoot Workshops will create some paradigm shifts in the public awareness of both global and intimate challenges that exist today and their documentaries may become an impetus to desperately needed solutions.*

Alison Jones, USA  
Delta 2008, February

*It's about connection; Telling peoples' stories and sharing their universal truths of what it means to be human. Chandler is a fountain of wisdom, both technical and artistic. He is passionate about his work and that passion overflows into the classroom. Chandler meets each student where they are, from seasoned pro to newbie, patiently catering to every question. And Planet Mississippi is a place I look to which I look forward to returning.*

Rachael Hamilton, USA  
Delta 2008, February