

**MISSISSIPPI DELTA –  
1 WEEK DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**

DATES: February 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
 LOCATION: **Clarksdale, Mississippi**  
 ROOM & BOARD: Included  
 TRAVEL: Additional Cost. Must be organized by student.  
 TUITION: \$1,250.00  
 DEPOSIT: \$500.00  
 Deposit is non-refundable/non-transferable. Deposit must be in by Oct 15<sup>st</sup>, 2011.  
 FINAL PAYMENT: Balance due – Nov 15<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 eaten during class are included in tuition. Meals eaten out (optional) are the responsibility of the student.  
 INSTRUCTOR(S): Amy Toensing  
 CONTACT: info@barefootworkshops.org



**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 photograph where cotton was king and meet the people who lived and breathed the civil rights movement. Visit endless catfish farms spread across vast cotton fields. Tell visual 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**

Based at The Shack Up Inn in the famous Mississippi Delta, participants will photograph a theme over a week in the life of this timeless landscape with individualized mentoring from Amy.

**PHILOSOPHY**

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

But we also say, "It's not about film and photography," 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 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.

At Barefoot Workshops, you stand in cotton fields and listen to stories about the difficult life of sharecroppers, you 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 and it’s what brings us back every year.

### **INSTRUCTOR BIO:**

**Amy Toensing** began her career in photojournalism in 1994, covering the community she grew up in for her hometown paper, The Valley News in New Hampshire. She then went on to work for The New York Times in Washington DC covering Capitol Hill and the White House during the Clinton administration. In 1998 Amy went back to school to earn her masters degree in visual communication at Ohio University. In 1999 she was awarded the National Geographic Magazine Photo Internship and embarked on her first story for the magazine on the remote island of Monhegan, 12 miles off the Maine coast. Since then she has been a regular contributor to National Geographic Magazine as well as numerous other national and international publications, taking her around the globe to Asia, the South Pacific, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Her stories are often intimate essays reflecting the lives of ordinary people. She has also covered issues such as welfare reform, Muslim women living in western culture and Hurricane Katrina. Toensing is currently working on her thirteenth story for National Geographic Magazine. Her work has also appeared in The New York Times, Newsweek, Time Magazine and National Geographic Traveler.

Amy lives in the Hudson Valley of New York with her husband Matt Moyer who is also a National Geographic Contributing Photographer.

### **SCHEDULE**

#### **Day 1** (February 5<sup>th</sup>) Sunday

Arrival Day

#### **Day 2** (February 6<sup>th</sup>) Monday

Photographers meet in classroom. The afternoon will be spent with introductions to one another, and a presentation of Amy’s own work, to serve as a launching off point, to begin discussing the fundamentals of photographing people to construct an essay or story with photographs. By the end of the afternoon, Amy will begin to work with each photographer to create a game plan to find, and begin photographing a week in the life of a subject of the photographer’s choice- leveraging the existing diversity and vibrance of the Mississippi Delta.

7:30pm

Amy Toensing : SLIDE LECTURE : Open to community.

#### **Day 3** (February 7<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday

9am - 10:30am

Photographers will begin the day reviewing each photographers game plan to begin photographing their essay, which can be defined by any number of constructs- a person, a community, etc .... A week in the life of The Mississippi Delta.

11am - 5pm

Each photographer will begin photographing their project. Amy will work each day in the field with two different photographers, accompanying them during their shooting.

5pm - 6pm

Photographers will reconvene at the end of this first day to download their first day's experiences.

**Day 4** (February 8<sup>th</sup>) Wednesday

9am - 12pm

Photographers will bring in their digital flash cards, the work will be downloaded to a Barefoot computer, and the morning will be spent reviewing each photographers first day of work. Group participation and discussion is encouraged.

1pm - 6pm

Photographers return to the field to continue photographing their projects.

7:30pm

Evening Session TBD

**Day 5** (February 9<sup>th</sup>) Thursday

9am - 1pm

Review Day 3's batch of photographs and to continue discussing the direction that the work is taking, with mentoring from Amy and the group.

1pm - 6pm

Photographers return to the field to continue photographing their projects.

7:30pm

Evening Session TBD

**Day 6** (February 10<sup>th</sup>) Friday

9am - 1pm

Photographers return to the field to continue photographing their projects.

1pm - 2pm

Guest Presentation

2pm - 6pm

We will continue to download and review the previous afternoon, and morning's work.

7:30pm

Evening Session TBD

**Day 7** (February 11<sup>th</sup>) Saturday

9am - 4pm

Amy will work with each photographer to edit their week's work and to construct an essay of photographs. The photographers will then gather to enjoy a group show of their work- with a summary of each participant's experience during the week.

6pm

The Workshop will conclude with a group dinner to celebrate the week of work, the unleashed passion which each photographer will move forward with, new found friends, and a discussion of where each photographer might like to move forward with their photography.

**Day 8** (February 12<sup>th</sup>) Sunday

Departure Day.

## HOUSING

All students live on old 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



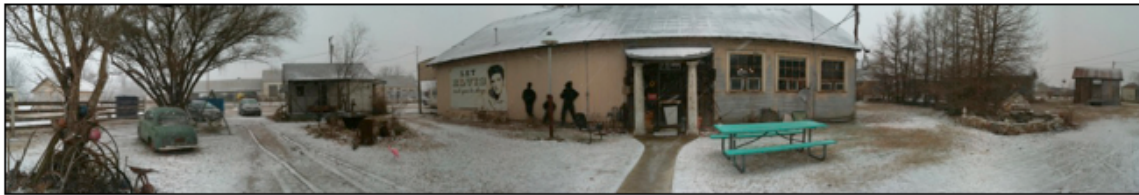
### Housing Options:

#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/dryer is also available. Laundry detergent not provided.



## 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](http://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 February 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. We recommend that all students arrive on Sunday the 5th in the early afternoon 1pm or 2pm arrival at the Memphis airport. This will give you enough time to get your rental car and get to Clarksdale in the late afternoon. If you have them time, consider coming down the day before (Saturday) 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 (the 5th) at 7pm and class officially starts on Monday morning at 9am.

## WHEN TO LEAVE

The workshop is over on the morning of Sunday the 12<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.

• 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)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The easiest way to rent a car is through the Memphis airport. [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com) is a good place to start.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Equipment is not provided in this workshop. You will need to bring your own DSLR, cards, laptop and hard drive. Hard drive and laptop are not required but it will make things easier for you.

## **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.

## **WEATHER**

Expect cold and occasionally wet as usual in the Delta during February. Dress appropriately. Boots are a good thing to bring along with a raincoat, sweaters and gloves. On Monday evening we'll be standing outside at sunset listening to stories.... Please assume that it will be extremely cold and pack for standing in 30 degree weather for three hours. Trust us on this one. In 2011 it snowed.



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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...

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**RESPONSIBILITY:**

Barefoot Workshops will not assume responsibility or liability for any loss or damage of personal effects or for any injury or loss during your program. Barefoot Workshops is not liable for any loss, damage, or injury caused by war, weather, sickness, government restrictions or regulations or any other causes over which we have no control.

Barefoot Workshops recommends that each participant carry personal travel insurance to cover the cost of any unforeseen emergency, damage to or loss of baggage, cancellation or sickness.

If a participant becomes ill or incapacitated, Barefoot Workshops may take whatever action it deems necessary to preserve his health/safety, including medical treatments, hospital transfers and transportation to the U.S. at the participant's expense.

\*\* By paying deposit and tuition and/or by attending this workshop, students agree to these non-negotiable terms. \*