



SCOPE

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This is the first of a new bi-monthly newsletter we are sending out to let you know about our courses and activities, as well as to advertise anthropology and film related news and events. We began our series *Before You Go: Introduction to Documentary Filmmaking and Editing for Social Scientists* in March of 2006 and have now completed our 15th workshop in just over two years. We have embraced students from all university departments, even though our methods are those from an anthropological perspective. With the backing of the Royal Anthropological Institute, OADF has now established itself in providing technical skills in cameras and editing for students with research agendas, as well as for students with an interest in media communication. Now with over 200 alumni, we are beginning to understand the needs of our academic associates, and we hope to have raised the awareness of the medium of film as a tool for research.

We have had the honour of working for several universities and are thrilled to have an association with UCL Anthropology, where we have been running workshops and courses regularly since January 2008. We have already established a timetable of workshops for the 2008-09 academic year and hope to accommodate students and fellow researchers at this London venue. The dates for the workshops and editing courses can be found on <http://www.oadf.co.uk/courses/calendar.html>.

OADF has established a base in Oxford in the Media and Performing Arts Department of Oxford and Cherwell Valley College (OCVC). This is an extremely exciting new opportunity, as the department already caters for media students. OADF will be running our Before You Go workshops and courses in film and editing throughout the academic year. Attached to this association is our successful bid to support the media department in becoming Oxfordshire's first and only Apple Authorised Training Centre (AATCe). We will begin Apple-accredited courses and workshops in parallel to our documentary film workshops in Oxford from October 2008 so students can gain an industry-standard qualification in media pro-applications. We will offer courses on Final Cut Pro, Aperture and Logic to enhance the technical understanding of academic students and researchers. These courses will be available as evening classes and out of term workshops, so as not to disrupt the university timetables. You can find out more details about these courses and workshops in Oxford at <http://www.oadf.co.uk/courses/oxford.html>.

We welcome all those interested in documentary filmmaking and in taking Apple-accredited exams. We implement a pedagogical structure within our courses that addresses ethical issues in the representation of others and socially responsible dissemination of film products.

In addition to our training courses we have provided production services to several institutions and organizations. We are proud to announce the completion of the feature documentary 'Don't Ask', for which OADF provided some of the footage. This film challenges the US Government's laws on homosexuality and their military and has premiered in New York this summer. We are scheduling the UK premier in London this autumn. For information on this film, please see <http://www.asknotfilm.com/>.

OADF has had been working with the Said Business School on a documentary dealing with the transfer of knowledge from universities to the industry of design. Led by Lucy Kimbell, this ESRC-funded project contracted OADF to film a series of workshops and interactions in order to demonstrate the process and findings of its participants. This film will be available on the Oxford University server this autumn.

We hope to provide more production and technical support to academic departments this coming year.

We are extremely delighted to present a growing staff at OADF. We have recently taken on two new executive professionals specializing in marketing and

educational projects for university students. Mr Rajiv Nahar will be in charge of marketing and Mr David Harrison, who is undertaking his doctoral studies in the Department of Education at the University of Oxford, will be supporting and initiating new ventures. Ms Eriko Kobayashi, a 3rd-year student in Human Sciences at UCL, will be our student rep this year.

On the OADF teacher training team, we are extremely grateful to the continuing presence of Dr Michael Yorke, our senior tutor, and Dr Maarten Roos, our chief editor. Adding to this specialized force, we have Ms Zemirah Moffat, Ms Elhum Shakerifar, and Mr Ed Owles, who have all shown their excellent knowledge of visual media over the last six months and will continue to contribute their skills and knowledge to the OADF enterprise.

We are always interested in collaborating and joining forces with existing organizations with social and humanitarian agendas for filmmaking. OADF is foremost a service to education through the use of media, and we promote a cross-cultural dimension and anthropological critique of the knowledge and use of media technology and its distribution.

OADF are happy to announce our new Facebook group entitled OADF Alumni. If you already have a Facebook account and would like to join our growing OADF community, then search for "OADF Alumni". If you do not have a Facebook account, email alison@oadf.co.uk for details of how to join us.

Please let us know if you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, which will go out on 7th October 2008 and if we can be of any help to you.

ADVERTISING: OADF has been instrumental in setting a Practical Film Course within the Masters Degree in the Department of Anthropology at UCL. For anyone wanting to learn the practical skills of documentary and ethnographic filmmaking in a university environment, this is a perfect opportunity. Please see the details below:

The Department of Anthropology at University College London is starting a new Masters Degree module in PRACTICAL ETHNOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING.

"We live in a world of moving images. To participate fully in the study of society and culture we need to be as confident in the use of moving images as in the printed word."

This will be a practical course in hands-on documentary filmmaking for credit as part of a Masters Degree in the University of London. It will be an optional half module with preference given to students taking the "History of Ethnographic Film" and the "Critical Visual Culture" modules at UCL. Places are also available for outside students to participate. Students from the University of London can take the course for credit depending on their department's agreement. Non-university students are encouraged to take the course and will receive a stand-alone UCL certificate on completion.

This course provides training in the use of digital media, cameras and Final Cut Pro editing, and will teach students broadcast quality filmmaking by anthropologists who are also award-winning professional documentarists. The course will develop the students' critical skills of film analysis through practical hands-on work and the experience of creating a 15 minute video project.

This UCL initiative is a response to the growing need among anthropologists to use digital media as a research tool and as a method of presenting research outcomes. It aims to teach students practical digital filmmaking skills and contribute to their formation as anthropologists. It will demystify the process of filmmaking, and open new ways of reading and understanding visual ethnographies.

The course will run in Term Two, 12th Jan - 27th March 2009, and consist of 4 hours of lectures and seminars every week for 9 weeks, and 60 hours of hands-on camera and editing exercises to produce a final 15 minute video. The final video must be completed by the beginning of the Summer term, Friday April 17th 2009. Assessment will be 80% on the video project and 20% on an accompanying project diary.

Please apply for the course by the beginning of September by emailing Dr. Michael Stewart at m.stewart@ucl.ac.uk

For further course details either email senior course tutor, Dr. Michael Yorke m.yorke@ucl.ac.uk tel: +44 (0)20-7794-3824 or look at the UCL online newsflash at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/anthropology/news/index.htm>