

Course: DOCUMENTARY CINEMATOGRAPHY 2 (ELO-E1204)

Majors in Documentary Film and Cinematography
2022/2023
Department of Film, Television and Scenography
ELO, Aalto University

Dates: 27.02-10.03.2023

Time: See schedule below.

Room: See schedule below.

Responsible teachers: Sari Aaltonen/Arturo Delgado Pereira

Teaching Language: English

Credits: 3 cr

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DESCRIPTION

This workshop course will cover how to prepare for documentary shooting regarding content, formal and technical approaches, as well as aspects of collaboration between directors and cinematographers. The course combines a “learning by doing” approach with documentary lectures and case studies. Through filming assignments, students will experiment with the notion of “creative restrictions” to foster creativity and explore possibilities. The case studies and the visitors will deepen the understanding of cinematographers-directors’ collaboration, the technical choices, and their relationship to content and form. Students will also be provided with some texts that tackle documentary cinematography.

PRE-ASSIGNMENT

1. **Think about** a place/location/site, person, being, process or phenomenon with which you would like to engage and film during this course. Please have your choice(s) ready for the first day of class. The place could be a street corner, a building, a backyard, a bus stop, a location from your film project, etc. It’s really up to you. The same applies to filming people, beings, or processes. Think about possibilities that attract you. One important aspect to consider is accessibility. The ideal situation is that you will visit and film more than once during the course, helping to construct a stronger and deeper relation to the subject than if you were only filming once. You can bring more than one option. We will discuss them on the first day of class, and students will select some for their film exercises.

2. **Watch** the following short film:

Lift (Mark Isaacs, 2001)

<https://vimeo.com/516580133>

PW: Cinematography2

ASSIGNMENT

The assignment consists of a filming exercise carried out in pairs. Please bear in mind that this is an exercise...not a short film! Students pairs and further information will be provided on the first day of class.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will familiarize with approaches, methods, debates, and practices of documentary cinematography.
- Students will apply some of these methods and approaches into a film exercise.

VISITORS

JOHN SKOOG

John Skoog graduated from the Art Academy in Frankfurt. His movies have been shown at numerous film festivals and art museums in Sweden and internationally, such as the Berlin International Film Festival, Moderna Museet and Index Contemporary Art Foundation in Stockholm, Museum of the Moving Image & PS1 MOMA in New York, IDFA, London Film Festival, True/False, Modern Museum in Wien, Rotterdam International Film Festival and the Modern Museum in Frankfurt am Main. His short films have won both Startsladden and 1km film awards (best two biggest prizes for shorts in Sweden), as well as several prizes in the art world and at international film festivals. His first feature film *Säsong (Ridge)* won CPH:DOX 2019. John has been a professor of film at the Art Academy in Mainz since 2016.

ITA ZBRONIEC-ZAJT

Ita Zbronic-Zajt is a Polish cinematographer. She graduated from the prestigious National Film School in Łódź, Poland. In 2017 she became the first woman to win a Guldbagge (the Swedish Oscar) for best cinematography. The year before she became the first cinematographer to receive the Bo Wideberg-prize at Båstad Film Festival. In 2019 she won the Sven Nyqvist Cinematography Award at Gothenburg International Film Festival for her work on John Skoog's *Ridge*. Most recently she won the Golden Frog in the Polish competition at Camera Image in 2022. <https://mubi.com/es/cast/ita-zbronic-zajt>

MINTTU MAARI MÄNTYNEN

Minttu Maari Mäntynen (is a Scottish-Finnish photographer and cinematographer based in Edinburgh, Scotland. She studied photography and film at Edinburgh Napier University and completed her MFA in Emily Carr University in Vancouver, Canada. She has 20 years of working experience in shooting both drama and documentary. Drama cinematography credits include the award winning shorts Milk (Golden Bear), Cotopaxi (Silver Bear), Stuck (Silver Hugo) and Ahora No (Scottish Bafta). In addition to independent documentaries, she has broadcast credits for BBC, STV, YLE and PBS. Minttu is the director and founder of a small production house Pulkka Shed Ltd, initially set up for collaborations with artists and other filmmakers. <https://www.myfavouritetiger.co.uk/>

DIFFICULT MATERIAL STATEMENT

In Documentary Film courses you will often be assigned films or other material that could contain difficult ideas, emotionally challenging material, uncomfortable language, or graphic depictions of nudity, sex or violence. You may, on occasion, find some of the audiovisual materials presented in this course challenging with respect to matters of feelings, beliefs, politics, conflict, intimacy, or the body. If you find some of the material too challenging or uncomfortable, you have the right not to continue watching. Instructors will work to provide you with alternative viewing material. If you have concerns about challenging materials in the course, please check with your instructors ASAP. Please bear in mind that additional trigger warnings might not be given.

SCHEDULE

Week 9: 27 Feb-3 March

Monday 27th Feb: Lecture. Q201, Väre

9:30 AM-12 PM (Q201)

Intro to the course and lecture with Sari Aaltonen.

1-4 PM (Q201)

Screening of *The Five Obstructions* as framework for the assignment. Explanation of the assignment.

Tuesday 28th Feb. Q201, Väre (AM) / Odeion, Maarintie 8. Otaniemi (PM).

9:30 AM-12 PM (Q201)

Lecture with Arturo Delgado.

1-4 PM (ODEION)

Film screening/course material reading.

Wednesday 1st March. Odeion, Maarintie 8. Otaniemi.

9:30 AM-12 PM (ODEION)

Film screening + discussion.

1-4 PM (ODEION)

Film screening: John Skoog and Ita Zbronic-Zajt's films.

Thursday 2nd March. Q201, Väre

10 AM-12 PM (Q201)

Visitors: John Skoog + Ita Zbronic-Zajt

1-4 PM (Q201)

Visitors: John Skoog + Ita Zbronic-Zajt

Friday 3rd March. Q201, Väre

9:30 AM-12 PM (Q201)

Visitor: Minttu Maari Mäntynen

1-4 PM (Q201)

Visitor: Minttu Maari Mäntynen

Week 10: 6-10 March

Monday 6th March.

Independent work: Film exercise.

Tuesday 7th March

Independent work: Film exercise.

Wednesday 8th March

Independent work: Film exercise.

Thursday 9th March. Odeion, Maarintie 8. Otaniemi.

9:30 AM – 4 PM (ODEION): Students' presentations.

Friday 10th March. Odeion, Maarintie 8. Otaniemi.

9:30 AM – 12 PM (ODEION): Students' presentations and course wrap-up.