

# DOCUMENTARY HIGHLIGHT

## THE LOCAL DOCUMENTARY SCENE GETS A BOOST WITH CROSSING BORDERS



**M**yDocs, a local non-profit dedicated to developing the local documentary scene, is working with FINAS and several international organisations to host the Crossing Borders International Pitch, where 15 documentary projects will be chosen, and participants will take part in three workshops that will help them develop their storytelling process as well as aspects such as marketing to an international audience.

We talk to MyDocs co-founder Lina Teoh, herself a documentary filmmaker at the helm of *The Great Apes of Asia with Michelle Yeoh* and *A Leader's Legacy: Tun Abdul Razak* for the National Geographic, about the importance of giving local filmmakers a platform to be seen, both locally and internationally.

### WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES FACING THOSE WHO WANT TO BREAK INTO THE DOCUMENTARY-FILMMAKING INDUSTRY HERE?

Honestly, I have to say we get a lot of support being a documentary filmmaker in Malaysia. Both FINAS and MyDocs has been very

pro-active in the development of the documentary industry over the past ten years. The main challenges we are facing now is getting our local broadcasters to be more pro-active in supporting the industry.

We also need to keep improving our skill set in all areas of production. From directors and producers to cameramen and editors, we all need to work together and continue to develop ourselves. That is why MyDocs focuses a lot on creating training initiatives. And next year we plan to do even more focused and multilevel skill training, which is very exciting.

### HOW DO YOU HOPE THE CROSSING BORDERS PROGRAMME WILL IMPACT LOCAL DOCUMENTARY MAKERS?

Crossing Borders is a great example of a powerful international documentary training initiative. It gives local documentary filmmakers the tools to be able to sell any idea or story to the international market. It gives them confidence and knowledge, and most of all, it gives them an incredible access to an international documentary network which is extremely invaluable for the entire future of their careers.

### WHAT LED TO THE FOUNDING OF MYDOCS? WHAT HAS THE ASSOCIATION ACHIEVED SO FAR?

It was first established in 2013 by a group of passionate documentary filmmakers who wanted to help develop the local documentary industry into becoming a more unified community through knowledge sharing, networking and training initiatives. We felt if we worked together as a group we could have more impact and success in developing the industry to an international standard.

It is our hope that through MyDocs, local filmmakers would be able to use this platform to network, learn and share their experiences and stories, creating a more productive and healthy industry and community.

Check us out on our website at [www.mydocs.my](http://www.mydocs.my) and follow us on Facebook.

*The Crossing Borders International Pitching Open Day is happening on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 at Qliq Hotel Damansara.*