**Title**

Midwives

**Premiere**

World Cinema Documentary Competition @ Sundance 2022

**Runtime**

91:26 mins

**Production Companies**

EYESTEELFILM, AMA FILM, Snow Films

**Countries of Production**

Myanmar, Canada, Germany

**Logline**

Two midwives, one Buddhist and one Muslim, defy strict ethnic divisions to work side by side in a makeshift clinic in western Myanmar, providing medical services to the Rohingya of Rakhine State. Over five years we witness their struggles, hopes and dreams amidst an environment of ever-increasing chaos and violence.

**Synopsis**

Hla and Nyo Nyo live in a country torn by conflict. Hla is a Buddhist and the owner of a makeshift medical clinic in western Myanmar, where the Rohingya (a Muslim minority community) are persecuted and denied basic rights. Nyo Nyo is a Muslim and an apprentice midwife who acts as an assistant and translator at the clinic. Her family has lived in the area for generations, yet they are still considered intruders. Encouraged and challenged by Hla, who risks her own safety daily by helping Muslim patients, Nyo Nyo is determined to become a steady health care provider for her community.

Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing’s remarkable feature debut was filmed over five turbulent years in a country that has long been exoticized and misunderstood. The filmmaker’s gentle, impartial gaze grants unique access to these courageous women who unite to bring forth life. Filled with love, empathy, and hope, Midwives offers a rare insight into the complex reality of Myanmar and its people.

* Ania Trzebiatowska

**Bios**

**Director/Producer/Editor**

Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing

Snow has worked as a freelance filmmaker in Myanmar since 2006, acting as director, producer, editor and sound recordist after attending film Schools in both Myanmar and Germany. Her short, BURMESE BUTTERFLY played festivals in over 20 countries, and PERIOD@PERIOD won for best short at the Wathan Film Festival. MIDWIVES is her feature documentary debut.



**Producer**

Ulla Lehmann

Producer Ulla Lehmann was born in Berlin and has lived in Germany and France. Together with film director Andrea Roggon, she founded AMA FILM. The company focuses on the development and production of creative documentaries and films of artistic and social relevance, e.g. MÜLHEIM TEXAS by Andrea Roggon (Max Ophüls Preis, Crossing Europe), THE INNER LIGHT by Stefan Sick (Berlinale, Shanghai IFF), WOOD AND WATER by Jonas Bak (Berlinale, New Directors/New Films N.Y.) and MIDWIVES by Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing (Sundance Film Festival). AMA FILM also acted as distributor and released THE INNER LIGHT to over 70 German cinemas.

**Producer/Editor**

Mila Aung-Thwin

Mila Aung-Thwin is co-founder of the Montreal documentary production company

EyeSteelFilm. He has produced more than 40 feature documentaries including Last Train Home (winner of 2 Emmy Awards); Up the Yangtze (Independent Spirit Award Nominee; Golden Horse Award winner); Rip: A Remix Manifesto (Webby Award Honoree; IDFA audience choice prize winner); and I Am the Blues (Canadian Screen Award winner). He is the executive producer and editor of Softie (Sundance World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award winner for Editing). He directed, produced, and edited Let There Be Light (Big Sky Film Fest’s Artistic Vision award winner) about mankind’s epic quest for fusion energy. He has worked with broadcasters around the world, including National Geographic, BBC, ZDF/ARTE, NHK Japan, PBS, etc. He served for five years as President of RIDM, Montreal's international documentary festival and has served on the juries of the Sundance Film Festival, the International Emmy Awards, and the New Zealand Screen Awards. He frequently mentors and gives documentary storytelling seminars to upcoming filmmakers - recent workshops include Guangzhou, China; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; and Yangon, Myanmar.

**Producer**

Bob Moore

Bob Moore is Co-President and Creative Producer at [EyeSteelFilm](http://www.eyesteelfilm.com/) in Montreal where he has produced over 40 feature documentaries since 2008. Together with his talented partners and collaborators, he has been the recipient of over 100 international awards, including Emmys, Cinema Eyes, Golden Horses, Owls, Phoenixes, and a variety of other celebratory animal-themed prizes. He’s been the subject of a Producer’s Spotlight at the Cannes Marché du Film, is currently an advisor and mentor working with the Sundance Film Festival, IDFA, DMZ Docs South Korea, QUMRA, Tokyo Docs, Dhaka DocLab Bangladesh, Hot Docs, and RIDM.

Still 1 -



Still 2 -

### **Director’s Statement**

…

### 

### **Poster**

…

### 

### 

### **Social Media**

Instagram: [@midwives.film](https://www.instagram.com/midwives.film/)

Twitter: [@eyesteelfilm](https://twitter.com/eyesteelfilm)

Hashtag: #midwivesfilm

Facebook:

### **Credits**

| **Featuring**  Hla  Nyo Nyo  Kyaw Kyaw  Kyaw Tin  BiBi |
| --- |
| **Producers**  Bob Moore  Ulla Lehmann  Mila Aung-Thwin  Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing |
| **Executive Producers**  Ken Pelletier  Shizuka Asakawa |
| **Executive Producers**  Daniel Cross  Andrea Roggon |
| **Executive Producers**  Erika Dilday  Justine Nagan  Chris White |
| **Executive Producer**  Vijay Vaidyanathan  **Executive Producer**  Inmaat Productions |
| **Cinematographer**  Soe Kyaw Htin Tun |
| **Editors**  Mila Aung-Thwin  Ryan Mullins  Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing |
| **Original Music**  Olivier Alary  Johannes Malfatti |
| **Line Producer**  Valerie Shamash  **Co-Producer**  Katie McKay |

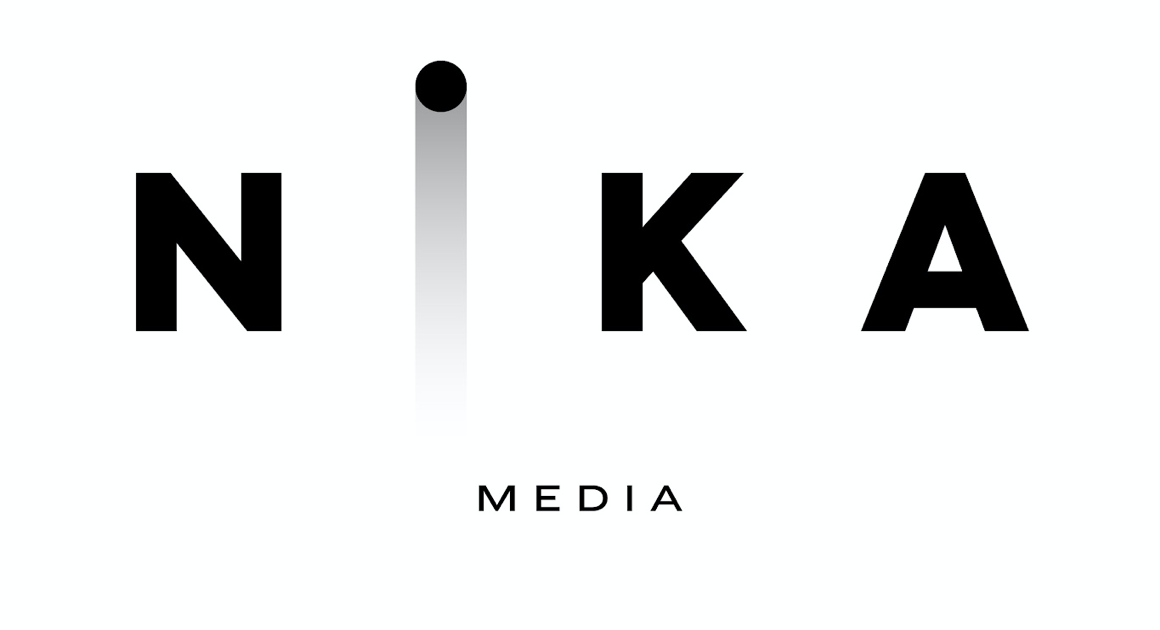
A co-production of American Documentary | POV



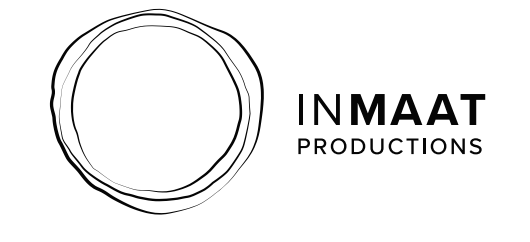
Supported by

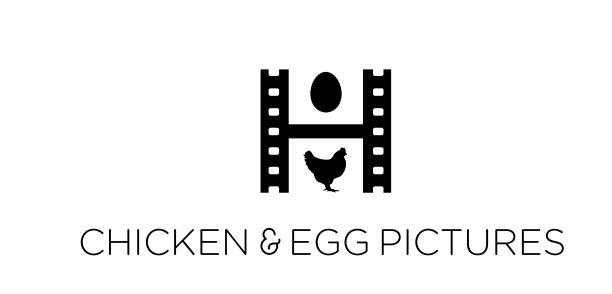


In Association with









**Additional cinematography**

Thae Zar Chi Khaing

Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing

**Location sound recording**

Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing

**Post Production Supervisor**

Samantha Neboschizkij

**Colorist**

Hamed (Ed) Aleali

**Assistant Editor**

Samantha Neboschizkij

**Additional Editing**

Omar Majeed

**Sound Studio**

SONO2

**Supervising Sound Editor**

Andreas Mühlschlegel

**Sound Design / Dialogue Editor**

Andreas Mühlschlegel

**Re-recording Mixer**

Marc Fragstein

**Foley Artist**

Luis Schöffend

**Foley Recordist**

Marc Fragstein

**Foley Editor**

Constantin Kiefer

**Myanmar Archival Sound**

Ivan Horák

**Digital Lab**

BEWEGTE BILDER

**Lab Supervisor**

Carsten Schuffert

**Mastering & Playouts**

Mareike Eggebrecht

Harald Schäfer

Lea Winter

**Title Design**

Roland Matusek

**Transcription**

Ja Roi Aung Lashi

Mi Mi Kyaw Lwin

Kyaw Za

Aye Mon Mon Zin

**English Translation**

Lynn Htoo

Eh Doh Poe

Nang Mhwe Ngin Seng

Kyaw Za

**Rohingya Translation**

Pu Sue

**Post Production Assistant**

Lynn Htoo

**Subtitle Spotting**

Rachel Mathews

**Business Affairs**

Vanessa Di Gregorio

**Archival Rights Supervisor**

Nutan Khanna

**Music Rights Supervisor**

Joss Dumas

**Line Producer - Germany**

Ulla Lehmann

**Head of Distribution - EyeSteelFilm**

Camille Jacques

**Publicity**

David Magdael & Associates, Inc.

David Magdael

Vince Johnson

Will Zang

Tommy Tang

**Poster**

Skylar Aung-Thwin

**Accounting**

Kristov Brändli

Robert Hingley

**Legal**

Matthew Aronson, Adessky

Stephen Darren Holmgren, Esq

Christof Elßner, Härting

Remy Khouzam, Lussier & Khouzam

**Insurance Provided by**

Globalex / Front Row

**Archival footage courtesy of**

Anonymous

Al Jazeera

The Arakan Times Rohingya News

Associated Press

Channel News Asia

The Daily Mail

Mizzima TV

Radio Free Asia Burmese

UN Audiovisual Library

**Musicians**

John Corban: Viola

Jean-Christophe Lizotte: Cello

Thaung Htike Ko : Pat Waing, Gongs

Johannes Malfatti: Piano, Balalaïka

Olivier Alary: Guitar, Ukulele

**Music Courtesy of**

"Pundela"

Traditional / Thierry Robin

Performed by Titi Robin

© Peer Music France

Courtesy of Naïve Records

Courtesy of Peermusic (Germany) GmbH, Hamburg

“Ta Toe Chay Pyaw Mal Ta Tain Chay Ner Htaung”

Performed by Su Myat Htet

Lyrics by Gi Ta Sar So Thakhin Tun

“Yin Twin May”

Performed by Hlwan Moe

Lyrics by Naing Myanmar

**International Sales Agent**



Founder

Andy Whittaker

CEO

Anna Godas

Head of Distribution & Acquisitions

Oli Harbottle

Head of Sales

Ana Vicente

Festivals Manager

Luke Brawley

Sales Manager

Cleo Veger

**Special Thanks**

Hla & Nyo Nyo’s family members

Snow’s family members

Civilians who shot witness videos

Toke Toke Driver, Ko Chit

**The filmmakers would like to thank**

Isona Admetlla Font

Maureen Aung-Thwin

Natali Barrey

Regina Bärtschi

Simone Baumann

Lorraine Bell

Khalil Benkirane

Carl Bergengruen

Jacques Bidou

Roslyn Bern/Leacross Foundation

Bettina Blümner

Emma Davie

Iva Dimitrova

Birgit Eichmann

Nina Fialkow

Heidi Fleisher

Alvaro Garcia

Robert Gehring

Peter Goring

Jenny Guillarmain

Amelia Hapsari

Judith Helfand

Nikki Heyman

Vicki and Bruce Heyman

Lynn Htoo

Soe Arkar Htun

Seokpil Kang

Susie Kololian

Dorota Lech

Stephen Maier

Dorothee Martin

Rachel Mathews

Nilotpal Majumdar

Lindsey Merrison

Lucila Moctezuma

Tobias Müller

Tin Win Naing

Brigid O’Shea

Ken Pelletier

Tan Pin Pin

Tuula Mehtonen Prajnadipa

Rally Philanthropy

Isabel Richter

Van Royko

Melanie Sandford

Ulrike Schaz

Caspar Schleicher

Ulrike Schmidt

Lisa Schulz

Bernhard Simek

Tereza Simikova

Sam Soko

Rasmus Steen

Richard Sugarman

Nicole Tsien

Sein Lyan Tun

Soe Kyaw Htin Tun

Henrik Underbjerg

Elizabeth Radshaw

Gabriele Reuter

Jose Rodriguez

Steffen Rüttinger

Kim Van Der Zon

John Webster

Rebecca West

Bernd Wolpert

Heidi Tao Yang

Anna Katharina Mohr (Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Thailand)

Maren Niemeyer (Goethe-Institut Thailand)

Frank Thierfelder (Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Myanmar)

Martin Wälde (Goethe-Institut Myanmar)

A Grant For This Film Was Generously Provided by the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program with support from Just Films/Ford Foundation



Supported by 

Produced with the assistance of



the Hot Docs *first look* Pitch Fund

Docs Port Incheon Award





Produced with the assistance of



The Great Chicago Pitch

This project was completed with the support of



the Women Make Movies Production Assistance Program



Hot Docs Foundation (USA), Inc.

This project was pitched at:

CMP Great Chicago Pitch

Dhaka Doc Lab

Docs By The Sea

Dok Leipzig Co-Pro-Market

Docs Port Incheon

Hot Docs Forum & Dealmaker









EyeSteelFilm Classics Inc, AMA FILM GmbH, and Snow Films

Copyright 2022