

THEY KEEP QUIET SO WE MAKE NOISE

A DOC SHORT BY MARLENA SKROBE

THEYKEEPQUIETFILM.COM



FILM SPECIFICATIONS

GENRE: SHORT DOCUMENTARY

MEDIUM: DIGITAL VIDEO

ASPECT RATIO: 1.90:1

RUNTIME: 00:12:21

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH & MANDARIN (WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR: MARLENA SKROBE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: YOSHITAKA OTA

CINEMATOGRAPHER/EDITOR: TROY DOBBERTIN

SOUND EDITOR/MIXER: RYAN MEADOWS

DRONE OPERATORS: YEO BOON HOO, ANG THIAM SIONG



FILM SYNOPSIS

In Jenjarom, a small palm plantation town approximately 50 kilometers outside of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the smell of burnt plastic crept across the town every night entering the homes of residents, stirring them awake. After months of sleepless nights, a few local residents decided to investigate the source of the smell, forming The Environmental Protection Agency of Kuala Langat.

In the documentary short *They Keep Quiet So We Make Noise*, follow two activists in The Environmental Protection Agency of Kuala Langat, Pua Lay Peng and CK Lee, during a night drive searching for illegal recycling facilities while learning about their fight against the tide of plastic waste being sent to Malaysia from overseas.



THE TEAM

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF KUALA LANGAT

The Environmental Protection Agency of Kuala Langat (also known as the Kuala Langat Environmental Action Association) was formed in July 2018 after a group of residents in the Kuala Langat district began working together to fight against increasing plastic pollution in the area.

The team of grassroots activists spent months investigating the cause of toxic-smelling air, discovering a booming industry of illegal recycling facilities, who often burnt and dumped plastic waste throughout the local environment. Although the team had no prior activism experience, they worked together to bring awareness to the plastic waste problem. Their work has gained local, national, and even international attention, but the team has to remain vigilant to keep their home safe from the illegal importation of so-called “recyclable” material.



THE TEAM



PUA LAY PENG [ACTIVIST]

Pua is a chemical engineer working in Kuala Lumpur who was born and raised in Jenjarom. When her parents fell ill, she returned to Jenjarom to help take care of them and realized that the air quality around the village was terrible, especially at night. She knew something was wrong, and began collecting evidence (photos, videos, and water samples) to be used against the malicious import of plastic to recycling facilities. In order to file official complaints, and bring awareness to the issue, she helped establish The Environmental Protection Agency of Kuala Langat with CK Lee and many others.



CK LEE [ACTIVIST]

CK Lee is a local lawyer living and working near Jenjarom. After many local residents were complaining about poor air quality, he decided to dedicate his time and knowledge of law to assist in the fight against the injustices caused by the recycling industry.



THE TEAM



MARLENA SKROBE [DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR]

Marlena is a filmmaker and plastic pollution researcher based in Seattle, Washington. *They Keep Quiet So We Make Noise* is Marlena's directorial debut, but she has spent years working in the film industry in New York City on numerous award-winning films as a camera assistant and grassroots casting director. Marlena's work focuses on the social life of plastic, human-plastic entanglements, and the disproportionate burden the full life cycle of plastic has on communities around the world.



TROY DOBBERTIN [CINEMATOGRAPHER/EDITOR]

Troy Dobbertin is a New York City and Seattle-based cinematographer originally from Rochester, New York. Troy went to film school at Rochester Institute of Technology, and has worked on films around the world as a member of the camera department. He works on projects that allow for the stories of unheard or underrepresented to be seen, whether that's through documentary or narrative storytelling.



THE TEAM



RYAN MEADOWS [SOUND EDITOR/MIXER]

Ryan Meadows is a Sound Editor and Mixer based in Los Angeles. Ryan's early work in sports documentaries has lent to his organic style of sound design, which he uses in fiction and nonfiction alike. Notable credits include *The Revenant*, *Game of Thrones*, and *Atlanta*.



YOSHITAKA OTA [EXECUTIVE PRODUCER]

Dr. Yoshitaka Ota is the director of the Nippon Foundation Ocean Nexus Center and a Research Assistant Professor at the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs at the University of Washington. As a social anthropologist, Dr. Ota has spent years conducting social and cultural research on various coastal communities around the world. One recurring theme he witnessed is the inequity of those who benefit from the environment and those who rely on it, which has inspired his core research interest to understand how to strengthen social equity as we face global environmental challenges.



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