
Greetings to the YIDFF 2013

Wang Bing (Filmmaker)

With each busy day, another two years has past. Yet I continue to be thankful for the privilege of being able to know the countless mysteries of the world through documentary film. Documentary film is the most wonderful mode of artistic expression of our time. Documentary enters into our lives, offers us sincerity and gives us the opportunity to re-think the way we see ourselves. I believe that documentary has the extraordinary power to bring about a new cinema culture for the future. Together with expressing my strong admiration for the organiser's unwaveringly independent and unprejudiced stance towards cinema, I send my heartfelt wishes for the success of the 2013 Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival.

Beijing, 13th September, 2013
(Translated by Barbara Hartley)

Wu Wenguang (Filmmaker)

In 1991, when I returned to China after first participating in Yamagata, I published an essay entitled, "Yamagata International Film Festival: the home of the independent documentary director." In this essay, I said the following: "For we independent documentary directors who battle alone in our various corners of the world, Yamagata is the home to which we can return, a place we can dream about no matter isolated we may be. It is the source of the strength that permits us to continue making documentary film." Since then, 22 years have passed. I have returned home to Yamagata seven times now. And I fervently hope to return each year that I am able.

(Translated by Barbara Hartley)

Apichatpong Weerasethakul (Filmmaker)

YIDFF is the first festival that bothered to screen my film, a short black and white film. I was lucky because it is the right place to fall in love with film festivals, with true cinema. Thus it has kickstarted everything for me, and I am sure for generations to come.