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DVB Debate is produced by DVB Multimedia Group Ltd. Co. The debate is recorded every Saturday morning in Yangon with a live audience, which is invited to join the discussion as well.

 DVB TV		DVB RADIO	
Sunday	7.15 pm	Saturday	Evenings
Monday	1.15 am / 7.15 am / 1.15 pm	Sunday	Mornings
Wednesday	8.45 pm	DVB ONLINE	
Thursday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	dvbdebate.com	24/7
Friday	8.45 pm	facebook.com/ dvb.debate	
Saturday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	twitter @dvbdebate	

DVB Debate aims to contribute to a new culture of open debate, in which anyone can participate and agree to disagree, in order to exchange ideas, create better mutual understanding and find solutions for societal issues to improve the future of Myanmar.

The team invites fellow media and debating clubs to join this initiative for open debate. A weekly press release, press picture and cartoon are available shortly after the recording. DVB Debate also has a modest budget to support local debating initiatives.

For any inquiries, remarks or questions, please call 01292743 (office hours), leave a comment on facebook.com/dvb.debate or email debate@dvb.no.

DVB DEBATE



Welcome to DVB Debate,
Myanmar's 1st open debate program.

This week's debate question is:

What's behind the scenes of the movie business?

If you have any remarks, suggestions or questions,
please ask a team member,
call 01292743 (office hours) or email debate@dvb.no.

This week's topic is MOVIE MADNESS

Historical context:

The movie scene in Burma dates back to 1919 when Burma's first silent film was created by Ohn Maung, the "father of Burmese cinema". During the 1920s and 1930s Burmese owned film companies produced several films, and in 1932 the first Burmese sound film was produced. In the 1930s, films addressing social issues and political themes became popular, although some were censored by the British Colonial government.

Following independence from Britain the movie industry bloomed and cinema continued to address political themes until the 1960s when a military government took control of the country. Cinemas were nationalised, acceptable film subjects were narrowed, and the industry was ordered to promote the regime's quasi-socialist ideology. Film scripts were strictly censored, and Burma's ruler, General Ne Win cut ties with foreign film organisations, as part of his xenophobic policies. In 1989 the movie industry was privatised, and film stars who had been involved in any political activities were banned from appearing in films. Under the strict regulations of the censorship board most films focused on romance and comedy and lacked any political tone. Since the current government took power in 2011 reforms have opened up new opportunities for filmmakers in the country. But decades of global isolation, censorship and equipment shortages, have had a severe affect on Burma's movie industry. The domestic movie market is also dominated by financiers, who invest not in creativity or innovation, but in films that guarantee returns. The market is now saturated with pirated Thai, Chinese, South Korean and American DVDs, cinemas are in decline, and the movie industry has shifted to producing many lower budget direct to video films.

Facts & figures:

- The first Burmese motion picture with sound was produced in 1932
- Burma's film Academy Awards have been held since 1952.
- In 1968 General Ne Win nationalised cinemas and formed the Film Council, in order to use film to promote the regime's ideology.
- After 1989 the movie industry was fully privatised and film stars who had been involved in political activities were banned from appearing in films.
- In 2012 only 17 Burmese-produced movies made it to the cinema. In the 1970s, the figure averaged around 70.
- Successful movies currently make around US\$70,000 on average.

Points of view:

"The film world has been provided with necessary information and aid by the Ministry of Information to draw up a draft Motion Picture Law, not as Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise but as Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation. The experts from the Ministry of Information and the professionals from the film world are cooperating on this."
(U Thein Aung, Director of the MOI's Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise.)

"There were 298 cinemas and 61 studios until 1988. During the rule of SPDC they were replaced by housing projects, hotels, and shopping malls. Now with no studios in sight, when it comes to cinematography, Myanmar's Film Industry is suffering the worst decline in comparison with those of other South East Asian nations."
(Lu Min, President of Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation)

"Among the industry's biggest problems is its outdated mind-set. The film establishment is so risk-averse and beaten down that any resurgence is likely to come from more dynamic television producers."
(Bill Bowling, production consultant who has worked in Myanmar.)

"To keep abreast of international standards, we, each and everyone of the film world, should have a certificate in cinematography. What have we prepared to protect our fellow film makers in the face of the rivals from abroad? Can we have trainings and workshops to promote our skills? We have no international certificates. We will bite the dust when competing with international film makers,"
(Director Kyi Phyu Shin.)

"Most of it isn't even entertaining. It's mindless comedy that's not even funny."
(Ma Thida-Audience)

Information links:

www.moi.gov.mm/mmpdd
www.yangonfilmschool.org
www.hrhdiff.org
www.myanmarmovie.org
www.burmeseclassic.com
www.allmyanmarmovie.com
www.wathannfilmfest.net
www.myanmaracademyawards.com