

Tofu Man

A five minute documentary

One man's quest to provide Tofu to his local community.



PRESS KIT

Algernon Productions
20 Ardoyne Street
Sunshine
Victoria 3020
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ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Director/Producer/Editor:	Andrew Robb
Production Company:	Algernon Productions
Technical Information:	Shot on Samsung Galaxy S2 mobile phone Edited on Adobe Premiere Pro CS6
Ratio:	16:9
Running Time:	4'59"
Genre:	Documentary
Country of Production:	Australia
Date of Completion:	August 2013
Contact:	Andrew Robb 0415 880 159 andrewrobb62@gmail.com www.facebook.com/tofumanshortfilm

SYNOPSIS

Tofu Man is an unexpectedly candid portrait of Duc Nga, a former Vietnamese refugee who came to Australia, seeking a better life after being orphaned at fourteen years of age. Weaving Duc's story with his tofu making business makes for a film of surprising poignancy.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Across the road from my house in Sunshine, nestled between the suburban weatherboards, lies an old milk bar. Inside, Duc Nga and his small team work long hours, creating handmade tofu for the local Vietnamese community.

This film started out as a result of my curiosity - I just wanted to know how tofu is made, However, as I listened to Duc talking, I realised there was more to his story than just coagulated soy milk. It is an asylum seeker success story of great heart and humour, and quite timely in today's political climate.

WHY SHOOT ON A MOBILE PHONE?

I have always been interested in shooting on mobile phones, which helps me focus on story over style. **Tofu Man** was originally made for the Sunshine Short Film Festival, which has a specific Mobile device category. Duc was initially uneasy about being filmed so I decided to minimise my presence and intrusion by shooting on a mobile phone. I believe the resulting honesty and openness far outweighs the reduction in production values.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Originally from Canberra, Andrew worked for several years as an actor in the UK, playing challenging roles such as 'Mr. Bruce the Aussie Tourist' on The Basil Brush Show. He also produced the cult hit Australian comedy 'The Vegemite Tales' in London's West End before moving back to settle in Melbourne's Sunshine.

Andrew has been making short films for the past ten years. His quirky films tell simple stories with a common thread - usually managing to warp the laws of physics and nature. Credits include the award winning shorts **Leave Me Alone** and **Cook Book**. **Tofu Man** is Andrew's first documentary.

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS AND AWARDS TO DATE

- Sunshine Film Festival, Melbourne 2013 - *First Prize, Mobile Category*
- Shepparton Short Film Festival 2014 - *Winner Best Documentary*
- Setting Sun Film Festival (Yarraville) 2014 - *Winner, Best Documentary, Cultural Diversity Award, People's Choice Award*
- VietFilmFest International Vietnamese Film Festival, California USA, Official Selection
 - St Kilda Film Festival 2014 - *nominated for Best Documentary*
 - St Kilda Film Festival 2014 - *selected for Regional Tour*
- 2. Lange Nacht der Filmfestivals, Berlin 2014, *invited for screening*

MENTIONS IN THE PRESS

“Director Andrew Robb's frank interview with Sunshine tofu maker Duc in the remarkable five-minute Tofu Man offers a near-perfect illustration of how it's depth, not length, that makes a documentary special.” - Jim Schembri, 3AW Fairfax Radio blog

“St Kilda Film Festival director for the past 15 years, Paul Harris has already touted the doco Tofu Man as a standout. Directed by Andrew Robb, Tofu Man runs for 4.59mins and was shot on a Samsung Galaxy mobile phone!” - Et Al blog, Melbourne

STILLS AVAILABLE



Tofu Man - still 1



Tofu Man - still 2



Tofu Man - still 3