

Meet the Take One Action Team - Xuanlin

Amber: Hello, and welcome to 'Meet the Take One Action Team'. Take One Action are an Edinburgh-based independent charity founded by film lovers, cultural activists, and globally concerned citizens who believe that shared cinematic experience can catalyse lasting change. The highlight of our year is the Take One Action Film Festival, which is a series of events and screenings taking place in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and this year, online. In the run up to the festival, we will be releasing these little chats with the Take One Action Team to give you the opportunity to meet the team behind the scenes. Today, we are talking to Xuanlin Tham. Hi, Xuanlin, would you like to introduce yourself?

Xuanlin: Hi. Yes. Thanks so much for having me. My name is Xuanlin, I'm originally from Singapore. I'm currently studying in Edinburgh, the university of Edinburgh. So that's why I'm here and that's why I'm working with Take One Action this year.

Amber: How did you get involved with Take One Action?

Xuanlin: So I applied for the position of new promoter through FilmHub Scotland's New Promoter Scheme and indicated that that I really wanted to work with Take One Action, because having been a student in Edinburgh for the past three years, I've attended Take One Action Film Festival in person in the past, and it really had a really lasting impact on me. So as soon as I saw the opportunity to get involved, it was like a super exciting opportunity. So I'm really grateful that I was given the opportunity to apply to work here. And I actually just started this week and it's been a bit of a whirlwind. Obviously, film festivals, the few weeks leading up to opening, are always intense I think, but it's been really exciting. As part of my role, I've been given the opportunity to organize and put on three public events with the film festival and that's kind of like I've been given a really broad scope and pretty much almost complete autonomy over what I'd like to do. And so I think this first week for me has been kind of just getting my head around just the broadness of opportunities that are available and even trying to narrow those down to really decide what it is that I want to pursue, since, you know, time is definitely a squeeze point. And yeah. So I think just getting stuck in now and I'm really excited. I've made some progress over the past week with the first few ideas of the events that I'd like to do. So, yeah, that's how I got involved.

Amber: That's great. What are you looking forward to this year? I assume it's gonna be your events?

Xuanlin: Yeah, definitely. And I think for this year, what really stuck out to me about the program, is this running thematic strand of mythology and storytelling. I think there's a lot of focus this year about the narratives that we use to describe and engage with the world around us. And, you know, I'm a very kind of strong believer in that the way that we describe and perceive, and narrate our relationship with the material world and also non-human living things really has an impact on our methods of engagement, the policies that we produce, the priorities that we list when we're engaging with the environment. And leading up to COP 26 and also with

the increasing pressure and news cycle of climate doom, I think these kinds of stories are really important to reflect on. Because, I think a lot of times maybe we might get immersed in this very western, techno-scientific way of looking at the climate crisis and of how we've gotten here with the capitalist model of growth. And I think what this year's program does is it really takes us out of that for a second and really forces us to engage with alternative methods of seeing the world that have always been there, have been here for centuries and they really demonstrate that there's alternatives. And I think that's something that's really hopeful and really powerful and very important for audiences to see.

Amber: That sounds great. Thank you so much for your time, Xuanlin. So, that's all we have time for this week. Take One Action Film Festival will be taking place across a variety of venues between the 22nd and 26th of September, 2021. For more information, go to www.takeoneaction.org.uk and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. That's all for now. Have a good day and stay safe.