

[NEWS & EVENTS](#) > Save Myanmar Film project

POSTED ON
02 AUG 2018

COUNTRIES
[ITALY](#) [MYANMAR](#)

THEMES
[CREATIVE INDUSTRIES](#) [HERITAGE](#)

DISCIPLINE
[FILM](#)

Save Myanmar Film project



An [article in *The Japan Times*](#) describes the ongoing work in Myanmar to salvage and restore the country's decaying film heritage.

The restoration of a 1934 black-and-white action movie, famed for high-octane stunts including a hot-air balloon escape and a jungle shoot-out against teak wood thieves, has energized efforts to salvage more of Myanmar's decaying cinematic heritage.

The survival of Myanmar's earliest film still in existence, "Mya Ga Naing" (The Emerald Jungle), and its rise to international acclaim is perhaps as unlikely a feat as its lead role's triumph over pythons and bandits with his bare hands.

The Southeast Asian country's once flourishing film scene hit a major setback with the arrival of a military junta in 1962 that enforced stringent censorship and gutted the economy during a 50-year reign.

As the creative climate withered, Myanmar's merciless heat, torrential rains and stifling humidity took its toll on delicate film reels in a country that had neither the resources nor know-how to store them properly.

Some reels were recycled to save money and now only a dozen of the country's early black-and-white pictures remain.

[read full article ...](#)

Experts in film laboratories in Bologna, as well as the recovery of Myanmar film from archives in Berlin have assisted in the process.

The Myanmar based organisation [MEMORY! Cinema](#) oversaw the restoration and raised

funds from donors for the \$100,000 price tag.

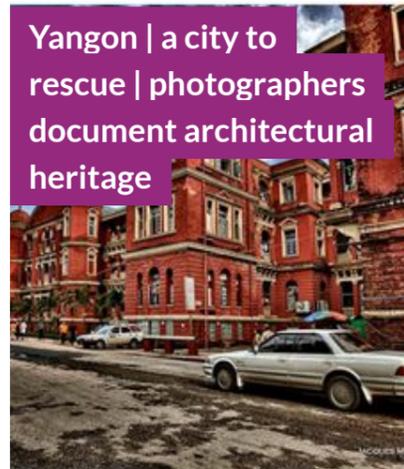
Now an initiative led by contemporary Myanmar filmmaker Maung Okkar is playing a lead role in the effort to salvage the country's classics. After receiving training in restoration and archiving techniques in Italy, he launched "[Save Myanmar Film](#)" in 2017 with a group of fellow filmmakers.

Similar content

POSTED ON
29 MAY 2012



POSTED ON
23 AUG 2012



POSTED ON
11 JUL 2019



POSTED ON
25 NOV 2016



POSTED ON
27 NOV 2020



POSTED ON
12 JUN 2011



[ABOUT ASEF](#) [CULTURE360](#)

culture360.asef.org brings Asia and Europe closer by providing information, facilitating dialogue and stimulating reflection on the arts and culture of the two regions.

[MORE ABOUT ASEF CULTURE360](#) |
[FAQ](#)



[Browse our Network of
museums in Asia and Europe](#)