

Film made by students receives its premiere in China

Two students from VIA Multiplatform Storytelling & Production in Aarhus have visited Chengdu in Western China and Horsens in Denmark to produce a film about the two sister cities. The 4-minute film was premiered at the official closing ceremony at 'Denmark Week' in September.

By Communications Officer Maria Sørensen, maes@via.dk

The film is a project between VIA University College, Horsens Municipality and the city of Chengdu, and it indicates the relation between the two cities Horsens and Chengdu.

"Pictures often says more than words, especially when collaborating with the Chinese. Therefore, we decided to produce a film that presents differences and similarities between Chinese and Danish lifestyle – in moving pictures only. A few years ago, VIA created the programme Multiplatform Storytelling & Production, so it made sense to involve students in the production of the film," Rikke Nielsen, Director of VIA International, says.

A dream job: to travel and produce film

The filmmakers are the two students Philip Temple (28) and Simon Carstens (24). They are studying in their 3rd semester of the programme and they haven't worked with a project like this before.

"It's the perfect job – to travel and film at the same time. It's great to have this chance," Simon says.

Philip agrees: "It's been really exciting to shoot a film in another country, and we have learned a lot from it. It takes a tremendous amount of preparation, and you learn how to control yourself with regard to equipment and choice of things to film," Philip explains.

Met with inspiring people

The two students spent 10 days in Chengdu during their summer and likewise in Horsens in order to shoot the film. Here, they filmed everyday-life in both countries in order to find differences and similarities. Both of them emphasise how friendly and helpful the Chinese were during their visit in Chengdu.

"Everything was organised and they took really good care of us. We were guided around in Chengdu by bus, and we met entrepreneurs and artists who showed us their Chengdu and what they did for a living – it was inspiring," Simon says.

Chinese street food and a Danish hot-dog stand

Jobs, food, handcraft, art, culture, architecture and transportation. These are some of the everyday items, which the two students chose to focus on. Thus, the film is based on comparable things in the two cities.

"The streets in Chengdu are filled with street food, and for comparison we filmed a hot-dog stand in Horsens. That is our kind of street food and at the same time it's very Danish," Philip smiles and says.

Simon adds: "A regular thing such as transportation might not be considered interesting at first. However, it's something both cultures can relate to," he explains. And there are clear differences. For instance, in China they have a much more strict security system at the train stations than in Denmark," he says.

An icebreaker when meeting with partners

According to Lene Bjarke Skov, Cultural Consultant in Horsens Municipality, the film will work as an icebreaker when the municipality meets with new or existing partners.

“We see that the Chinese wish to gain insight into Danish lifestyle. This film demonstrates how Danish and Chinese lifestyles are different from each other but also how they are similar. Due to the short format, it comes in useful in different contexts with partners. As an icebreaker, an introduction, a pause, or something else,” Lene Bjarke Skov says.

Watch the Horsens-Chengdu movie below (Youtube URL)

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