
short bio

Son Doan is a cinematographer whose work spans narrative features, experimental film, and TV series. After studying cinematography at INSAS in Brussels, he began his career on film sets in 2011. In 2017, he shot Meryem Ben m'Barek's debut feature "*Sofia*," which won the Best Script Award at the Cannes Film Festival in 2018. He started working on Thuy Han Nguyen Chi experimental film in Germany and in Vietnam exploring different ways of making cinema. His collaboration with director Truong Minh Quy led to the critically acclaimed "*The Tree House*" (2019) and the 2024 Cannes-selected feature "*Viet & Nam*," which has since received multiple international awards.

Engaged with the emerging Asian New Wave, Son continues to explore hybrid and expressive visual languages. His portfolio includes festival-winning independent films, commercial features, and television series, reflecting an intentionally eclectic and borderless approach to storytelling.

timeline

- 2020-2025* Shot feature films, documentaries, tv series and experimental films internationally. Founded Camescoop, a collaborative space made for filmmakers. Sharing knowledge, connecting people and tailoring gear solutions for various kinds of projects.
- 2018-2020* Worked as a cinematographer in Belgium, France, Morocco, Vietnam. "*Sofia*" gets premiered in Cannes Film Festival and gets awarded.
- 2011-2017* Work as electrician and second camera assistant, shooting shorts and budget features. He shoots Meryem BenM'Barek debut feature "*Sofia*"
- 2007-2011* Cinematography bachelor @ INSAS (graduated, distinction)
- 2006-2007* Photography & art bachelor @ ERG Brussels
- 2003-2006* Visual arts bachelor @ ESA Brussels (graduated, distinction)

selected work

- 2025 ***Behind The Palm Trees***, directed by Meryem BenM'Barek.
A feature film produced by Tessalit production & Agora Films, Morocco. Digital / 94 min.
Premiered at Marrakech film Festival.
- Becoming Human***, directed by Polen Ly.
A feature film produced by Anti Archive, Cambodia. Digital / 99 min.
Premiered at Biennale College - Venice International Film Festival - Italy,
* Golden Hanoman Award - Jakarta Film Week - Indonesia,
* Netpac Award - Jakarta Film Week - Indonesia,
Selected in Busan International Film Festival, BFI London, Hong kong Film festival,
Singapore international film festival, Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival and many others.
- Arcanes***, directed by Michele Jacob.
A TV series produced by Beluga Tree & RTBF, Belgium. Digital / 6 x 55 min.
Premiered on Belgian TV.
Competition Internationale - Festival de la fiction de La Rochelle - France
- Viet And Nam***, directed by Truong Minh-Quy.
A feature film produced by Epic media, Vietnam. S16mm / 138 min.
Premiered in Un Certain Regard - Cannes Film Festival - France,
* Best Director Award - Singapore International Film Festival,
* Jury Award - Festival du Nouveau Cinéma de Montréal - Canada,
* Best Film Award - Qcinema IFF - Philippines,
* Silver Hanoman Award - Jogja-Netpac Film Festival - Indonesia,
* Jury Prize - World Film Festival of Bangkok - Thailand,
* Main Award - New Zealand International Film Festival,
Nominated for Best cinematography at the 17th Asia pacific screen forum - Australia,
also selected in Singapore International Film Festival, New York Film Festival, Toronto Film Festival, Tokyo Filmex, International Film Festival, and many others.
- 2022 ***Into the violet belly***, directed by Thuy-Han Nguyen-Chi.
An experimental film, produced by Arthub, Copenhagen. Digital / 20 min.
Premiered in the 12th Berlin Biennale for contemporary art.
* Grand Jury Award - 25FPS Zagreb Film Festival - Croatia,
* Golden Lola - German Film Award - Germany,
also selected in Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival, Singapore International Film Festival, New York Film Festival, Reykjavik International Film Festival, and many others.
- 2019 ***The tree house***, directed by Truong Minh-Quy.
A documentary produced by Levo Films, Vietnam. Super 16mm / 84 min.
Premiered in Locarno International Film Festival.
Selected in New York Film Festival, Rotterdam International Film Festival, Singapore International Film Festival, Viennale, Festival des trois continents Nantes, Documenta Madrid, Göteborg Film Festival and many others
- 2018 ***Sofia***, directed by Meryem BenM'Barek.
A feature Film produced by Curiosa film, France, 2018. Digital / 80 min.
Premiered in Un Certain Regard - Cannes Film Festival - France.
* Best Screenplay - Cannes, un certain regard,
* Valois du Scénario - Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême,
* Best First Feature - Carthage Film Festival, Tunisia,
* FIPRESCI prize for best film - Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Greece,
* New voices / New visions - Palm Springs International Film Festival , California,
also selected and awarded in many other festivals.

filmography

- 2025 **Behind The Palm Trees**, directed by Meryem BenM'Barek. Digital / 94 min.
A feature film produced by Tessalit production & Agora Films, Morocco.
- Becoming Human**, directed by Polen Ly. Digital / 99 min.
A feature film produced by Anti Archive, Cambodia.
- Al Gaid**, directed by Hussam Alhulwah. Digital / 105 min.
A feature produced by Telfaz 11, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Arcanes** (2025), directed by Michele Jacob. Digital / 6 x 55 min.
A TV series produced by Beluga Tree & RTBF, Belgium.
- My Friend Miles**, directed by Pieter Solta. Digital / 77 min.
A feature produced by Seewald, Belgium.
- 2024 **TKT**, directed by Solange Cicurel. Digital / 82 min.
A feature film produced by Beluga Tree, Belgium.
- Viet And Nam**, directed by Truong Minh-Quy. Super 16mm / 138 min.
A feature film produced by Epic media, Vietnam.
- 2023 **No Key**, directed by Walid Messnaoui. Digital / 21 min.
A short film produced by Caestus Film, Morocco.
- 2022 **Into The Violet Belly** (2022), directed by Thuy-Han Nguyen-Chi. Digital / 20 min.
An experimental film, produced by Arthub, Copenhagen.
- Tarot**, directed by Alice Khol. Digital / 10 min.
A short produced by Cinapse, Belgium 2022.
- Les segpa**, directed by Hakim & Ali Bougheraba. Digital / 99 min.
A feature film produced by AppoLlo Films, France.
- Sans queue ni tête**, directed by Julien Brygo. Digital / 52min.
A documentary produced by C-P Production; France.
- 2021 **Nose**, directed by Clement Beauvais. Digital / 90 min.
A documentary produced by Mercenary, France.
- En Passant Pecho**, directed by Julien Royal. Digital / 99 min.
A feature film produced by Chi-Fou-Mi & Netflix, France.
- The Men Who Waits**, directed by Truong Minh-Quy. Super 16mm / 15 min.
A short produced by Levo Films & Le Fresnoy, France.
- 2020 **Eva Voudrait**, directed by Lisa Diaz. Digital / 55 min.
A feature film produced by A perte de vue Films, France.
- Synchrasis**, directed by Thuy-Han Nguyen-Chi. Digital / 17 min.
An experimental film, Vietnam.
- 2019 **The Tree House**, directed by Truong Minh-Quy Super 16mm / 84 min.
A documentary produced by Levo Films, Vietnam.
- Lebenslicht**, directed by Clara Pons. Digital / 70 min.
An opera movie produced by Minds meet, Belgium.
- Dakota**, directed by Toni Hilgersson. Digital / 30 min
A short produced by Luna blue film, Belgium.
- 2018 **Sofia**, directed by Meryem BenM'Barek. Digital / 80 min.
A feature produced by Curiosa film, France.
- 2017 **Doubleplusungood**, directed by Marco Laguna. S16mm / 90 min.
A feature produced by Topcare, Belgium.
- 2016 **L'écluse**, directed by Jules Carrin. Digital / 27 min.
A fiction produced by H.E.A.D, Switzerland.
- 2015 **Quelqu'un m'attend**, directed by Mustapha Souaïdi.
Digital / 12 min. A fiction produced by Anker films, Belgium.
- 2014 **Jennah**, directed by Meryem BenM'Barek. Digital / 17 min.
A short produced by INSAS, Belgium 2014.
- 2013 **Les suppliantes**, directed by Amelie Derlon Cordina. Digital / 31 min.
A short produced by le G.R.E.C, France 2013.