

The Japan Foundation Asia Center presents CROSSCUT ASIA #01 Thai Fascination

The Japan Foundation Asia Center, in cooperation with Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF), presents eight Thai films in the first year of the CROSSCUT ASIA section at the 27th TIFF, which starts from October 23. This special program will feature commercial and independent Thai films, from school or historical dramas to horrors. Casts and Staff associated with these films are expected to appear on the stage and participate in Q&A sessions. For more information, please contact us as shown below.



©Mosquito Films Distribution



© 2014 SAHAMONGKOLFILM INTERNATIONAL CO., LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



©Song Sound Production

The Japan Foundation Asia Center presents CROSSCUT ASIA #01 Thai Fascination

CROSSCUT ASIA is a showcase of Asian films focusing on particular countries, directors, actors, and themes. The showcase will unveil the hidden gems of Asian films that portray Asia's present condition. The first showcase will focus on Thai films, which are currently gaining wide attention in the industry. The showcase will let audience explore the fascination of Thailand through the lineup concentrating on its recent works.

*For the lineup and guests of CROSSCUT ASIA #01 Thai Fascination, please see pp.2-4

Special brochure for CROSSCUT ASIA #01 Thai Fascination available at TIFF venues:

- Essay by Mitsuyo Kakuta, author of the novel upon which the film *Pale Moon* in the Competition Section is based.
- Interview with Tadanobu Asano, star of *Ruined Heart* in the Competition Section and other Thai films.
- Conversation with award-winning director Apichatpong Weerasethakul and TIFF programming director Kenji Ishizaka.



The 27th Tokyo International Film Festival <http://2014.tiff-jp.net/en/>

[Dates] Thursday, October 23 – Friday, 31, 2014

[Venues] Roppongi Hills (Minato-ku), TOHO Cinemas Nihonbashi (Chuo-ku), and theaters, halls, and other facilities in the Tokyo metropolitan area

For information on TIFF:

Tel: +81-(0)3-3553-4793 / E-mail: tiff-pr2014@tiff-jp.net

For information on the Japan Foundation:

The Japan Foundation, Asia Center (Murata, Kumagai) Tel: +81-(0)-5369-6025

Communication Center (Kawakubo, Mugitani) Tel: +81-(0)3-5369-6089 / E-mail: press@jpf.go.jp

Line-up of CROSSCUT ASIA #01 Thai Fascination

As of October 9, 2014

*Guest lineup subject to change



©Very Sad Pictures



36

Director: Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit

Cast: Koramit Vajrasthira, Wanlop Rungkamjad

Sai and Oom work together in the same film company. Two years later, they are walking different paths. When Sai's hard drive crashes, she finds that the photos from her entire life have disappeared. A film told in 36 shots.

Guest: Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit (Director)

Director Profile

Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit graduated from Chulalongkorn University with a major in Chinese language. He started making short films while still a student. His first feature, *36*, won the New Currents Award at the Busan Film Festival 2012. His second film, *Mary is Happy*, premiered at the Venice Film Festival 2013.



©Mosquito Films Distribution



Concrete Clouds

Director: Lee Chatametikool

Cast: Ananda Everingham, Apinya Sakuljaroensuk, Janesuda Parnto

In Bangkok during the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, a suicide leap pulls together the lives of the four main characters, forcing them to confront their pasts and re-imagine their futures.

Guests: Lee Chatametikool (Director) , Prawith Hansten (Actor)

Director Profile

In 2007, Lee Chatametikool won the Best Editor award for *Syndromes and a Century* at the inaugural Asian Film Awards in Hong Kong. The Bangkok Film Critic's Assembly awarded him for his work on *Wonderful Town* in 2008. Most recently, he won Best Editor for the second time at the 2010 Asian Film Awards for his work on *Karaoke*.



Last Summer

Director: Kittithat Tangsirikit, Sittisiri Mongkolsiri, Saranyoo Jiralak

Cast: Jirayu La-ongmanee, Sutatta Udomsilp, Pimpakan Praekunnatham

One summer, Joy, a young and upcoming actress posts 'I want to die' on Facebook. Attractive boy Singh tries to console her by taking her to the beach for the first time with her best friend Meen and Singh's friend Garn. The night of fun becomes horror when Joy dies tragically. Her ghost follows those she loves everywhere. Joy has something to tell her lover, her best friend and her brother Ting, but no one wants to know or remember, leading to a thrilling story that will shock every ex-teenager.

Guests: Sutatta Udomsilp (Actress), Rutaiwan Wongsirasawad (Producer)



©Mosquito Films Distribution

The Songs of Rice

Director: Uruphong Raksasad
Cast: Prayad Promma

This is a visual record of the rice culture and its influences on people in different parts of Thailand. The lyrical structure of this documentary film reflects the melodies in the songs about rice that have been crafted and composed by the diverse harmonies of the people who may sing in different voices but share the same heart.

Guest: Pimpaka Towira (Producer)



©2013/M THIRTY NINE CO.,LTD

SUN & SUNRISE

Director: Kittikorn Liawsirikul
Cast: Nadech Kugimiya, Oranate D. Cabelles, Nitit Warayanont

Adapted from *Khugam*, the Thai classical novel by Thamayanti, known in Japan as *Me-nam-no-Zan-shou*. A love story about a Japanese soldier in Thailand during WW II.

Guests: Kittikorn Liawsirikul (Director) and Oranate D. Cabelles (Actress)

Director profile

Kittikorn Liawsirikul aka Leo Kittikorn started his career in a music company, then worked in a famous film studio in 1990. The next year, he directed his first comedy movie, *18-80 Buddy*, as well as *A Miracle of Ohm & Somwang*. His filmography includes *Goal Club* (2001); *Saving Private Tootsie* (2002); *Ahimsa Stop To Run* (2005); *Bullet Wives* (2005); *Buslane* (2007); *Dreamteam* (2008); *That sounds good* (2010); and *Sun & Sunrise*. (2013).



©Song Sound Production

Tang Wong

Director: Kongdej Jaturanrasmee
Cast: Sompob Sittiarjarn, Siripat Kuhavichanun, Nutthasit Kotimanuswanich

Tang Wong is a comedic drama that centers around four high school boys. They have prayed before the Luang Poo idol at the spirit house. When their wishes come true, they must repay the debt by performing a traditional Thai dance...

Guest: Kongdej Jaturanrasmee (Director)

Director Profile

In 2002, Kongdej directed his debut feature *Sayew* for Sahamongkol Films. It won honorable mention at the Seattle Film Festival. His second film was *Midnight My Love*, which won Best Script at the Deauville Asian Film Festival. His third film was *Handle Me With Care*, made with the GTH film studio. His last film, *P-047 (Tae Peang Phu Deaw)*, made its world premiere at the 2011 Venice International Film Festival.





©2014 GMM Tai Hub Co., Ltd



The Teacher's Diary

Director: Nithiwat Tharatorn

Cast: Sukrit Wisetkaew, Chermarn Boonyasak

The Teacher's Diary was inspired by a true story of how two strangers overcome the most impossible of odds and find love within the pages of a lost diary.

Guests: Nithiwat Tharatorn (Director)

Director Profile

Nithiwat Tharatorn made his directorial debut alongside five other directors of the romantic comedy, *My Girl*, which was Thailand's top domestic film at the box office in 2003. He then made his solo directorial debut with *Seasons Change* in 2006, followed by *Dear Galileo* in 2009. Both films were well received and became favorites among Thai adolescents for the loveable characters that many found easy to relate to.



© 2014 SAHAMONGKOLFILM INTERNATIONAL CO., LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



Timeline

(In cooperation with Focus on Asia International Film Festival Fukuoka)

Director: Nonzee Nimibutr

Cast: Jirayu Tangsrisook, Jarinporn Joonkiat, Piyathida Woramusik

In the North of Thailand, Matt pursues the dream of her late husband by running his strawberry farms while raising their teenage son, Tan. Growing up in the shadow of his parents' perfect love, Tan feels the urge to experience the world outside and shape his own future. At 19, Tan arrives in Bangkok to study, and the city is so different from the remote farming community he's come from. In college, Tan meets June, a young woman whose worldview and adventurous attitude fascinate. The two teenagers set out to explore their emotions and anxiety, while Matt negotiates her past romance with her present feelings.

Guests: Nonzee Nimibutr (Director) and Namon Pongvilai (Producer)

Director Profile

Nonzee Nimibutr is one of Thailand's best-known directors and producers. He's credited as one of the pioneering forces that brought Thai cinema back into the global spotlight in the late 1990s. He continues to be an influential figure in the filmmaking community and a name that commands international attention.

The Japan Foundation Asia Center www.jfac.jp

At the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting in December 2013, the Japanese Government announced a vision statement on a new policy for Cultural Exchanges in Asia – "WA Project ~ Toward Interactive Asia ~." Serving to achieve two-way art/cultural exchanges and supporting Japanese language learners, the Japan Foundation launched a new department, the Asia Center in April 2014. The Asia Center carries out various projects to foster deeper, mutual understanding and further develop relationships between Japan and our fellow Asian countries.

Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) <http://2014.tiff-jp.net/ja/>

TIFF, which marks its 27th year, is the only international film festival in Japan accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations*. Starting in 1985, as the first large film festival of the country, it has made a significant mark on the film and entertainment industry of Japan and Asia and has grown to Asia's largest film festival. The festival provides opportunities for people in the film industry and film enthusiasts to encounter great films from all over the world shown in Asia's film capital Tokyo.

* International Federation of Film Producers Associations is an international organization which improves or reviews issues of the world's film industry and international film festivals.