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in a world of violence, there's passion in the silent soul

LUMPINEE

Supported by



SYNOPSIS

Destiny brings a group of hopeless kids into Thai boxing world of violence. It may look like an unjust deed in some people's eyes. But Thai boxing is a two-sided coin in Thai society. For these kids, it could mean an opportunity to flip their life's crisis into a chance. For them, it's all about passion, determination, and faith.



TREATMENT



The story takes place at a boxing camp in a small community in southern Thailand. Destiny leads kids of varied backgrounds and purposes to travel to the boxing camp.

Some join the camp because they love boxing. Some are homeless drifters; impoverished, drug addicted, or charged with filching. Some simply need a shelter, kids who view Thai boxing as life's last resort. They live together in this boxing camp that turns into a small society filled with both friendship and conflict – all centering and leaning on Thai boxing and Uncle Sak, the camp's owner. The boxing camp thus resembles a juvenile rehab home or a mental rehab center. Its strict rules of behavior and rigid boxing training serve as potent medicines in rectifying the kids' mind and body, and Uncle Sak's loving kindness towards the kids inspires them to look up to him as an adopted father. Uncle Sak, in turn, aims to breed the supreme Thai boxing from the South, so that one day his boxers could make their way up the rank and have the chance to fight against Bangkok giant camps' boxers. His ultimate dream: Lumpinee Stadium Thai Boxing Championship Belts.

A budding boxing life not only gives the kids a new life but also grants them the vision of hope. They open up their mind, revealing their dream, on a journey that the only thing available for them to hold on to is determination and faith. They journey ahead in a quest for victory and social acceptance, perhaps attainable in the short moment when the winner's hand is help up high on the ring, the only life's greatest merit they want to seize.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Today, a number of Thai boxers join the industry and begin their fight on the ring at a very young age. The fact has become a subject of controversy in Thai society questioning propriety, human-rights violation, the obvious violence, and seemingly abusive treatments by adults in boxing industry. At the same time, the influence of gambling has also played a bigger role in pressuring and determining the outcome of a fight, making people focus less on the sports itself.

The kids represent a large number of Thai youngsters living in rural areas in various parts of Thailand where urban pop culture hasn't yet completely dominated their life. This film shows how they live and why Thai boxing is deeply ingrained in their innocent soul.

The story of these kids' boxing-life journey inspired this documentary project, with the boxing camp serving as a model displaying various angles of problems. It is a story that begins from the small lives of impoverished kids, and evolves to reveal its in-depth importance that holds great impact on society and Thai boxing industry.





DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

Chira began his career life as a fashion photographer and music-video director. In 2000, after over ten years of professional experience, he presented a photography exhibition, titled 'Photography', showcasing portraits of teenagers of diverse nationalities living in Bangkok, to reveal their way of life while growing up in changing Thai society.

Within the same year, Chira also conducted a workshop on taking portraits, opening to the general public interested in photography.

In 2006, Chira focused more on the life of Thailand's rural teenagers who traveled to Bangkok with an important mission: boxing. Chira produced portraits of teen stars, models, musicians and others who represented pop culture influencing value among teenagers. At the same time, he alternately exhibited his portraits of boxers, titled 'Private Mix', as a way of comparing and showing cultural conflict in Thai society, leaving a question in the public's mind: who is the real idol?

In 2007, Chira continued to explore the concept in the 'Private Mix' project, by going deeper into the life of up-country teen boxers, to find their real reason behind their sport journey filled with violence and danger. Thus, emerged 'Lumpinee', a documentary film illuminating the other side of the story -the truth very few know about- and the controversy raised in Thai society concerning human rights.

In 2008, Lumpinee was the first Thai documentary that received contribution from Jan Vrijman Fund

In 2010, Lumpinee received the Official Selected to premier screening in the Reflecting Images - Panorama section, in the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)

In 2011, Lumpinee was nominated for the Humanitarian Awards for Documentaries in the 35th Hong Kong International Film Festival

DIRECTOR'S BIO

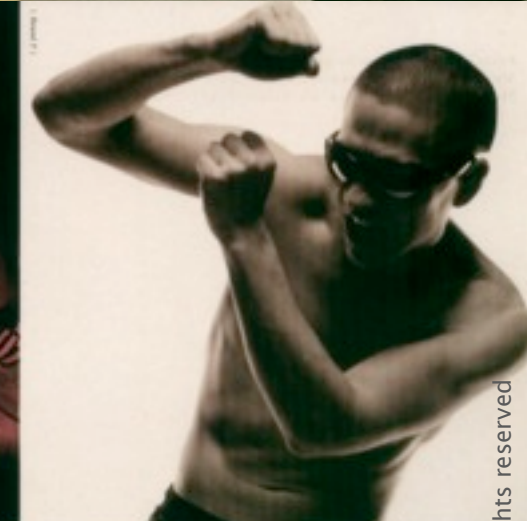
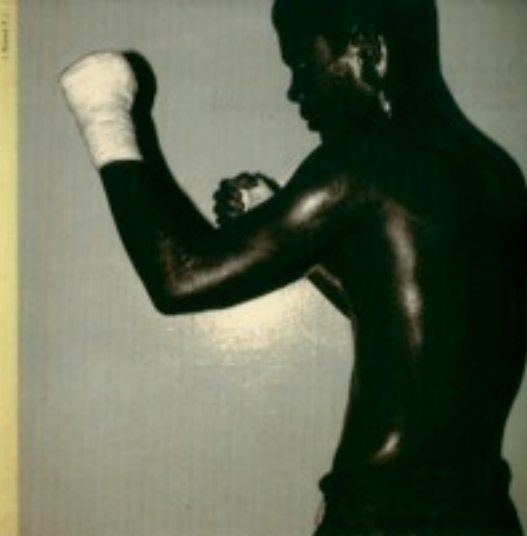
CHIRA WICHAISUTHIKUL

Education:

- B.A., Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University.
- 1984 Special Prize, cartoon competition, Czechoslovakia.
- 1985 The 2nd International Biennial Print Exhibit: 1985 R.O.C.
Recipient of Krompraya Narisaranuvattiwong Scholarship
- 1986 Silver Medal, junior artists, print arts, Silp Bhirasri Exhibition

Career:

- 1987 Art Director, Saatchi & Saatchi Co., Ltd. (Thailand)
- 1989 Photographer for Lollana Magazine
- 1992 Freelance fashion and commercial photographer
Director of photography (television commercial)
Director; music videos, documentaries, and other commercial media
- 2000 'Photography Exhibition' at The Emporium Shopping Center
- 2005 'Portrait' workshop conductor, for general public
- 2007 'Private Mix Exhibition' at Playground, Thonglor
- 2008 'Lumpinee' selected and supported from Jan Vrijman Fund
- 2010 'Lumpinee' was official selected and screening in IDFA
- 2011 'Lumpinee' was nominated for the Humanitarian Awards for Documentaries, HKIFF 2011





PRODUCER'S BIO

BANPHOT WUDHIPRECHA

Education:

M.Ed. Visual Communication Technology, BGSU., Ohio, USA.

Career:

2002	Lecturer Assumption University Bangkok University Chulalongkorn University
2003	Producer for national TV Program General Manager, North Star Production Co.,Ltd.
2005 - present	Jaikao Art Box, Studio Director Independence Film Producer Advertising, Music Video Producer



COMPANY'S BIO

Cia Productions was established in 2003 by the founder: Mr. Chira Wichaisuthikul in order to facilitate the production of the documentary film "Lumpinee". The company has created music video for the various artist albums. In year 2006, Cia Productions bonded with Carabao to produce the art direction for the VTR guidance featuring in the concert 20th Anniversary of Carabao.

COMPANY FILMOGRAPHY

- Artist: Moor - Smallroom Records, type: music video, 2003
- Artist: Ford - RS. Co., Ltd. , type: music video, 2003
- Artist: Armchair - Universal Records, type: music video, 2004
- Artist: Tine - Smallroom Records, type: music video, 2005
- Baan Lang Kai, type: documentary, length 4 mins, 2005
- Carabao, type: video art for the 20th Anniversary of Carabao Concert, length 12 mins, 2006

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Title: Lumpinee
Production Company: Cia Productions
Distributor: Jaikao Co., Ltd.
Producer: Banphot Wudhiprecha
Director: Chira Wichaisuthikul
Duration: 97 mins
Format: HD, color, stereo (Dolby SR)
Genre: Documentary
Language: Thai with English Subtitles
Filming Location: Thailand



CONTACT INFORMATION

Producer: Banphot Wudhiprecha
tel: +66 81 751 0523
fax: +66 82 719 1714
email: banphot@me.com | skype: banphot.w
Jaikao Art Box - 45 Rama IX 41, (Saree 9 rd.), Suanluang,
Bangkok, Thailand 10250

Director: Chira Wichaisuthikul
tel: +66 89 005 2692
fax: +66 82 752 1069
email: chiramix@gmail.com
Cia Productions - 305/202 Noble Park, Sukhapibal 6 rd.
Bangplee, Samutprakarn, Thailand 10504