

FILM IN THAILAND

Volume 2 Issue 6 June 2010

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Mid-Year Wrap – late June 2010

Our Numbers Say it All

During the Bangkok disturbances in May, quite a few reporters and other industry players contacted us asking how the industry was affected. Now, at the mid-way point in the year, we are pleased to answer that question – there was little or no effect on the industry.

As a matter of fact, as you can see from the charts below, we are slated to surpass the total number of productions last year. Not only has the first half of 2010 been strong, but the second half looks likely to generate foreign production revenue closer to our all time high in 2008 of US \$62.3 million.

Increasingly we are finding that production companies are coming to Thailand not just because of our locations, but to utilize Thai based production services such as set construction, costume and make-up crafts, and post production work including sound and digital services.

The Thailand Film Office is pleased that our industry continues to grow and mature. To that end, we offer seminars for both government and the private sector regarding laws and regulations related to filming activities in Thailand and trends and insights into international film industry developments.

Our website at www.thailandfilmoffice.org contains the most up-to-date information on filming in Thailand which the Thailand Film Office supplements with published and digital materials given out at markets such as Hong Kong, Pusan, Cannes and the Location shows in Santa Monica and Seville Spain. And, even though we are not one of the more active people on Twitter, you can follow any breaking news and developments at film_thailand

And finally, for those wondering what the top locations for foreign film shoots in Thailand – for the first half of 2010, they are (click on location to see it on Thailand map)

Bangkok	Pathumthani
Chonburi	Krabi
Samut Prakarn	Ratchaburi
Phuket	Nakorn Pathom
Chiang Mai	Surat thani

Any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Countries and Number of Foreign Productions Filming in Thailand 2003

	Japan	Europe	USA	Australia	China	Korea	HK	Taipei	India	Other	Total	% change
2008	134	106	25	10	8	26	23	3	123	68	526	+0.57%
2009	108	96	25	8	16	27	20	10	108	78	496	-5.70%
2010	65	49	7	4	7	25	17	5	48	52	279 Through June	-

Foreign Productions by Type and Revenue 2008 through June 2010

Year	Documentaries	Advertising	Feature Films	TV Series	Music Videos	Total	Revenue US\$'s 32.5 B=\$1	% change
2008	197	184	28	48	69	526	approx. \$62.3 million	+53.2 % over 2007 figures
2009	181	166	37	52	60	496	approx. \$27.6 million	-44.3 %
2010	85	141	11	24	18	279	approx. \$18.4 million until June 2010	-

Who is saying what?



Photo courtesy AMW International Co. Ltd.

Yes, of course I'd like to come back and film here. As a matter of fact, one of my agents is very involved in charity work here on Phuket. I would love to do a documentary on one of the film makers I met here at the Festival, Bradley Cox. Brad directed "Who Killed Chea Vichea" in Cambodia and was filming in Bangkok during the disturbances in May. His life story would be an interesting one to film in this part of the world."

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Hollywood director **Darnell Martin** (Cadillac Records, USA TV episodes "Homicide: Law on the Street"- at Meet the Directors, Phuket Film Festival, June 8, 2010) – "I have not had the opportunity to film here in Thailand yet, but what I can see from folks that I have met in the business, Thai production services people are very informed, professional and serious about their industry. Besides that, the country side is beautiful and Phuket people quite hospitable.

FAQ

Many producers and production companies write the Thailand Film Office asking many of the same questions. We introduce this new FAQ (frequently asked questions) section to hopefully assist you in understanding the process for making a film in Thailand. Many of these questions are also answered on our website [here](#):

Q: We are planning to shoot a feature film in Thailand in late August. Do we have to let you know about our plans or can we just enter Thailand and shoot our project? And by the way, what kind of Visa do we need (if any)?

A: Film makers wishing to shoot a film in Thailand are required to hire an approved Thai based coordinator to help, as there are procedures to follow both before and after the filming permit is granted. Coordinators also help in obtaining local permission and in contacting Thai authorities and local Thai crews to assist with your production.

AS for visas, crews intending to work in Thailand for a period not exceeding 15 days can do so under a tourist visa. Only crews working more than 15 days must have a non-immigrant multiple type visa. Your coordinator will be able to discuss this policy with you.

Q: How do I find a good coordinator?

A: The Thailand Film Office has a full list of coordinators. Some coordinators specialize in serving Japanese/Korean/Indian/Russian/other European and American film makers – please check carefully which coordinator best suits your needs. By law, Freelance Coordinators are permitted to work for a production not exceeding 15 days. Their qualifications are not suitable for a big production e.g. Feature Films, TV series, Docudramas or fiction. For both parties' benefit, a Letter of Agreement between both parties must be done.

A list of approved coordinators can be found [here](#).

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What's Up Private Sector?

HOW ABOUT LOVE

A Swiss feature set in a refugee camp in Northern Thailand



The story, set in a Karen refugee camp built close to Chiang Mai, Northern Thailand, is a character study of Fritz Reinhart, an award-winning heart surgeon from Switzerland who is exposed to two very different worlds. He and his wife are on vacation to Thailand where they pay a visit to an old friend who works in a medical clinic at a refugee camp. When they arrive, they are confronted with a life-changing experience.

To Stefan Haupt, the director and script writer

it was interesting to expose his characters to this different lifestyle and see how they would react to it.

HOW ABOUT LOVE is quite the opposite of action movies like Rambo IV that deal with the upsetting conditions of Burmese refugees in very different ways. HOW ABOUT LOVE is an art movie, focusing on the inner lives of the characters who are faced with difficult decisions. It is scheduled for theatrical release Fall 2010. For a relatively small budget of just over US \$600,000 the production team managed to capture incredible production value. To make this possible the film was shot on digital HD cameras. Otherwise Living Films provided a full production crew and a professional production even with limited resources.

CORRECTION: Pictures on Page 3 of Film in Thailand (FiT) Volume 2 #5 were incorrectly identified as courtesy of DeWarrenne Productions. Caption should have read: Photos courtesy of Millennium Films, Inc. We apologize for the misunderstanding.

The filming experience was wonderful for both the Thai and the Swiss crew.

Director Stefan Haupt said, "I feel very, very grateful that we could work together in such a great way. We could trust you from the very beginning, you helped us so much with your huge knowledge, your professionalism and your heartfelt support (probably not quite the correct word, but I hope you get the meaning), and I am most happy that we could share this experience, that we could realize all these scenes and pictures and precious moments together. Thank you from all my heart".



Crew & Cast

Executive Producer: [Rudolf Santschi](#)

Director: [Stefan Haupt](#)

Living Films Producer: [Chris Lowenstein](#), [Georg Peter Mueller](#)

Production Manager: [Piyaporn Indageha](#)

Director of Photography: [Patrick Lindenmaier](#)

Art Director: [Susanne Jauch](#)

Companies: [Triluna Films AG](#), [Fontana Films GmbH](#), [Living Films](#)

(photographs and copy courtesy [Living Films](#) web site)

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Film Me

Phu Ruea National Park



Phu Ruea affords magnificent views across the mountains, whilst giving you the feeling of floating amongst the clouds. Located in Loei (520 kilometers from Bangkok), where the temperature can drop to as low as zero Celsius in winter and become hotter than any Thai province during summer, Loei's geography and climate are unique when compared to other I-San provinces.



Photo courtesy Phu Ruea National Park website

Having a rugged mountain range and also at the headwater of many rivers, Phu Ruea has the highest peak at 1,365m above sea level. At the top, is a viewpoint that offers a fantastic 360" panoramic image. More than half of the top of Phu Ruea is covered with low shrubbery, grasslands and strangely formed rock formations. Due to the cool climate the area is rich in orchid species which flower throughout the year. Pha Lon Noi is good point to see the sun rise.

Photo courtesy Phu Ruea National Park website

The park is also home to a variety of wildlife including 26 different types of bird.

Speaking of birds, interested in filming pens of Turkey (yes, we said TURKEY – like in gobble – gobble)? Make sure you drop in at the Mueang Loei Turkey Farm, 9 km from the city of Loei.



Looking to make an exotic sequel to *SIDEWAYS* (2004, Fox Searchlight Pictures)? Try filming at Chateau de Loei Vineyard.



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Now you know more about us so come to Thailand and Film It!



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coordinator in Thailand
– add yourself to our lists

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