

Film in Thailand

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What's News?

Unleash Your Imagination



By now, everyone knows that Thailand has some fantastic locations and a world class production services industry. But what you don't know and we urge you to do in our 2011 ad campaign is unleash your imagination and film your production in Thailand.

Thailand has doubled for so many locations, New York, Shanghai, Mardi Gras, Medieval Europe, a mysterious underwater world, you name it and it has been filmed here.

With multilingual and multi cultural crews, technologically advanced equipment and world class production facilities, you can't go wrong filming your production in Thailand.

The Thailand Film Office is encouraging film, TV and commercial makers from around the world to imagine your project in Thailand - film it here and then utilize our production services to creatively realize your project in Thailand.

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Thailand Film Office Continues Education Seminars

As has been its practice over the last few years, the Department of Tourism, Thailand Film Office recently held its bi-annual training seminar for companies and individuals doing business in the production services industry.

The latest seminar was held March 31 - April 1, 2011 at the Tawanna hotel in Bangkok with over 200 participants attending.



It is the responsibility of the Department of Tourism to provide the private sector continuing education and updates on procedures and regulations for international filmmakers who wish to film in Thailand.

Government regulatory procedures and practices are continually updated and streamlined and the seminars aim to explain changes to the production services industry so they can assist international filmmakers have a smooth, efficient experience filming in Thailand. The seminars are not only open to the private sector production services industry but also to other government agencies and departments that may interact with foreign film makers such as the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Bureau of the Royal Fine Arts Department, the Department of Revenue, the Office of Immigration, the Department of Employment and the Department of Customs.

Conversely, representatives from these agencies spoke at the seminar providing the latest information on visas, tax issues, work permits, CARNE system for bringing filming equipment into Thailand, etc.

Through the seminars, the Department of Tourism also aims to provide a dialogue between the private sector and the government agencies so as to discuss situations which would make it easier for foreign filmmakers to carry out their work in Thailand.

During the seminar it was announced that the production services industry generates income of approximately US \$67 million annually.

Hopefully, the seminars lead to a better understanding on the part of the private sector and related agencies that interact with foreign filmmakers making their presence in Thailand more interesting and overall a more pleasant experience.

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Who's Saying What

Singaporean Producer Director Eric Khoo – Zhao Wei Films

Eric has produced and/or directed features and made-for-television films, music videos and TVCs (television commercials). Most noted for his four feature films that were screened at film festivals all over the world: Mee Pok Man (1995), 12 Storeys (1997), Be with Me (2005) and My Magic (2008).

Be With Me , (opened the 2006 Director's Fortnight at Cannes and My Magic was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the 1998 Cannes Film Festival and was voted as one of the top five films of that year by French magazine, Le Monde.

I caught up with director Khoo at Technicolor Asia (Technicolor Thailand Co. Ltd) here in Bangkok where he had taken his film for color correction, sound mix and film out negative. The film was actually animated at Infinite Frameworks Studios in Batam, Indonesia.

After chatting awhile about his project, I asked director Khoo about doing production work in Thailand:

FiT: Eric, thanks for taking time to discuss your new project. Tell us something about Tatsumi.



Eric Khoo and Yoshihiro Tatsumi , courtesy Rory Daniel

EK: Ever since I was a child, I loved Japanese “manga”. Most notably that of Yoshihiro Tatsumi who in the late 1950’s introduced a bold form of manga called “gekiga” — darker, more realistic, often violent images. He has become one of Japan’s most important visual artists.

Inspired by Tatsumi’s autobiographical book “A Drifting Life” in which he not only tells his own story but marks Japan’s cultural milestones – I wanted to pay tribute to Tatsumi so I crafted up an animated

feature film using his panels as story boards. The film is due for release by our production house Zhao Wei Films later in 2011. German distribution company Match Factory is handling international distribution.



from Tatsumi the movie courtesy Zhao Wei Films

FiT: And you are finishing up here at Technicolor in Bangkok.

EK: Yes. I am just coming from the theater where we looked at a couple of reels and they look fantastic.



from Tatsumi the movie courtesy Zhao Wei Films

FiT: Why do work here in Thailand that could have been done in Singapore?

EK: First, I am a great fan of Thailand’s. I love Thai films especially horror films and Thai comedy and sentimental love stories. While I have never filmed here in country, I have done production at Technicolor. I find staff dedicated and very effective and efficient. Thai society as a whole is very polite and gracious. I am really pleased with the production people here at Technicolor – we came in last Thursday and we were able to finish up today (Wednesday).

FiT: How is the industry in Singapore?

EK: It’s ok. For an island nation of 5.5 million people, we turn out around 10 productions a year.

FiT: Once again thanks for taking time to chat with us and for doing production work in Thailand.

EK: My pleasure.

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Film Me

Coffee

You are probably thinking, "Ugh, excuse me, did you say coffee?"

Yes, coffee. The first thing most people have when the awake in the morning, before heading to the set and on set. The one "food" item that catering services has available all day long in the canteen during a shoot.

But what does coffee have to do with Filming in Thailand? Glad you asked that question.

Ever since Angel & Bear Productions filmed and released the Thai/ USA production of *Bitter/Sweet* (2010), a character-driven romantic comedy set in a Thai coffee plantation (but actually filmed in Krabi, Chonburi and Bangkok), interest has been building on filming documentaries, commercials and features of Thailand's indigenous people owned coffee plantations.



*From Bitter/Sweet
 courtesy Angel & Bear
 Productions*



*Courtesy Doi Chaang
 Coffee Company*

Now, while imagining your next project here, can't you smell the coffee brewing????!!

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Pitch it to Me

Did you know that coffee is the second most traded commodity in the world (oil is the first).

Worldwide, more than 1400 million cups of coffee are drunk every day.

The three biggest coffee drinkers in the world are the Americans, the French and the Germans. They consume some 65% of the total world's consumption of coffee.

Thailand is among the top 20 coffee exporters in the world.

According to Phra Sarasartpholkhan (an Italian) who documented the growth of the Thai coffee industry in 1911, Arabica coffee (the best coffee bean) came into Thailand in the Ayudhya Period (around 1850), in Chanthaburi province. Of course the beverage itself can be traced back to traders who traveled the ancient Silk Rod which passed though Siam.

There is no other data until 1957 when Mr. Somboon Na Thalang, then Director of Rubber Division, Department of Agricultural, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, brought 4 strains of Arabica coffee beans from Brazil to Thailand which were planted in Tak province.

This strain of coffee caught "coffee rust", a type of fungus which pretty well wiped out the crops

After that, Arabica coffee of various strains was distributed to several highland cultivating areas, especially in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lampang, Mae Hong Son, and Tak provinces. In 1974, the Royal Project for Hilltribe Development conducted a research and development project on Highland Cultivation of Arabica coffee in the Northern Thailand area. The purpose of this project was to replace cultivation of opium among hill tribe people and generate a source of income for them - an initiative of H.M. the King of Thailand and with the assistance from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).



picture and story courtesy Doi Chaang Coffee Company

Specialty Arabica beans have been grown in this region since.

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Now you know so Unleash Your Imagination in Thailand!



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