



The Third International Conference on Lao Studies Film Festival

Khon Kaen University, Thailand

July 14, 2010: 4:45 - 6:30pm

July 15, 2010: 4:45 - 6:00pm

The Center for Research on Plurality in the Mekong Region (Khon Kaen University), the Center for Lao Studies (San Francisco), and the Luang Prabang Film Festival are proud to present the Third International Conference on Lao Studies film festival. Like at previous conferences, this year's films represent a broad spectrum of the Lao experience, meant to articulate the varying backgrounds of a diverse culture. We will be showing the hit *Sabaidee Luang Prabang*, a Lao co-produced film with significant international success. At the Second International Conference, we screened *The Betrayal* as a work in progress. This year, after its Academy Award nomination, we will see the final version of that film. We will be showing two additional documentaries this year: *Bomb Harvest*, and the short film *Taoism in Northern Lao PDR*, produced by the Traditional Arts & Ethnology Centre in Luang Prabang. Our Isan pick will be the comedy *Yam Yasothon*. Lastly, we will feature the work of Laos' Department of Cinema by screening their film *Want to Be a Soldier*. We hope that the films we have chosen are, at once, entertaining and thought provoking. We encourage an active discussion of the films after their screenings, if time permits.

Gabriel Kuperman

Film Festival Coordinator

Founder & Director of the Luang Prabang Film Festival

Please note that the films presented are not necessarily endorsed or promoted by the organizers of this conference or the film festival.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, July 14, 2010 (Screenings start promptly at 4:45pm.)

Room A	Room B	Room C
<i>The Betrayal (Nerakhoon)</i> (96 minutes)	<i>Want to Be a Soldier</i> (105 minutes)	<i>Yam Yasothon</i> (96 minutes)

Thursday, July 15, 2010 (Screenings start promptly at 4:45pm.)

Room A	Room B	Room C
<i>Sabaidee Luang Prabang</i> (90 minutes)	<i>Bomb Harvest</i> (88 minutes)	<i>Taoism in Northern Lao PDR</i> (14 minutes)

FILMS

The Betrayal (Nerakhoon)

Running Time: 96 minutes

Language: English and Lao
(with English subtitles)

Director: Ellen Kuras and Thavisouk Phrasavath
United States, 2008

Filmed over 23 years, *The Betrayal* is the directorial debut of renowned cinematographer Ellen Kuras in a remarkable collaboration with the film's subject and co-director Thavisouk Phrasavath. During the Vietnam War, the United States government waged its own secret war in the neighboring country of Laos. When the U.S. withdrew, thousands of Lao who fought alongside American forces were left behind to face imprisonment or execution. One family, the Phrasavaths, made the courageous decision to escape to America. Hoping to find safety, they discovered a different kind of war. Epic in scope yet devastatingly intimate, featuring an exquisite score by Academy Award winning composer Howard Shore, *The Betrayal* is a testament to the resilient bonds of family and an astonishing tale of survival.

Bomb Harvest

Running Time: 88 minutes

Language: English and Lao (with English subtitles)

Director: Kim Morduant
Australia, 2007

Laos: the most bombed country, per capita, on the planet. Australian bomb disposal specialist Laith Stevens has to train a new young "big bomb" team to deal with bombs left from the US "Secret War," but meanwhile, the local children are out hunting for bomb scrap metal. Vividly depicting the consequences of war with the incredible bravery of those trying to clear up the mess.

Sabaidee Luang Prabang

Running Time: 90 minutes

Language: Lao and Thai

Director: Sakchai Deenan
Laos & Thailand, 2008

Sabaidee Luang Prabang stars Ananda Everingham as a Lao Australian photographer who returns to his father's home country of Laos and gets in touch with his heritage during a trip that takes him the length of the country. Along the way, he bonds and falls in love with his female guide, played by a Lao beauty queen Khamlek Pallawong. The first Lao feature film in nearly 20 years, it is a Lao-Thai co-production, co-directed by Kiev-educated Lao Anousorn Sirisakda and Thai filmmaker Sakchai Deena.

Taoism in Northern Lao PDR: A Kim Di Mun Ordination

Running Time: 14 minutes

Language: English
(with Lao subtitles)

Director: Tara Gujadhur (Laos, 2009)

This video (created by the Traditional Arts & Ethnology Centre in Luang Prabang) depicting a Taoist ordination ceremony shows how the Kim Di Mun ethnic minority group in northern Laos has retained its religious traditions in the face of a rapidly changing cultural and economic landscape, and how their Taoist practices are both a burden and an honour.

Want to Be a Soldier

Running Time: 105 minutes

Language: Lao

Director: Lao PDR's Department of Cinema
Laos, 2009

Film tells the romance between Sai and Fone who live in a quiet and beautiful village beside a river. Sai asks for Fone's hand in marriage, but her parents don't agree because of her young age and his uncertain career. Thus, Sai decides to join the army to forget his sorrow. During his training course, he becomes more and more interested in the army life and volunteers to become a professional army official. At home, Fone is forced to marry the rich owner of a sawmill. Unfortunately, Fone's husband is prosecuted for drug trafficking and later dies in prison. Fone returns home to live with her daughter. She often goes walking along the river of her childhood and hoping for the return of her dear friend

Yam Yasothon

Running Time: 96 minutes

Language: Lao Isan (with Thai subtitles)

Director: Petchtai Wongkamlao
Thailand, 2005

Thong and Sroi live in the countryside and share a secret love for each other. When Sroi's well-intentioned but overbearing aunt discovers the romance, she sends Sroi, along with her quirky maid, Juei, to the bustling Thai metropolis of Bangkok. Yam, a down-at-heel animal lover, is in love with Juei. Both he and Thong pine for the two absent women. Will they be reunited? Has Sroi's aunt found a suitable suitor for her niece?



**LUANG PRABANG
FILM FESTIVAL**

CELEBRATING SOUTHEAST
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DECEMBER 4-11, 2010

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With support from the Lao Department of Cinema (a division of the Ministry of Information and Culture), the inaugural Luang Prabang Film Festival will present more than 30 films from Southeast Asia over 8 nights in December, marking the 35th anniversary of the Lao PDR, and Luang Prabang's 15th year on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. The screenings are free, and will take place in 2 outdoor venues in the old royal capital of Laos. After the festival, 4 films will tour select other provinces in Laos, with screenings held over 2-night stops in each town.

Our main project goals are to:

- Encourage and celebrate filmmaking in Southeast Asia.
- Stimulate a film industry in Laos.
- Educate Lao about the art of film and also media literacy.
- Inspire young Lao to enter the film industry.
- Support local economy through tourism.

We are very interested in forming more relationships with media organizations and professionals from throughout the region and around the world, and look forward to working together to promote Southeast Asian cinema. We hope to see you at our festival at the end of the year.

For more information about the festival, collaboration, or sponsorship, please contact project Founder & Director, Gabriel Kuperman, at director@lpfilmfest.org.