



สิ้นเมษาฝนตกมาปรอยปรอย

IN APRIL THE FOLLOWING YEAR, THERE WAS A FIRE

A film by Wichanon Somumjarn

Produced by Anocha Suwichakornpong and Maenum Chagasik

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Specification

Title:	In April the Following Year, There Was a Fire
Duration:	76 minutes
Language:	Thai, regional Thai dialect (northeastern/Isan)
Shooting Locations:	Bangkok, Khon Kaen
Director/Screenwriter:	Wichanon Somumjarn
Producers:	Anocha Suwichakornpong, Maenum Chagasik
Director of Photography:	Ming Kai Leung
Screenplay:	Wichanon Somumjarn
Editor:	Machima Ungsriwong
Sound Supervisor:	Akritchalerm Kalyanamitr
Format:	HD, Color, Dolby SR
Genre:	Drama
Production Company:	Electric Eel Films

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Synopsis



Nhum is a construction foreman working in Bangkok. The political instability in Thailand has made its presence felt in all business sectors. Nhum suddenly finds himself out of jobs. He decides to leave Bangkok to go back to his hometown in the northeast of Thailand to attend his high school friend's wedding during the Thai New Year in April -- which also happens to be the hottest month of the year.

Nhum reunites with his old friends at the wedding in Khon Kaen. He also runs into Joy, a senior from his high school whom he used to have a crush on, and is now an office woman. They exchange their phone numbers.

Suddenly, the film turns into another direction. Some interview footage of the director's father and brother is included, and we learn that the film is a semi-autobiography of the director's life. The character of Nhum is, nonetheless, as much a construct as it is real. From this point on, the film becomes the voyage of a young man into the labyrinths of the real and the imagined, the documentary and the fiction, the past and the present – and not only of his self but also of the Thai society writ large.

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Director's Statement



My house was burnt down soon after I was born. As a result, we all had to move to the out-of-town accommodations provided to us by the school where my parents were teachers. “We” means my father, my mother, my older brother, and myself.

Not long after the move, my family started having problems and eventually my parents were divorced, sending our lives into different paths. When my mother died, we moved into a new house after having spent a good amount of time moving from one relatives’ house to the next. Even though we got to live together again but our relationships were different by this time. Perhaps because none of us really understood what it meant to have a “home”.

All this is well in the past. It is history now. We have all moved on and learnt how to adapt to the world the best we could. What remains of those days are only a few faded photographs and the memories etched onto our mind like the scars.

In April the Following Year, There Was a Fire is my first feature made up of both recollections and imagination. The threads of the story, taking place in the present as well as the past, are connected together in the protagonist’s mind. The narrative, hence, unfolds like a dream, where past and present collide.

This is the story about my *land*.

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Director's Biography

Wichanon Somumjarn

Wichanon Somumjarn was born in Khon Kaen in 1982. While he was in the final year of studying engineering, he made a short film titled *Phee Hong Nam (W.C.)*. The short won Honorable Mention at the Siam Cement Group Young Thai Artist Award 2005 in the film category. He then decided to leave his formal studies to pursue his dreams in the field of cinema.

Wichanon was a participant in Asian Film Academy (AFA), Pusan International Film Festival 2009. In February 2010, Wichanon had also attended the Berlinale Talent Campus # 8 at the 60th Berlin International Film Festival, Germany. In November 2010, Wichanon had also attended the Next Master Tokyo Filmex 2010, Japan. His short film, *Four Boys, White Whiskey and Grilled Mouse* has been a major success on the international film festival circuit. It won Best Fiction award at the prestigious Tampere Film Festival in Finland in 2010.

In April the Following Year, There was a Fire, is Wichanon's first feature. In July 2011, it was invited to screen at Paris Project: Post-Production Screening, as part of Paris Cinema.

Short Film – Director / Writer (selected works)

2009 Four Boys, White Whiskey and Grilled Mouse – 10 min – HD

40th Tampere Film Festival, Finland (**Best Fiction Award**)

13th Thai Short Film & Video Festival (**Special Mention**)

MK Young Creative Contest; Short Film Award "House of View", Thailand (**First Prize**)

39th International Film Festival Rotterdam (Short: Spectrum)

25th Belfort International Film Festival – Entrevues (International Competition)

16th Encounters Short Film Festival (International Competition)

55th Corona Cork Film Festival (International Competition)

3rd Asian Hot Shots Berlin (International Competition)

8th Pacific Meridian - Vladivostok International Film Festival (International Competition)

7th IndieLisboa - International Film Festival, Portugal (International Competition)

50th Krakow Film Festival (Festivals Award Winner Program)

26th Hamburg International Short Film Festival (Thai Showcase)

2007 A Brighter Day – 17 min – DV

31st JVC Tokyo Video Festival 2009 (**Selected Works Prize**)

2005 W.C. – 8 min – DV

Siam Cement Group Young Thai Artist Award 2005 (Honorable Mention)

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Producer's Biography

Anocha Suwichakornpong

Born in Thailand in 1976, Anocha Suwichakornpong, also known as “Mai”, spent the nineties living in England where she received her BA and MA. In 2006, she graduated from an MFA film program at Columbia University, New York, where she was a recipient of a Hollywood Foreign Press Association Fellowship. That same year, Anocha attended the Berlinale Talent Campus. Her feature-length script, *The White Room*, was among the fifteen scripts chosen to participate in their Script Clinic.

Anocha's thesis, *Graceland* became the first Thai short film to be included in the Official Selection at Cannes Film Festival (Cinéfondation). She also directed *Lunch*, as part of *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner* trilogy, a feature co-directed by Asian female directors (China, Thailand, and Singapore), scheduled for release in 2011. Anocha's first feature *Mundane History* (Jao Nok Krajok) received the Hubert Bals Fund from International Film Festival Rotterdam as well as post-production support from Asian Cinema Fund (ACF), Pusan International Film Festival. It has won six international film awards and been screened at more than forty film festivals including Rotterdam (Best Film – Tiger Award), Transilvania, Romania (Grand Prix), Era New Horizons, Poland (Grand Prix), Mumbai (Best Director). *Mundane History* was released in Thailand in 2010.

A few years ago, Anocha and her friend, Soros Sukhum, established Electric Eel Films, a production house based in Bangkok. She has produced numerous short films and is currently producing Lee Chatametikool's first feature *Concrete Clouds*.

Selected Filmography (Producer):

Four Boys, White Whiskey and Grilled Mouse (2009, dir. Wichanon Somumjarn)
Mundane History (2009, dir. Anocha Suwichakornpong)

Selected Filmography (Director/Writer):

Mundane History (2009)
International Film Festival Rotterdam (Tiger Award)
Transilvania International Film Festival, Romania (Grand Prix)
Era New Horizons International Film Festival, Poland (Grand Prix)
Mumbai Film Festival (Best Director)
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (2010)
Graceland (2006)

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Producer's Biography

Maenum Chagasik

Maenum is part of the new generation of Thai independent filmmakers. She graduated in 2002 with a degree in Film Production from Thammasat University. She began her career working at the Thai Film Foundation helping to organize the Bangkok International Film Festival as well as designing and teaching filmmaking workshops for children. In 2004, she helped Santi Taepanich edit the documentary *Seua Rong Hai* (Crying Tiger). In 2006, she segued into production by working as the second assistant director for the independent film *Wonderful Town*, directed by Aditya Assarat. The film traveled to over 50 film festivals worldwide and Maenum was able to gain further experience of the independent film business. In 2008, she moved up to the position of first assistant director for the film *Mundane History*, directed by Anocha Suwichakornpong.

Pairs is her first short film as director.

Director/Writer/Editor:

Pairs (2009, Digital Video, 10 minutes)
Screened at 2009 Asian Women's Film Festival Berlin

Assistant Director (Selected Works):

Eternity (2010, 35mm, 105 min) directed by Sivaroj Kongsakul
Pusan Film Festival, Rotterdam Film Festival (Tiger Award Winner).

Mundane History (2009, 35mm, 82 min) directed by Anocha Suwichakornpong
Rotterdam Film Festival (Tiger Award Winner), Mumbai Film Festival (Best Director)

Wonderful Town (2007, 35mm, 85 min) directed by Aditya Assarat, Pusan International Film Festival (Best film), Rotterdam Film Festival (Tiger Award Winner)

Assistant Director and Assistant Editor (Selected Works):

Phuket (2009, HD, 30 min) directed by Aditya Assarat, Pusan Film Festival
Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival

Assistant Director and Editor:

The Tree (2010, HD, 15 min) directed by Kanipa Polnikorn
In Competition at Hong Kong International Festival 2011

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