

WIP F Scala



COUNTRY/REGION: Thailand

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Documentary | Digital Format | Thai | 90mins

DIRECTOR:

Ananta THITANAT

PRODUCER:

Abhichon RATTANABHAYON

WIP GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Festival Screening

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$166,425

SECURED BUDGET: US\$2,025

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

The filmmaker confronts her childhood memories as she films the demolition of Bangkok's Scala Theatre.

SYNOPSIS

A portrait of Scala, the last remaining stand-alone theatre in Bangkok, Thailand. Some say it was the finest movie theatre left in Southeast Asia. The film follows the demolition and lives of the workers when Scala breathed its last in September 2020, after elegantly serving generations of film-lovers since 1969. The filmmaker herself unavoidably faces memories of herself, as her parents once worked here—memories she would rather forget long ago.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My parents used to work at the Scala Theatre during the 70s. It's where they first met. They had me in 1982 and separated when I was five. My father took me to Siam Theatre, which was just a few hundred metres away from Scala. We lived in a projection room for over ten years. Scala, opened in 1969, was the last remaining stand-alone single-screen cinema in Bangkok and it was closed in September 2020. All of the pristine decorations were removed amid rumours that the building will be demolished to make way for a new development by its landlord, Chulalongkorn University, at the end of 2021. I decided to film the demolition process from the beginning until all the staff has gone. For me, being there and recording the time of its demolition was a very special experience. It was also a great opportunity to witness a historic moment of Thai cinema through my own eyes. I want to finish the movie as soon as possible, and I hope that society will be interested in this issue, which may help stop the demolition of buildings.

DIRECTOR

Ananta THITANAT

A Thai documentary filmmaker, Thitanat has worked as a cinematographer, assistant director and co-director on short documentaries for television, NGOs and companies such as Thai Public Broadcasting Service (Thai PBS), Thailand Creative & Design Center, the British Council and Channel News Asia (CNA) since 2010.

PRODUCER

Abhichon RATTANABHAYON

A Thai documentary filmmaker and photographer, Rattanabhayon graduated from Kasetsart University, where he studied History (2002-2005). Abhichon has been a contract

photographer for German magazine *Thaizeit* since 2006 and a freelance photographer and filmmaker since 2010.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Bandai Dam Studio

Named after the black staircase leading up to the studio, Bandai Dam Studio is a group of filmmakers who are passionate about making observational documentaries. Since 2010, it has produced more than 30 short documentaries for many organisations, such as Thai Public Broadcasting Services (Thai PBS), Thailand Creative & Design Center, the British Council and Channel News Asia (CNA).