

Utopia

Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL



Genre: Drama / Comedy

Format: 35mm

Estimated Running Time: 90min.

Budget:
US\$1,000,000 (HK\$7,800,000)

Funds Secured:
US\$500,000 (HK\$3,900,000)

Producer:
Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL

Writing Credit:
Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL
(screenplay)

Production Company:
Kick the Machine Films

Co-production Company:
DViant Films

HAF Goals:
Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales,
Funds

Contact:
Kick the Machine Films
(Parichart PUAREE)

Address:
44/17 Ladprao 15, Jatujak, Bangkok
10900 Thailand

Tel: +66-2-938-4001

Fax: +66-2-938-5646

Email: kickthemachine@softhome.net

Introduction

Utopia is part of the American Dream Project - a series of nine feature films by nine international filmmakers that explores the American dream from the inside. Initiated by DViant Films, this project is not only a timely attempt to discover the real America but also a vital and critical self-examination of the world's myths, neuroses and prejudices surrounding America. Cannes award winning filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul will helm *Utopia*, one of the films in the series.

Synopsis

In the lost world, a pre-historic man is freed in a snow-covered landscape. Everything is white and new to him. He tries to survive in a jungle where there are periodic snowstorms. Followed by a group of fashionable old American ladies, he faces off against a terrorizing monster that hides in the jungle. He discovers a cave where he shields himself from the outside world and starts to hibernate. Through the course of his sleeping, the white and snow-covered world has turned into a lush tropical forest. He emerges from the cave and explores the new green territory in wonderment. The moist landscape is now full of miraculous fauna, flora... and elements of a fabulous adventure!

Director's Statement

It's a bedtime story and it's gentle.

I imagine the coexistence of the two worlds. In this tale, both of them seem real on the surface. But when paired together, because of their differences, they become each other's dreams. These dreams are intertwined without a sense of time. It is the future of an ancient time, and an ancient time of the future. It's a celebration of America and of "America." Here, life is tender and savage - civilized.

Director

Born in 1970 in Bangkok, Apichatpong Weerasethakul has a degree in Architecture from Khon Kaen University and a Master of Fine Arts in Filmmaking from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Since he began making films and videos in the early 90s, he has become one of the few filmmakers in Thailand who have worked outside the strict Thai studio system. He has earned a wide recognition through his art projects and feature films, *Blissfully Yours* (2002) and *Tropical Malady* (2004), that received several awards, including two prizes from the Cannes Film Festival.

Thailand

Weerasethakul is currently working on a new feature, *Intimacy*, a part of the New Crowned Hope film projects to celebrate Mozart's 250th anniversary, commissioned by the city of Vienna. He is also the producer for the upcoming experimental feature, *Heartbreak Pavilion*.

Producer

Apichatpong Weerasethakul (see above)

Production Company

Founded in 1999 by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Kick the Machine Films is active in introducing and supporting experimental films and videos in Thailand. Its Bangkok-based company also co-organizes the Bangkok Experimental Film Festivals in 1999, 2001 and the recent edition in 2005. The company's aim is to finally establish a network for a new generation of Thai video/ filmmakers and to promote their work at home and abroad.

Co-production Company

DViant Films Inc. is an independent production company based in Los Angeles. Founded in 2004, the company focuses on low-budget, high quality feature films by award-winning international filmmakers. DViant Films Inc.'s signature project is *The American Dream Inside/Out* and is also currently developing the first American-based film by Jean-Luc Godard, entitled *Compulsion*.