

Blood Maple and the Passion of the Kid

Thailand

Chartchai KETNUST



Genre: Drama, Comedy
Format: 35mm
Estimated Running Time: 95 min.

Budget:
US \$800,000
(HK \$6,200,000)

Funds Secured:
US \$400,000
(HK \$3,100,000)

Producers:
Pantham THONGSANG
Chartchai KETNUST
Sinsawad YODBANGTEI

Writing Credits:
Chartchai KETNUST
Prasert POSRIRUT

Production Company:
Magenta Media Creation Co.,Ltd.
U Khao U Nam Company

Partner Attached:
Sinsawad Yodbangtei

HAF Goals:
Funds

Contact:
Magenta Media Creation Co.,Ltd.
(Chartchai KETNUST)

Address:
318/17 Merit Place,
Ladproh 87(Jantrasuk),
Wangthong Lang. BKK 10310 Thailand

Tel: +662-9395353

Email: c_ketnus@hotmail.com

INTRODUCTION

The story takes place in a small alley adjacent to Wat Chanasongkram Temple, close to Khao San Road. It's home to local villagers, the mafia, GI wives, disabled war veterans, the local barber, a vocational student, a Thammasat University girl, and the police inspector's wife. During the early rise of democracy, when Hollywood films such as *Romeo and Juliet* arrived in the box office alongside *Dien Bien Fu Prison Break*, American troops were stationed in Thailand and their wives filled the streets. Apollo 11 reached the moon and Neil ARMSTRONG visited Thailand. Children loved *Hanuman and the 7 Heroes* while Mit CHAIBANCHA (Thailand's Elvis) had just passed away leaving women - young and old - in tears as they swore to themselves "Mitchai lives on." And this story begins in a small barber shop along Khao san Road in 1971 when the barber's son falls in love with the mysterious girl who moves in next door carrying a coffin.

SYNOPSIS

The problems start when eleven-year-old Pom and his friends from Khao San Road go to see the horror movie *Blood from the Mummy's Tomb*. The film freaks Pom right out, and when Chinese toys begin to appear and multiply in his house he thinks that they're haunted. His father, the local barber, tries to reassure him but he won't have it. Every month a mysterious letter addressed to an unknown man arrives at their house, and Pom's father says they're mail for the old owner and should be returned. Pom's suspicions that his house in haunted reach the boiling point when an old lady moves in next door with a cupboard that looks just like a coffin.

Pom and his buddies think it looks like the coffin in *Blood from the Mummy's Tomb* and they can barely walk by the house they're so scared, especially when his friend Jig tells them that a beautiful young woman appears in the house at night. One night, Pom peers in the window and sees the young woman - and she looks back. She has long shiny hair, an oval face, a perfect body, enchanting eyes. He's terrified and confused and runs away as fast as he can.

After a fight with his dad, Pom is hiding outside in the rain, his clothes ripped and ruined, and the ghost appears again. She's spooky, yet erotic, and with nowhere to run Pom faints from fright. He wakes up to find himself in the ghost house with his clothes mended. The ghost is actually Vipada, a Thammasat University student who spends all day at school and only returns home late at night. The two become friends and Pom even starts tearing his shirts and pants so that she'll mend them for him.

One day, Vipada disappears and Pom falls ill. When he recovers he decides to escape his life by enrolling in the Police Academy and he and his father begin speaking less and less until Pom finally leaves home. He's assigned to the Border Patrol and winds up being captured by a group of Communism rebels, one of whom is Vipada. They interrogate him, and Vipada pretends not to recognize Pom, but after he escapes he notices that she has mended a

hole in his pants. Pom leads an attack on the rebel base and Vipada is apparently killed in the fighting.

Pom returns home and takes over his father's barber shop, still obsessed with Vipada. His father has fallen ill and as he dies he tells Pom that his mother is still alive. She's the one who sent him the Chinese toys and the strange letters. Pom's father lied to his son because he didn't want Pom to know his mother was a communist. Sitting at home, all alone, Pom realizes he's the one who put up a wall between himself and others. He sits frozen in shock as he discovers that he was the ghost all along.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A friend told me this story:

"One October day in 1976, my Uncle, who was still a Thammasat University student, came home looking rather bedraggled. He rushed about packing his bags and said that he could no longer stay in the city. He packed all his belongings and had a violent clash with my father. I still can't recall what they were quarreling about. Father slammed the door in my Uncle's face and told me that children shouldn't get involved with adult matters. After that, my uncle disappeared and I've never seen him since."

My friend told this story in an indifferent tone of voice as if to say "it's over now," and yes, it is over now, but the children who were told not to get involved have grown up to be adults and they still fail to understand what happened. The questions they never dared to ask have answers which no one dares to think of. I understand how these questions may be too hard or too painful to answer by those who have passed on and even those who remain among us; neither the winning side nor the losing side wish to remember anymore.

DIRECTOR

Chartchai KETNUST is a post-production specialist who worked on many Thai blockbusters such as *Alone*, *4Bia*, *Dorm* and *The Tin Mine*. He won the Best Film Editing Award from the Bangkok Critics Assembly for the documentary *Final Score* before starting work as a documentary film writer and director for the National Discovery Museum Institute where his work has received much praise for transforming otherwise dry and boring historical facts into vital, living entertainment. He also had a hand in writing the feature film *Deep in the Jungle* which will be released in Thailand this year. Despite working in many diverse fields Chartchai KETNUST has never

abandoned his dream to direct his own film.

PRODUCER

Pantham THONGSANG was born in Bangkok and began his career as an assistant director for one of Thailand's classic film directors, Euthana MUKDASANIT. He produced *The Red Bike Story* (1996) the first Thai feature film picked up by HBO/Cinemax for regional screening, and from this he learned the value of producing Thai films for both the domestic and international markets. In 2001, he became head of production for GMM Pictures and produced films like *One Night Husband* (2003) selected for the Berlin International Film Festival and *February* (2003) which was shot in New York immediately after September 11th, 2001. He directed the award-winning *The Judgment* (2004) and co-produced Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL's *Tropical Malady* (2004) which won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. His current projects are the recently completed horror hit *The Coffin* and Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL's latest movie *Utopia*.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Magenta Media Creation Co.,Ltd. is a new company which has a background in documentaries.