

# Art imitates life

## for filmmakers in Bangkok

### Products

Camera  
ARRiflex 16SR3 Advance HS

Stocks  
KODAK VISION2 500T 7218 and VISION2 200T 7217



The 20-minute romantic comedy, *My Talking Dic* is the realisation of a dream only made possible through the unique collaboration between Thai director, Chakkaphan 'Po' Vutthakanok, Thailand-based English director, Zoe Popham and the enthusiastic and generous support of the local Thai film industry and community.

Produced by Pak Chaisana of A Grand Elephant Productions, and shot on location in Bangkok, the short film follows 12 hours in the life of a young mixed-culture couple; Thai guy, Tom, and 'farang' girl, Jenny, as they live out a loving, albeit turbulent, relationship in the modern-day Thai capital. Unable to speak each other's language well enough to make their true feelings known to each other, their constant arguing seems destined to destroy their love. Until fate sends in some help...with rather extreme results.

The film stars Caitlin Haas as Jenny and popular Thai actor and singer, Gof Akara. Akara recognized the chance to promote Thailand to the world and provided his services, including his own stylist team at no charge.

With an absolute shoestring budget, the production was initially slated to shoot on HD digital, however the extent of the assistance was such that the tiny budget stretched beyond expectations to deliver a film with production values worthy of a fully funded project.

Throughout the pre-production stage, director of Photography, V. Narayanan who hails from India, took into consideration Popham's ambition to enter the film into international film festivals. Based on the low budget,

Narayanan recommended the Super 16mm format as the best solution to achieve high quality images suitable for 35mm blow-up - without blowing out the budget.

Advancements in film technology and new fine-grain stocks allowed the DP the freedom of shooting high-speed film in Super 16. Both the KODAK VISION2 500T 7218 and VISION2 200T 7217 film stocks provided the flexibility to move easily through the locations using ARRiflex 16SR3 Advance HS cameras supplied by Big Eye with lighting by Lighthouse.

"Shooting on Super 16 gave the film the finished look that just would not have been possible with HD," says Narayanan. "I shot the 200T for day and the 500T for night sequences. What Kodak has achieved really is a marvel. The two films matched brilliantly and with complete uniformity."

"I shot wide open as much as possible on the 200T and was surprised by the sharpness I achieved with the Angenieux 7-81mm HR zoom lens. For the indoor scenes, which were shot in tight spaces, I used Chinese rice paper lamps as the main lighting source and again, shot wide open to capture the traffic lights outside as well."

Vutthakanok was thrilled with the results saying, "Soho Asia Post provided the telecine, editing and online for us and once we saw the telecine rushes, we knew that shooting on film was the right decision," he said. "The results are just beautiful and there is no question we would shoot film again, regardless of the budget."

As the prelude to a larger feature film project, also set in Thailand, the filmmakers plan to enter *My Talking Dic* into the Bangkok Film Festival.

The co-directing team; a real life couple whose real life arguments were inspiration for the script, are currently completing the film's sound mixing and composition. Realising how fortunate they are to have received such exceptional encouragement from their peers, they look forward to 'returning the favour' with their fully funded feature in the near future.

For more information on this filmmaking experience, visit [www.mytalkingdic.com](http://www.mytalkingdic.com)

1 Cat ('Jenny') in bathroom scene