

Mundane History (เจ้านกกระเจอก)

Written and Directed by Anocha Suwichakornpong

Produced by Soros Sukhum, Anocha Suwichakornpong



“Twinkle, twinkle, little star. How I wonder what you are.....”

Synopsis

Mundane History by *Anocha Suwichakornpong*



Mundane History records the life of Ake, a young man confined to his bed after an accident leaves him paralyzed from the waist down. Ake is being cared for by Pun, a male nurse who is hired by Thanin, the stoic patriarch of the family.

The main house in the family compound is a grand old edifice that has seen better days. The general house duties are attended to by a handful of servants who share a smaller separate house built into the same compound.

Utilizing the non-linear structure, the film focuses on the mundane, almost insignificant details of everyday life. But little by little, we begin to understand what secrets lie beneath the peaceful façade of the house...

Director's Statement

Mundane History by Anocha Suwichakornpong



What constitutes history? When one writes about history, how does one choose which information to include and which to omit? Can mundane activities be counted as history? What happens if the private *is* public and the mundane *is* history?

There are four main characters in this 'narrative' -- the father, the disabled son, the male nurse and the house itself. *Mundane History* functions as a family drama and an allegory of Thai society, where beneath the veneer of 'normality', you can just tell that something *isn't* quite right. This film is my maiden voyage into the troubled waters that is contemporary Thailand.

Company's Profile

Electric Eel Films

Electric Eel Films is a production company based in Bangkok, Thailand. Founded in 2006 by a group of up-and-coming and independent filmmakers, we are a small but high quality production house specializing in independent films and other media productions.

Electric Eel Films seeks to be a new force of independent cinema in Asia. Our main aim is to produce challenging films with high artistic value. Although we are a small company, we have a network of talented and experienced filmmakers working with us, including Anocha Suwichakornpong (screenwriter/director), Soros Sukhum (producer), and Leung Ming Kai (director/cinematographer).

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Selected Film Projects:

- **Mundane History** (HD, 90 min, 2009) – *completed*
- **Lunch** (HD, 30 min, 2008) – *post-production*
- **Like. Real. Love** (DV, 37 min, 2007) – *completed*
- **Silencio** (DV, 15 min, 2007) – *completed*
- **3-0** (DV, 8 min, 2006) – *completed*
- **Graceland** (35mm, 17 min, 2006) – *completed*

Director's Profile

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 programme 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 2009. Currently, Anocha is working on the post-production of her first feature “Mundane History” (Jao Nok Krajok). The film received the Hubert Bals Fund from International Film Festival Rotterdam for Script Development as well as Post-production. It has also just recently won the post-production support from Asian Cinema Fund (ACF), Pusan International Film Festival. The film will have its premiere at the 14th International Pusan Film Festival in the New Currents competition.

A few years ago, Anocha and her producer friend, Soros Sukhum, established *Electric Eel Films*, a film outfit based in Bangkok.

Selected Filmography

Director/Writer:

2009 **Mundane History** (35mm, 82 min)

2009 **Lunch** (HD, 30 min) – *currently in post-production*

2007 **JAI** (DV, 15 min)

Premiered at 37th International Film Festival Rotterdam

Screened at 13th Hong Kong Independent Short Film (**Grand Prize**)

54th Internationale Kurzfilmatage Oberhausen (**Special Mention Award**)

International Short Film Festival Hamburg

Thai Short Film & Video Festival

Cinemanila International Film Festival

2006 **Graceland** (35mm, 17 min) Screened at over thirty film festivals including:

Cannes Film Festival

Sundance Film Festival

International Film Festival Rotterdam

Telluride Film Festival

Tampere Film Festival – *Awarded Diploma of Merit*

Busan Asian Short Film Festival – *Awarded Best Film*

Thai Short Film & Video Festival

Hong Kong Asian Film Festival

Jakarta International Film Festival

Sydney Film Festival

2005 **Ghosts** (DV, 16mm, 35 min) – Thai Short Film and Video Festival

Producer's Profile

Soros Sukhum

Soros Sukhum, born in Bangkok on July 15, 1974, holds a bachelor degree in films and videos from Rangsit University's Faculty of Communication Arts. While taking up his undergraduate studies, Soros had an opportunity to do his internship at Firecracker Film Co.Ltd., one of Thailand's first independent film production. Upon graduation, he returned to Firecracker Film and became an assistant to the producer and director M.L. Mingmongkol Sonakul. He has had chances to work with many great movie directors and crews in various aspects of film making including shooting, sound recording, boom operating as well as coordinating in every stage of filmmaking.

Soros loves to be involved and be a driving force in films made by new generation filmmakers, who are determined and want to present interesting aspects of life in different light. He believes these new generations will be key elements in pushing for new development in Thai movie industry in the future. In 2006, he founded the production company, *Electric Eel Films*, with his filmmaker friend, Anocha Suwichakornpong.

Selected Filmography

Producer:

- 2009** **Phuket** HD, 25 minutes, Directed by Aditya Assarat, (World Premiere at Pusan International Film Festival)
Sawasdee Bangkok HD, 25 minutes, Directed by Aditya Assarat, (World Premiere at Toronto Film Festival), Bangkok International Film Festival
- 2007** **Wonderful Town** 35mm, 85 minutes, Directed by Aditya Assarat, (Best film, New Currents Awarded, 2007 Pusan International Film Festival), (Best film, Tiger Awarded, 2008 International Film Festival Rotterdam)
JAI DV, 15 minutes, Directed by Anocha Suwichakornpong, Premiered at 37th International Film Festival Rotterdam
Screened at 13th Hong Kong Independent Short Film & Video Awards (**Grand Prize**), 54th Internationale Kurzfilmatage Oberhausen (**Special Mention Award**)
Silencio DV, 15 minutes, Directed by Sivaroj Kongsakul

(Short Film Project in Commemoration of the Celebration on the Auspicious Occasion of His Majesty the King's 80th Birthday Anniversary), Premiered at 2008 Clemont – Ferrand Short Film Festival, France (Special Mention Awarded)

2006 **Always** DV, 20 minutes, Directed by Sivaroj Kongsakul, Best Film Forget me not Award, Official Selection 2008 Clemont – Ferrand Short Film Festival, France

Graceland 35mm, 19 minutes, Directed by Anocha Suwichakornpong (Premiered at Cannes Film Festival, Official Selection, Cinefondation)

2005 **Ordinary Romance** DV, 90 minutes, Directed by Teekhadet Vucharadhanin, (Special Prize, Vichit Mattra Award, Thai Film Foundation Short Film and Video Festival 9)

2004 **The Sigh** DV, 26 minutes, Directed by Aditya Assarat
Boy Genius DV, 12 minutes, Directed by Aditya Assarat, (Premiered at Thai Film Foundation Short Film and Video Festival 9), Best Short Film Asiana Airline Award

Technical Information

Original Title:	เจ้านกกระจอก (Jao Nok Krajok)
English Title:	Mundane History
Production:	Electric Eel Films (Thailand)
Cast:	Phakpoom Surapongsanurak Arkaney Cherkham
Writer / Director:	Anocha Suwichakornpong
Producers:	Soros Sukhum Anocha Suwichakornpong
Co Producer / Editor:	Lee Chatametikool
Director of Photography:	Ming Kai Leung
Art Director:	Parinda Moongmaiphol
Sound:	Akaritchalerm Kalayanamitra
Duration:	82 minutes
Format:	35 mm, Color, Dolby SR

Genre: Drama

Language: Thai with English Subtitles

Film Festival Participated:

2009 Pusan International Film Festival (In Competition), Korea

2009 World Film Festival of Bangkok (Opening Film), Thailand

**2010 International Film Festival Rotterdam (Tiger Awarded),
The Netherlands**

2010 Black Movie Geneva Film Festival, Switzerland

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