

A FILM BY  
NONTAWAT  
NUMBENCHAPOL



#### Contact

Ok-Pi-Dern Co., Ltd.

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#### BY THE RIVER

71 minutes, HD, Colour, 2013, Pwo Karen and Thai with English subtitles

Director : Nontawat Numbenchapol

Executive Producer : Krittawit Rimthepathip / Somchai Suwanban

Production Company : Mobile Lab / Ok-Pi-Dern

#### Synopsis

Amidst the tranquility of the deep woods, the people of the Southern Klity Village of Kanchanaburi have led a simple life. Their staple has always been rice and still been the fish living in the village's creek although for many years the stream has been contaminated with lead from the mineral processing factory. A young local man, too, dives into this very creek everyday to catch fish for his lover. But today he has gone missing and no longer has a chance to come back to her, who eagerly waits for his return.

#### Director's Statement

"Conflicts over the use of natural resources in varying conditions, forms and degrees of complexity are not difficult to find these days. One of the conflicts that have long and still been plaguing our lives is the pollution released into the river by factories, a problem which has seriously harmed the freshwater fishing. Personally, the case which I find particularly interesting is the one which is resulted from the mistake in the mullock collecting system of a mineral processing plant in the District of Thong Pha Phum of Kanchanaburi Province. Since 1998, the tailing leaked from the waste catchment has caused the level of lead contamination in the Southern Klity Village's creek to rise above the safe level. The damage to the ecosystem, to the natural resources and to the well-being of people in the area which the event has created has been immeasurable. Although earlier this year the Supreme Administrative Court has ordered that the Pollution Control Department paid a few million baht in compensation to the villagers, it seems that the necessary and effective measure for the creek rehabilitation from the government that many have been asking is still a mere plan on a piece of paper, without any degree of certainty. On the other hand, the villagers still have to bear with this contaminated river without any choices even though they probably yearn for 'a better life' in the same way the dwellers in the capital city like us do.

"I have decided to convey to the society this perennial problem that the villagers of Southern Klity has endured due to a firm belief that conflicts over the use of natural resources, be it at Klity or elsewhere, can be resolved if the society and the involving organizations have the awareness and the good enough environmental management. If this documentary feature can inspire us to start thinking about our own actions that might affect other people in the society, especially the actions concerning environmental problems, to try to understand the people who have to live with the pollution without having any choices, and to start changing our behaviors – both in the individual level and in the societal level – in order to relieve the troubles from the pollution that we might have caused, as well as to try avoiding being a part of those problems, I – as a documentary filmmaker – will be truly honored.

#### Director's Biography

Nontawat Numbenchapol was born in 1983, Bangkok Thailand. He graduated from Visual Communication Design Department, Faculty of Fine Arts, Rungsit University. His work is about 'space'. His debut first documentary directed with Rthit Pannikul and Produce skateboard 'Weirdrosopher World' tells the story of skateboard players who try to find their own space in Thai society. The film is supported by GTH, one of the biggest film studio in Thailand and Thunksa Pansittivorakul's Thaiindie. Weirdrosopher World was screened at Bangkok Experimental Film Festival and World Film Festival of Bangkok.

Nontawat's second documentary is 'Empire of Mind' in 2009. In this film, Nontawat tells the story of the existence of his own space. The space he grew up, had ties with, and he was going to lost it forever. The film shows his relationship with his grandmother who raise him since he was very young.

In 'Boundary' (2013), he tells the story of the people who live in the village near Preah Vihear temple during the Thailand Cambodia border dispute. The film is financially supported by Arts Network Asia and DMZ Fund from Asian Network of Documentary, Busan International Film Festival. World premier at Berlin International Film Festival 2013 Forum programme.

#### Director's Filmography

2013 Boundary Official Selection

-world premier at Berlin International Film Festival, 2013. 2012

Aurora Primary (2012)/20 mins

Award

Film On The Rocks Untamed winners

Empire of mind (2009)/ 58 mins

Award

- Special mention for Duke documentary competition :

The 13th Thai Short Film & video Festival Thailand, 2009 Official Selection.

- Srisalaya by Thai Film Musiam Thailand, 2010

Bangkok Noise (2007) / 15 mins

Official Selection

- Asian Experimental Cinema, Curated by Tomonari Nishikawa, Tokyo, Japan, 2009

- Head or tail contemporary media and video works from Thailand,

Palaas studio, Dublin, Republic of Ireland, 2007

- Thaitake 3, Newyork, USA, 2007

Volatilize (2007)/ 15 mins

Official Selection

- Souteast Asian Digital Cinema, Singapor 2007

- Bangkok University silent film festival 07, Bangkok, Thailand, 2007

- Shortfilm Festival 11, Thaifilm Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand, 2007

Weirdrosopher World (2005) / 88 mins

Directed with Rthit Pannikul and Produce skateboard.

Official Selection

- Doc Fest, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, 2007

- World Film Festival 4th, Grand, Bangkok, Thailand, 2006

- The 10th Thai Short Film & video Festival, Thaifilm Foundation, Thailand, 2006

- Digital Film Showcase, Bangkok, Thailand, 2006

- the 4th Bangkok Experimental Film Festival (BEFF4: BKK Democracy), Thailand, 2005

### **Producer's Biography**

Krittawit Rimthepathip was born in 1967. He is the founder and executive director of Ok-Pi-Dern film studio. In 2008, after 8 years of establishing BIOSCOPE, the film magazine which provides insightful content about both intellectual and technical aspects of cinema, he decided to create his own film studio. Since then, he has produced many short films that garnered well-received reaction from audiences, national competitions and international festivals.

He started producing the first full-length feature film Love, Not Yet in 2010, a film which blends the serious social content with entertaining storytelling. The film, which was widely released in September 2011, has moderate commercial success and was nominated for many domestic film awards, including the Young Filmmaker Award from the 20th Bangkok Critics Assembly Awards.

Krittawit intends to continue establishing Ok-Pi-Dern as the film studio with the mind of good entertainer and social entrepreneur and creating more films that inspire changes in the society.

### **Producer's Filmography**

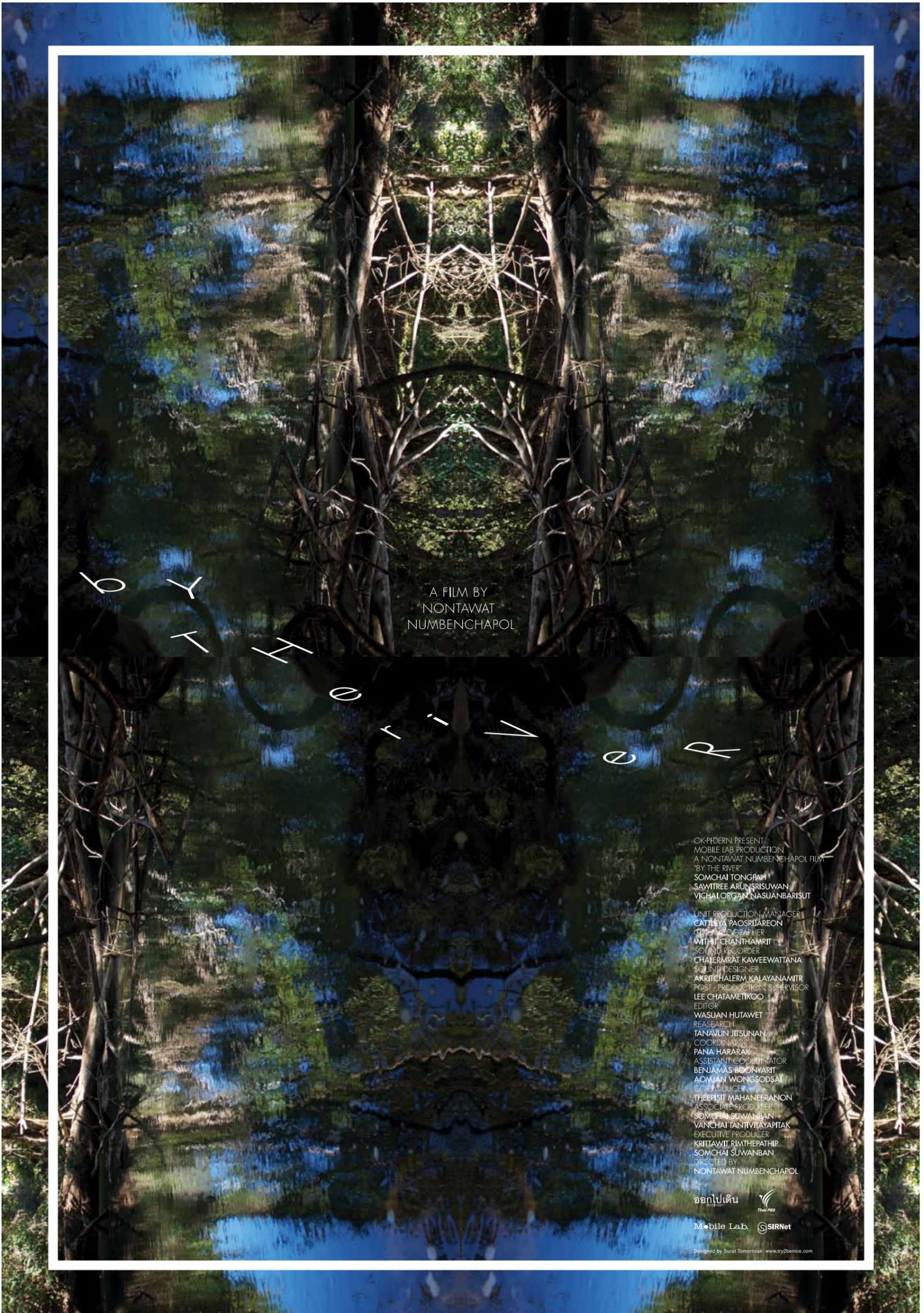
2011 Love, Not Yet [Drama / Coming-of-Age]

### **Ok-Pi-Dern Co., Ltd. Production Company**

Ok-Pi-Dern is Bangkok-based Thai film studio that was established in 2008. Our mission is to support the new film talents and making films with social concerns. Over the years, we have produced and distributed a number of interesting Thai films such as Tanwarin Sukkhapsit's *Insects in the Backyard* (distributed in 2010), Apichatpong Weerasethakul's *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* (distributed in 2010) and Chira Wichaisuthikul's *Lumpinee* (produced and distributed in 2011).

In September 2011, our first full-length feature *Love, Not Yet*, which tells the stories about sex and teen pregnancy, was released nationwide. It has moderate commercial success and was nominated for many domestic film awards, including Best Screenplay and Best Actress (which won at Starpics Thai Films award). The film also won the Young Filmmaker Award from the 20th Bangkok Critics Assembly Awards.

As a part of the current Thai cinema movement, Ok-Pi-Dern still keeps on pushing the wider boundary for Thai film industry and cinematic perception among Thai audiences as much as we can.



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NUMBENCHAPOL

By the River

OKPHERN PRESENT  
MOBILE LAB PRODUCTION  
A NONTAWAT NUMBENCHAPOL FILM  
"BY THE RIVER"  
SOMCHAI TONGFAH  
SAWITREE ARUNSRISUWAN  
VICHAI ORGAN NASUANBARISUT

UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER  
CATTIYA PAOSRIAREON  
CINEMA PHOTOGRAPHER  
WITTHIT CHANTHAMRIT  
SOUND RECORDER  
CHALERMRAT KAWEEWATTANA  
SOUND DESIGNER  
AKRITCHALERM KALAYANAMITR  
POST-PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR  
LEE CHATAMETIKOO  
EDITOR

WASUAN HUTAWET  
RESEARCH  
TANAVUN JITSUNAN  
COORDINATOR  
PANA HARARAK  
ASSISTANT COORDINATOR  
BENJAMAS BOONWARIT  
ACIJIAN WONGSODSAI  
CO-PRODUCER

THEEPSIT MAHANEERANON  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER  
SOMCHAI SUWANBAN  
VANCHAI TANTIVITAYAPITAK  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
KRITTAWIT RIMTHEPATIP  
SOMCHAI SUWANBAN  
DIRECTED BY  
NONTAWAT NUMBENCHAPOL

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